



Update from Locality Planning Groups & Participation of

Children, Young People, Parents & Communities

August 2012

***Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.***

The Work of the Western Locality Groups

Introduction

This report gives a brief insight to the progress of the Western Locality Groups and the work streams of the two Coordinators tasked with making a difference for families who live in the West.

The overarching objectives for the Coordinators remain the same since the last report. These are:

To offer a partnership way of working that helps to move from outcomes to needs analysis or assessment to joint commissioning and inter-agency service planning and development.

To focus practically on the 'how' of using the Turning the Curve Model across different settings and groups.

To disseminate local learning from the Western Locality Planning Groups experience in using the 'Turning the Curve' approach, particularly in relation to improving community wide outcomes.

To support, regionally, the development of integrated planning & commissioning arrangements by spreading encouraging practice

Action Planning - A Collaborative Task

Time is being spent with the groups to review and update their Action Plan which considers unmet need and worrying trends, together we are establishing if this is still the situation or has progress been made (useful to outline what is actually available for families as many agencies unaware and grateful for information sharing).

Together we are also:

- Identifying local solutions where possible
- Considering issues raised by e.g. Extended Schools, Neighbourhood Renewal Plans
- Prioritising actions – urgent, important, desirable
- Summary of actions – identifying common actions

This has been an important piece of work, as it is vital that the Action Plans represent the issues raised through consultation with group members, families and children and young people if we are to collaborative raise outcomes.

Locality Planning Group Meetings

The five LPG's in the West continue to meet on a monthly basis & are presently using the partnerships they have already nurtured between families, communities & representatives of local agencies to move forward.

The Coordinators continue to meet with Anne Hardy, Regional Lead on Locality Planning and the other LPG Coordinators at a monthly regional meeting, to address issues arising within the locality planning structure, offer peer support and to share good practice. The Coordinators also attend a

regional meeting with the Chairperson of their Groups; this provides an opportunity for the Chairpersons to have a forum to learn more about this process and plan ahead.

New Members of Western Locality Planning Groups

To keep the Groups inclusive and fully represented the Coordinators are always alert to the need to constantly recruit members who may be of assistance to this process. Recent organisations to join are Cedar Foundation, Omagh Rural Enabler Project and Mencap.

Support to the Western Outcomes Group

The Coordinators attend the Western Outcomes meetings in a supportive role, to inform them of what is occurring in local areas. All five Locality Planning Groups have made great progress with their Action Plans using the Outcome Focused Model; the plans also illustrate the statistical, community and anecdotal evidence around the issues. The Coordinators feel that sharing this depth of local knowledge with the Western Outcomes Group will enhance their future planning and work.

Early Intervention Directory

The Early Intervention Directory is now ready to be distributed, it is hoped that this will be a 'live' directory with frequent updates. It is hoped that the directory will be useful to the regional Early Intervention Group with its local information as they are currently mapping services.

CAWT Outcomes for Children

The Fermanagh LPG work in partnership with the Outcomes for Children, CAWT Project, and this project was due to end in September but it has since been extended to December. CAWT recently financed a morning in Lisnaskea to highlight to parents about organisation and agencies that can support them additionally the CAWT Community Development Coordinator sought the opinion of parents into local services. CAWT has commissioned research into what youth services are available in this local area and also financed two young people to attend youth training / conference near Dublin. Further information can be found on the Fermanagh Locality Planning Groups webpage.

Derry Early Intervention Partnership

The Derry Locality Planning Groups has merged with the Derry Early Intervention Strategic Partnership (EISP) in September 2011, over the last 12 months the EISP has been progressing development of its objectives, milestones, targets and resources with a view to establishing the actions that will underpin advancement of the Early Intervention Catalyst Project as presented in Derry's One Plan.

Visit from Department Health, Social Services and Public Safety

A Fermanagh Locality Group meeting was visited by personnel from the Policy Unit, DHSSPS; they wished to gather more information about this process and the work undertaken and also the work of the Hubs. This was a very successful visit and they hope to stay in touch with the Groups.

Infant Mental Health Project Board

A request has been made from the Infant Mental Health Board for representation from the Coordinators, this is a very welcome request as there are many links and hopefully work will be able to be progressed through the different strands.

Family Support Hubs

The Coordinators have made strong links with key Hub Coordinators and continue to attend Hub Sub Group/Working Group Meetings and assist the Hub Co-ordinators where possible. The Coordinators will continue to be involved as the Hubs evolve and are evaluated, with eventually unmet need being tracked and highlighted.

Multi Media Development

Work continued on the development of the Western Locality Planning Groups webpage which sits within the new CYPSP website which was launched in April. The Groups have their own page which holds details of their aims, work, minutes & developments, it is hoped that this freely available information will give a deeper insight to the process. Members have also been encouraged to advertise their information on the webpage

Work is on-going in developing Twitter and Facebook accounts for each of the Groups, which will hopefully be a useful tool for reaching young people on a medium which they use.

