

**FERMANAGH LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP**

**10.30am Monday 11th March 2013**

**Venue: Kindly Hosted by the Speech & Language Department in the Group Room, Children's Centre, South West Area Regional Hospital**

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

Helen Hicks	NIHE
Seamus Byrne	DSD
Lynsey Cathcart	WELB Youth Service
Maria Magee	NICMA
Roisin McCusker	Devenish Partnership
Denise Armstrong	WHST
Mary O'Reily	The Early Years Organisation
Sinead Dolan	Youth Justice
Michael Mowen	Oak Healthy Living Centre
Anne Gamble	WHST
Debbie Coyle	Councillor

**APOLOGIES:**

Joyce Thompson	WHST
Roy Robinson	PSNI
Birney Tierney	Action for Children
Robert Gibson	FDC
Michelle Greer	MENCAP
Kate Boles	Western Trust
Mary McCann	Fermanagh Women's Aid
Theresa McCann	Home Start
Neville Armstrong	Fermanagh Rural Enabler
Seana Connor	Fermanagh Hub Coordinator
Angela O'Kane	Home Start
Anita Mukherjee	Women of the World
David Eames	FDC PCSP

**Introductions and Apologies**

Priscilla welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Anne for hosting the meeting. Anne gave a short description of the work that the Speech Therapy Department are involved in. Then followed a short discussion as to how language delay can have lasting effects on individuals and Sinead Dolan, Youth Justice was able to describe to the members how 60% of young offenders have been estimated to have a language disorder and the screening tool that Youth Justice has been using to identify young people with these difficulties. Apologies were taken.

**Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and the actions from the last meeting discussed.

## **Actions**

- Priscilla was to respond to the Consultation, Towards a Childcare Strategy - completed.
- Priscilla was to meet with Neville Armstrong in his new role as Chairperson and update him - completed.
- Priscilla to make amendment to Action Plan – completed.
- Emotional Wellbeing Strategy to be sent out - completed

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate recording of the meeting.

Priscilla reminded the members present that after the minutes have been agreed at the meeting, the minutes were then sent to be placed on the Fermanagh LPG webpage at [www.cypsp.org](http://www.cypsp.org)

## **Matters Arising**

Michael wished to raise the closure of Lisnaskea High School, Level 5 Leadership Qualification being required by Playgroup Leaders and the progress of the Social Investment Fund.

## **Update from Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership & Outcomes Group**

Western Outcomes Group have not met since the last meeting so there was no update. Priscilla reminded everyone, that the Western Outcome Monitoring Report is also on the website [www.cypsp.org](http://www.cypsp.org) and that organisations are encouraged to advertise their events or training on the Family Support Data Base [www.familysupportni.org.uk](http://www.familysupportni.org.uk). At the last meeting the Data Base was discussed and Priscilla had spoken to Helen O'Neil who promotes the site. Helen said that if people would contact her if they see any inaccuracies in the Data Base and she will remedy them.

## **Action**

Priscilla to ask Helen O'Neil and Stephen Barry if they would like to give a presentation to the members.

## **Emotional Wellbeing Strategy & Infant Mental Health Strategy**

Priscilla updated the members as to the arrangements for the Family Fun Adventure Walk that is being organised for Castlecoole later in the month. This event has merged between the Emotional Wellbeing Strategy, the Infant Metal Health Strategy, the Fermanagh Family Support Hub and the LPG members.

## **Parents Reference Group**

Info: Maria Herron, Parenting NI still recruiting families for consultation and would be glad if any parent could be encouraged to join.

## **Fermanagh Family Support Hub**

Meetings between Hub Partners are now happening to ensure that all partners are aware of their own role & responsibilities within the Hub and fully signed up to agreed protocols and safeguarding procedures. Additionally, Seana and Priscilla have met and designed a very short overview table for organisations to complete about waiting lists and challenges faced in providing services. It is hoped that Hub Partners will complete this quarterly, and together Priscilla and Seana can collate the information to discover where there are pressures on the system and pass this important information up to the Outcomes Group. The overview also hopes to identify through the Hub Partners what type of challenges the families are facing and any gaps or upcoming

trends that could be highlighted before they become problematic to the families. It is hoped that once the Hub is established well and this overview has been piloted, that more organisations will be asked to complete the overview to give a wider picture of service delivery.

### **Social Investment Fund**

There was no update as to the progress of the Social Investment Fund, Priscilla said that the 10 proposals for the Derry Zone had appeared on email sites but she had not seen any other areas highlighted.

### **Consultations**

Sinead Dolan mentioned that Youth Justice are completing a Community Engagement Consultation in March as part of their new business plan which incorporates the Rights of the Child and working effectively with parents. Sinead extended an invite to all the members.

Also Lynsey Cathcart highlighted a consultation into Youth Provision that Youth Service are undertaking, she said there was only a short time to respond by email.

### **Education Bill**

A short discussion occurred referring to the proposed closures of schools in the area and how this would impact the most on families living in border areas with some children having to catch buses as early as 7am in the morning and be unable to stay for afterschool activities as there were few late buses home.

### **Update of Action Planning Templates**

The members then discussed the Action Plan and updated members of any progress. Helen Hicks (NIHE) explained that people sustaining their tenancy sometimes have difficulties and to address this NIHE have decided to appoint a Tenancy Signposting Coordinator to advise tenants where they can get support for difficulties such as debt or claiming benefits. Also the new Save the Children work was discussed that is being rolled out through Sure Start areas.

The members then discussed the need for parenting programmes that use peer support and enhancing the current visits of Health Visitors, also there was mention of text health messages being sent and their effectiveness.

### **Emerging Trends**

Time was spent discussing the emerging trends that had been collated at LPG meetings and other family support meetings / Task Group / Working Groups, Neighbourhood Renewal Meetings and from local media. A long discussion took place into the new Welfare Reform Bill and how this may affect families. Members felt there was still a lot of confusion over how exactly the Bill was going to impact on families and this was causing more fear on parents who may only be working 16 hours a week.

Areas Highlighted  
Online Bullying

### **Action**

Priscilla will take away all the amendments and bring the new list to the next meeting.

### **AOB**

Michael raised the closure of Lisnskea High School and how this will have a major impact on a community that is trying its best to survive with so many factories and businesses closing. Michael asked if the parent's disapproval to the closure would have any impact, the other members were doubtful as arrangements have already begun to enlarge Devenish College for the Lisnaskea pupils.

Michael also raised the question of staff requiring the new Level 5 Leadership Qualification, members explained that it is only required if the person is moving to a new post. Michael raised that the course was being offered by a local training agency at a cost of £1400 but there had been no thought put to a Funding strategy to assist staff in some of the lowest paid employment many who will have to travel long distances to obtain this qualification. Members informed Michael that there is an implementation Subgroup who are supposed to be looking at this and will keep the, members updated.

**Next meeting to be held on:**

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