

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING
MINUTES OF ANTRIM LOCALITY GROUP**

**TUESDAY 20th MAY 2014 AT 2.00PM
CIVIC CENTRE, ANTRIM**

Attending:	Chris Lindsay	<i>EWS</i>
	Anna Grindle	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Ciara Doherty	<i>Believe in Youth</i>
	CLlr Brian Graham	<i>Antrim Borough Council</i>
	Kerry McDowell	<i>Newlife Counselling</i>
	Joyce Kinnard	<i>PHA</i>
	Margaret Thompson	<i>Home-start Antrim</i>
	Janine Gaston	<i>South Antrim Community Network</i>
	Jason Jordan	<i>NEELB Youth Service</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Maurice McLaughlin	<i>Believe in Youth</i>
	Pamela Shields	<i>Oasis Antrim</i>
Apologies:	Marie Donaghy	<i>NRC</i>
	Mervyn Rea	<i>Antrim Borough Council</i>
	Alison Briggs	<i>Antrim Borough Council</i>
	Laura Totten	<i>Youth Justice Agency</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chris Lindsay agreed to chair today's meeting in Mervyn's absence. Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting today and apologies were noted.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held on **21st January 2014**.

MATTERS ARISING

Family Support Hubs

It was noted a group meet in Ballymena in Ballee High School with low number of organisations in Antrim attending. Maurice suggested Start360 and Action for Children attending future meetings.

UPDATE – ANTRIM LEARNING TOGETHER

Selena provided background information to Antrim Learning Together. She noted that this is a follow on support for teachers after the success of the Youth Fair in May 2012.

Selena outlined the schedule for the day, which included 3 morning sessions from Barnardos to discuss Hidden Harm/ Womens Aid to cover Domestic Violence and Zest to address Self Harm. These sessions will cover the young person. Conor McGafferty from ZEST then covered with the whole group coping strategies for stress and misuse of Drugs and Alcohol.

There was a networking opportunity over lunch time and the afternoon will include breakout complementary therapy sessions and laughter therapy.

Chris noted that this was a very successful event and feedback from the learning together partnership has been very positive. The Laughter Therapy was received better by some teachers than others and the afternoon sessions would require some tweaking.

The evaluation report which was written up using the forms completed on the day noted that the teachers found the day important and Conor McCafferty from Zest received 100% positive feedback. Some schools have already organised for Conor to come into the school for a more intense session, which is excellent as this will better equip teachers to deal with Self Harm and Alcohol and Drug Misuse.

It was agreed Selena and Chris will feedback to Antrim Learning Together.

ACTION- Selena and Chris

UPDATE – ANTRIM YOUTH FAIR

Anna provided some background information to the Antrim Youth Fair. This took place on Thursday 8th May 2014 in Parkhall Integrated College. The focus of this was raising education attainment and positive choices. It was noted the Youth Fair was a success with good numbers attending. Over 20 organisations attended providing useful information on local services to 5 Schools within the Antrim area.

Please find attached write up for additional information which will be incorporated into the Action Plan.

UPDATE – ANTRIM SURESTART

Margaret provided an update on Antrim Surestart. A parent and toddler group is organised to take place once a week in Rathenraw Primary School in partnership with Homestart. There is no base to date to offer further programmes.

A query was raised regarding a change of WARD boundaries. Selena agreed to query this and have a map of WARDS for the next meeting.

ACTION: Selena

ACTION PLANNING SESSION/REVIEW

Selena agreed to merge the discussion points with the current Action Plan and write up for agreement at the next meeting.

Community Integration

- Selena to invite Andrew Irwin/Linda Kennedy from Antrim PCSP
- Selena to invite Rhoda or Kerry for their input on Community perspective.
- Believe in Youth have a community champions programme. This is OCN accredited training with the aim to build capacity in local communities.
- Celebration event –Antrim Counselling Service event planned for August.
- Promote youth empowerment and participation on every community group agenda. Send PR through SARN who will circulate

ACTION: Selena / Maurice

0-4

- Needs for Parenting programmes outside of Surestart area
- Query MAST provision and plans
- Event for service providers highlighting all services available. Parents will be invited and create a forum.