As part of their role the Coordinators highlight the Family Support Data Base and encourage members to feed information to the team that support it.

Achievements

The Western Locality Planning Groups have acted as a catalyst to bring together over one hundred organisations & agencies with individual priorities reconciled under the banner of the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership which is responsive to the outcomes of local families. The opportunity for multi-agency networking, collaborative planning, development and working has been immense, and has seen significant achievements.

Locality Planning Group Meetings

Emerging Trends

Members have had the opportunity to review the Locality Outcome Monitoring Indicators 2005-2010 to establish if they had 'heartened' or 'worsened' or if there were any new emerging concerns. With the review under way much discussion has occurred around trends which have emerged and what priorities would be taken forward, worrying trends that have been highlighted in the past by the work of Local action groups were:

Strabane

1. Young people living in violent relationships and violent homes
2. Early intervention services available for families with children with special needs and disabilities.
3. The transition period from Nursery to Primary School.
4. Need for increased Speech & Language Provision

5. Hidden Harm Agenda

6. Drug and Alcohol use among young people

Fermanagh

1. Suicide in the 18-35 age range
2. Inequalities in service provision between southern sector & northern sector
3. Perceived stigmatisation, particularly when using services
4. Lack of timely family support
5. Provision of adequate, accessible early years services and support for families with young children

Omagh

1. Lack of secure funding for groups offering services on the ground
2. Teenage Pregnancy and reduction in services and availability of Family Planning Clinic
3. Lack of services for mentoring and befriending for all children
4. Supporting families whose relationships are under stress
5. Improving young children's attainment through family based support

Derry

1. Address the high levels of mental health needs of parents and the impact it has on children and young people if not addressed
2. Provide a more cohesive early intervention service, with multi-sectoral working for a more flexible early years service which supports early intervention parenting programmes
3. Supporting Early Years Practitioners to identify and work with those that have mental health issues
4. Need for more support around increasing Active Citizenship among young people e.g. volunteering
5. Need for more support services and increased Hub development

Limavady

1. Support parents as the main carers and educators of their children
2. Early identification of children with special needs
3. Need for more support services and increased Hub development
4. Drug and Alcohol use among young people

As work continues with the locality planning group's new priorities will be identified and new actions will emerge.

Other Work Undertaken

Networking and information sharing continues to take place with the Co-ordinators in contact with a wide variety of organisations, support has been given to other organisations through advice, attending meetings, workshops or events.

External Meetings Regularly Attended

Both Coordinators are involved in a number of external developments which are directly related to their groups these include:

- Family Support Panel for Children with Disabilities
- Parent Education Programme Working Group
- Fermanagh Anti Social Behaviour Task Group
- Young People As Carers Working Group
- All six Neighbourhood Renewal Groups & Sub-Groups
- Hub Development Meetings
- Domestic Violence Partnership Support Sub Groups
- Infant Mental Health Project Board
- Fermanagh Policing & Community Safety Partnership

The Coordinators now also attend a regular seminar in Queen's University organised by CYPSP in conjunction with Improving Children's Lives, OFMDFM.

Engagement with Children, Young People and Parents

The Coordinators have used the Consultation from the Young People at Risk of Offending Subgroup as an opportunity to meet with a group of young people who are engaging with Action for Children's Floating Support Project to ascertain their opinions. Also, all the other consultations from the sub-groups have been sent to members and some are coming together to respond.

Work has started with Participation Network to ensure that children and young people's voices are heard in this process.

Involving the Community in the Western Locality Planning Process

Process Presented at Community Events

Lisnaskea Family Fun Day
The Early Years Organisation Fun & Facts Days
Community Development & Health Network Events

Project Presented At Regional Events

Consultations Facilitated

Consultation from the CYPSP Young People at Risk of Offending Subgroup

Consultations Attended

Information to Community

Promotion of Family Support Data Base
Regional / Western / Locality Outcomes Action Plans
Regular emails to community organisations around training and funding opportunities.

Feedback from Groups

At a recent review of the Fermanagh LPG process carried out by CAWT and the Coordinator it was found that members were reporting a greater level of understanding around outcome focused planning than before this process began. The members reported that the involvement with this process is beneficial, but their time constraints often leave them limited input. Members also stated that it is a useful exercise, good for networking and information sharing.

Next Stage for the Western Locality Planning Groups

- Completion of Action Plans and consideration by Outcomes Group – Strategy Group.
- Consideration of actions arising out of Action Plans - what happens next?
- Review of process and membership – ask groups for feedback via questionnaire
- Publicity – new website, Twitter & Facebook, press releases
- Consider practicalities of closer involvement of parents and young people on Locality Planning Group
- Distribution of Directory of Early Intervention Models for the West
- Early Intervention Event for all Action Groups – to launch next stage of process?

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