



**A meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership took place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 10.00 am in the Round Tower Council Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre, 50 Stiles Way, Antrim**

**Present:**

Please see attached document.

**1. Arrival and Welcome**

Mr Liam Hannaway chaired the meeting as Mr J Compton (Chair) was unavailable.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were agreed as an accurate account of what took place. There were no amendments.

**3. Introduction to Today's Agenda**

- a. Presentation and discussion with Mr Dennis McMahon (OFMDFM) on Delivering Social Change Policy and linkages with work of CYPSP.
- b. Presentation and discussion with Jason White (DHSSPS) on the development of Early Intervention Transformation Programme and linkages with CYPSP.
- c. Report from Mr Gerry Conway and Ms Pip Jaffa on the cross border working group on parenting.
- d. Note progress reports from CYPSP infrastructure and support systems.

#### **4. Matters Arising:**

##### **a. Additional HSCB Integrated Commissioning Work relating to Social Clauses (Maurice Leeson)**

Mr M Leeson told members that Ms Fionnuala McAndrew is Chairing a HSC group to examine the issue of how Social Clauses can be used in procurement and how Social Enterprise can be promoted. The membership of the group is drawn from HSCB, PHA and HSC Trusts. The group is working on a position paper and Mr Leeson confirmed that this would be shared with members when complete.

Ms K Yiasoma said that she would like to see the paper and asked about a consultation process.

Mr M Leeson stated that the paper was for internal HSC guidance and did not represent a new policy. Any engagement exercises would be notified to partnership members.

##### **b. Integrated Commissioning (Maurice Leeson)**

Mr M Leeson told members that a considerable part of the next meeting will focus on the work of the Outcomes Group. He added that a Paper will be produced and will form part of the Agenda.

Mrs B McAliskey said that there is degree of confusion and nervousness in the community sector on commissioning as some funding streams are removed and significant changes are occurring in others. The move of some DSD funding to Councils was referenced. Mrs McAliskey added that it was her belief that Integrated Commissioning should make life easier for organisations in the future. However, there was concern that if an organisation is not well informed about these changes they may be left out. She added that clarity of impact of these changes was required.

Mr L Hannaway suggested that information on impact would be useful. He said the DSD currently fund some community organisations and it would be useful to know what is staying in DSD and where other streams are going post 2015.

Mr D Wall told members that with the establishment of the 11 new Councils in 2016 there would be much change in terms of funding for the

community and voluntary sector, with Councils being given more powers in this area. Mr Wall added that he would forward further information to members.

**ACTION:** Mr D Wall to forward to members further information concerning funding for community and voluntary sector organisations post 2016.

### c. Membership

Mr M Leeson told members that membership of the Partnership from the Community and Voluntary sector had been discussed at the recent Chairs meeting. It had been agreed that application for membership from the Community and Voluntary sector would be advertised again in two weeks.

Mr L Hannaway thanked current community and voluntary members for their contribution to the work of the partnership.

Mrs B McAliskey said she thought that a process to rotate members of voluntary and community sector was needed. She added that she felt that new organisations coming on to the Partnership should be given an induction in order that what has been achieved to date can be built upon. Mrs McAliskey stated that the community and voluntary sector was very diverse and she was concerned that the experience of those currently on the Partnership would not be passed on.

Mr M Leeson told members that the Application process was not about current members of the Partnership from the voluntary and community sector leaving, but that in accordance with the governance rules of the Partnership, membership is open to other organisations to come on board every three years. Mr Leeson added that there were significant gaps in membership and that a good response had been received from other groups wishing to become part of Partnership. He told members that another Partnership had was considering adopting the CYPSP membership model.

Mrs B McAliskey stated that she felt that it was important that current members from the community and voluntary sector consider moving aside to make room for new interest. She added that organisations should not hold others back by holding onto places.

However she added that an important part of the process was to leave the experience gained by current members behind for new people.

Mr L Hannaway told members that today would be Mrs Maureen Piggot's last meeting as she is retiring. Mr Hannaway thanked Mrs Piggot for her service to CYPSP.

Mrs M Piggot thanked Mr Hannaway she added that she was concerned that the mainstreaming of disability issues had not yet fully occurred, and that children with disabilities and their families were not being fully included in the children's services planning process.

## **5. Delivering Social Change Presentation** **(Dennis McMahon OFMDFM)**

Prior to commencing his presentation Mr Dennis McMahon told members that the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister is seeking the views of stakeholders on the consultation document 'Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People. Mr McMahon explained that this Consultation document integrates the Executive's Child Poverty Strategy, the Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young People: Our Children, Our Pledge and work to deliver the Executive's commitments under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mr McMahon said that his department had heard the concerns being expressed that the consultation period on the strategy was too short and he is minded to extend this.

Mr McMahon then commenced his presentation entitled 'Delivering Social Change (See copy of Presentation in document pack).

Mr McMahon's presentation detailed the origins of Delivering Social Change and discussed why the framework was necessary. He identified the programme's six signature programmes: Community Family Support; Literacy and Numeracy; Family Support Hubs; Support for Parents; Nurture Units and Social Enterprise Hubs and outlined how the Framework would progress in the longer term and how an outcomes based approach would be developed. Mr McMahon concluded his presentation by informing members how the framework would now move forward.