Empowering Young People

- Believe in Youth are developing an app. Maurice will research available apps and feedback to the group.

ACTION: Maurice

- Identify methods of how to promote information. NIYF events etc. Have Your Say Day – there was a discussion as to how the group could link with these to engage with young people.
- Celebrating young people event- organise a local celebration event.
- Young person's MP based in Antrim – debate issues. Make your Mark campaign. Marie to provide name and Selena to invite to present. Young ambassador: Sophie Rodgers.

ACTION: Marie / Selena

Education and Learning

- Annual Youth Fair
- Resilience courses in groups – potentially offered via New Life Counselling- source funding
- Next steps for Antrim Learning Together. Query services they have planned and coordinated. Kerry would have statistics for schools
- Discussion around services available and how to promote
- Promote Family Support Database

- Mood Matters – promote in schools

Jason discussed some of the challenges of partnership working and the position of the youth service. He also noted some duplication as there is now a youth providers group which meet in Antrim.

Pamela noted that she feels that the group is worthwhile to gain a full understanding of who is working with children and young people locally and also to work together to plan. Chris agreed that it is important to work together on the ground and small steps can achieve big things.

MEMBER AGENCY UPDATE

Maurice McLaughlin – Believe in Youth

Maurice provided an overview of the Taking the Initiative to Reduce the Impact of Alcohol. Maurice noted he is the manager for the Believe in Youth programme however other components form as part of this initiative. Other components are Relationships and Alcohol Misuse, Healthy Body/Healthy Mind and Older Focus.

Maurice noted work has commenced in Ballymena and will be looking to target areas in Antrim also. Chris queried links with the Youth Service and Maurice noted that it is something which will complement the Youth Service.

Margaret Thompson - Homestart Antrim

Margaret noted prescribed drugs were identified as an issue with many of their young mothers and this should be included in the Action Plan.

Jason Jordan – NEELB

8-10 young people are completing OCN Level 1 in Youth Development.

10 young people from Antrim Borough Council are completing OCN Level 2 in Youth Leadership.

10 young people from Parkhall Integrated College are completing OCN Level 1 in Youth Development.

4 youth support workers are in post working with adults 18+.

There are 2 posts available for 2 outreach youth workers to work one night a week. This will be in partnership with PSCP who will cover programme costs. The youth workers will focus efforts in town centre and will help out on temporary basis in Crumlin.

Area youth worker for town is 3 nights in Antrim who will be covering the Broughshane and Ballymena areas. They will form a youth council for the local area.

Pamela Shields – Oasis Antrim

The Year 12's are almost complete and there will be 8 moving up into year 12 into next year. Pamela noted a new group will commence in September. Time for Girls is a new programme and a new application form is in place. This programme will be run in partnership with Youth Justice Agency and is a summer programme lasting for 2 weeks.

Janine Gaston – South Antrim Community Network

Janine noted she is recruiting a team of young men for a dragon boat race. 10 young men will be needed for rowing and 1 man as a drummer. This is for an event on 14th June in Antrim Lough Shore focusing on Men's Health Week. Janine noted they have a small budget for transport if any groups would like to attend.

There is available suicide prevention training levels 1, 2 and 3. Please contact Janine if you are interested. Janine discussed the military personal and their families and some work she hopes to develop in partnership with NHSCT.

Small grants have reopened until 29th May 2014 with grants available up to £1000.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chris Lindsay

Chris noted that there are a group of young people meeting in the Antrim area for football/ recreation. It is a group of between 80-100 people and there are challenges with gathering resources/services for such a large number. Chris would like to raise the issue around lack of services at developmental level. Chris is in the process of registering to look at a funding application.

Margaret suggested Comic Relief. Marie Donaghy is providing a coach for 4-6 weeks for older level. Chris would like this to be raised at council level.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 29th July 2014 at 2.00pm in Action for Children.**