Mr McMahon said that in developing Delivering Social Change his Department had been influenced by the partnership. The move to delivery organisations working closely together had influenced the departments to do the same. He stated that the message that had been received was clear - that the Community, Voluntary and Statutory sectors were working together and that the Department needed to follow suit. Mr McMahon added that he believed there was a lot to be gained through partnership working, as difficult as it can be at times. Tackling existing patterns of disadvantage and division through the use of the Delivering Social Change Framework was part of the Executives *Programme for Government 2011- 15 (PFG)*. He added that at times it had seemed that there were more strategies than action and so in 2012 the Delivering Social Change Framework had been established. The framework focusses on a smaller number of actions and is responsive to evidence from a range of sources.

Mr McMahon said that in October 2012 the six Delivering Social Change Signature Projects were developed and these were designed to be in addition to work that was already happening. These Signature Projects were developed to take the Framework forward and were based on the Partnership approach. He added that the six Signature Projects were directly influenced by the CYPSP and would act as levers towards reducing inequality. Mr McMahon stated that he believed that education was the key to reducing inequality and led through to everything else. He added that it is also a really good indicator of equality in our society and to this end 200 new teachers have been employed, nurture units have been established and Early Intervention emphasised. These approaches add value and make a difference.

In terms of the longer term, Mr McMahon stated that the sum of £26m had been set aside by Ministers for this work. He acknowledged that this sum would not resolve the problems in our society and was merely a 'drop in the ocean' in terms of what was needed. However, he said that action was urgently required and there was evidence that the Departments involved in the Programme were building on the Signature Projects.

Mr McMahon stated that there were still issues that needed addressed. These included – establishing what sort of factors determine success, how does the Executive incorporate lessons learned at a local level and how will it work when multiplied up.

He added that it was necessary to focus effort on what works. In terms of the Outcomes Based Approach more engagement and consultation outside was required as was a formal process to take the work to the next stage. He added that it was necessary to provide an Integrated Policy Framework which was firmly evidenced based and he believed that education was a key indicator.

Mr McMahon told members that moving forward co-design was crucial to success and added that all departments had engaged positively. He said he was very keen to learn from the locality planning process and the engagement of local communicates in discussions about services.

Mrs B McAliskey told members that the original length of the consultation period for the DSC strategy was too short and she welcomed the decision to extend it. She added that it would not have been possible for her organisation to produce a response in the original timeframe particularly as it would not have been long enough for proper engagement with children and young people. Mrs McAliskey stated that it was good to see things happen, but it was important for outcomes in government documents to include a timeframe for achievement. Mrs McAliskey also felt there was a need for targeted timeframes in respect of the outcomes of the six key programmes.

Mr D McMahon acknowledged Mrs McAliskey's point and stated that Ministers are looking at this issue.

Mrs P Jaffa agreed with the point raised by Mrs McAliskey concerning the two week turnaround timeframe for consulting with parents. She felt that such a short consultation period was disrespectful to parents. In respect of learning from what works and scaling up programmes with proven effectiveness Mrs Jaffa added that she felt there was a need for guidance that would be followed by all departments on scaling up and implementing programmes.

Mr McMahon agreed with Mrs Jaffa on this point and added that there were tensions around scaling up. He felt that this was an issue were the Department could look to the Partnership for a view.

He said that the issue was how to get a balance between scaling up evidenced based programmes without undermining innovation and local initiatives.

Mrs L Wilson said that the challenge going forward would be scaling up and would involve innovative ways of working and co-design.

Mr McMahon gave the example of the Belfast Smarter Cities Initiative in which IBM looked at work happening in Belfast as an example of how this might occur.

Mrs M Piggot raised concerns that the focus of the DSC Programme was exclusively on dealing with poverty. She felt that there was a need for some special measures to deal with marginalised groups whose lives don't appear in the existing document. Mrs Piggot added that there have been many studies of equality but little attempt to address it. The UK has been heavily criticized by UNCRC because of the inequalities faced by disabled children. She felt that the needs of disabled children and other marginalised groups have not been addressed in the DSC document.

Mr McMahon responded by saying that changes can be made, but added that poverty exacerbates other issues and that poverty was linked with disability. Mr McMahon stated that if the document needed to be changed then it would. He added that DSC does not replace other existing strategies.

Mrs M Piggott said that social exclusion is a societal problem which needs to be on the agenda. She suggested it might have been a more helpful focus than poverty.

Ms K Yiasouma said that she thought that DSC was a good idea and congratulated Mr McMahon for adopting this approach with the intention of transforming the whole system. Ms Yiasouma sounded a note of caution that the Programme may try to be all things to all people and stated that poverty was not the only thing to be considered. Ms Yiasouma said that she found the DSC document to be somewhat confused and felt that a statement of intent was required.

Ms A Campbell said that her organisation would like to contribute to the consultation but that they too were concerned about the proposed timescale. She said that victims of abuse had been side-lined in the strategy.

Mrs P Leeson said that she felt that the challenge is about transforming mainstream services. She added that there was excellent work in the document, but that the consultation process needed to be extended.

Dr Eddie Rooney congratulated Mr McMahon on the production of the strategy. He noted that some families/communities can very easily 'slip' between strategies. To avoid this it was important that all planning systems talked to each other and there was closer integration 'on the ground'.

In concluding the discussion Mr McMahon stated that there was a need to change the way business was done in government. He added that he believed that there were some key elements still missing from the strategy with social exclusion being one key element. Mr McMahon said that he is very happy to engage again in order to get a document that people are happy with. He reiterated that the department is open to the idea of further engagement and invited members to have a conversation about improving the Delivering Social Change document.

Mr Hannaway suggested that some engagement needs to take place with the councils and Mr McMahon agreed.

## **6. Early Intervention Transformation Programme Presentation (Jason White DHSS&PS)**

Prior to commencing his presentation, Mr Jason White made a number of points about the Early Intervention Transformation Programme.

He told members that the proposed programme would be funded by seven departments with the intention of the money being available for spend from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. Overall responsibility for the Programme rests with OFMDFM with responsibility delegated to DHSSPS. The Programme will run over 4 years. Mr White told members that initially the Programme was named the Early Intervention fund. However, this was changed to the Early Intervention Transformation Programme (EITP) as it better reflected the aim of transforming services.

Mr White said that it was essential that the Programme constituted effective use of public money. He added that there were no easy answers to the issues the Programme sought to address and Mr Denis McMahon and senior representatives from the six Government



Departments involved in the Programme would be responsible for making key decisions. However, they would be looking to the Partnership for guidance. He added that it was important that people in the room took ownership for the Programme.

Mr White then commenced his presentation. (Copy attached).

On the conclusion of Mr White's presentation, Mr L Hannaway thanked Mr White and invited questions from the floor.

Mrs P Leeson thanked Mr White for his presentation and noted that the Programme was a lot more developed than that considered in discussions with DSC and at previous partnership meetings. Mrs Leeson voiced concerns about the inclusion of children with disabilities within the Programme. She added that she fully supported the complete transformation of mainstream services and said that her organisation would work with Mr White and his colleagues to bring this about. However, Mrs Leeson said that the transformation of services for disabled children did not feature heavily in the strategies unless specifically referenced.

Ms A Campbell said that while she thought the Delivering Social Change Programme was good idea but she had serious concerns that the EITP does not mention Abuse and Domestic Violence. She added that abuse and domestic violence affect the lives of thousands of children and young people. Ms Campbell highlighted work that her organisation was doing around alerting teachers to the signs that pupils may be suffering abuse or experiencing domestic violence at home. She stated that despite the existence of the EITP, funding for this work was insecure and they had not been able to reach as many teachers as planned. She added that it seemed to her that there was a fixation with finding something new at the expense of tried and tested programmes.

Ms Campbell also raised concerns that Atlantic Philanthropies, which is a private organisation, had been given a seat on the Programme Board while community and voluntary organisations who were supposed to be in partnership with the government in relation to the Delivering Social Change Agenda were not represented on the Board.

Mr White agreed with Ms Campbell's point and said that it was not their intention to bring in something new just for the sake of it.

All interventions contained within the Programme had to be evidence based. However, this may not have been explicit on the slides. Ms Campbell also noted that no budget had been allocated to the Sexual Violence Strategy.

Mrs L Wilson thanked Mr White for his presentation and said that her organisation supported the Programme. She stated that in order for the EITP to be successful a cultural shift was required. Mrs Wilson queried where in the Programmes governance process was that shift and type of change, being monitored.

Mr J White stated that the Partnership would play a key role in doing this.

Ms D Shaw said that she felt that the CYPSP was a good platform to take forward this agenda and had several key products that will support the Early Intervention Transformation Programme. She added that the Programme was very ambitious and it was necessary to look at how best CYPSP could contribute to the EITP agenda set. Ms Shaw said that she would forward Mr White some further information about the CYPSP Early Intervention subgroup.

Mr Yam voiced his concerns that for BME parents and families this would be another strategy with the same outcome. Mr Yam said that members of BME communities still suffered social exclusion and had problems accessing GP's and teachers. He added that pregnant parents were coming to his organisation for help in relation to accessing services. They frequently suffered from racial harassment and BME children were often bullied and subjected to name calling at school. Mr Yam said there needed to be a clear policies and clear interventions within the EITP to deal with these issues.

Responding to Mr Yam's points, Mrs B McAliskey said that when dealing with a broad population, whether deliberately or not people who are already excluded will be more so. She added that it was necessary to look at the needs of parents and children in certain circumstances. Mrs McAliskey said that it seemed to her that the Programme sought to change parents and the public attitude to services delivered. Mrs McAliskey said that, in her opinion, what was needed was that the Government needed to do things differently. They needed to look at the work Women's Aid have been doing for generations.

Mrs McAliskey said she felt there was a need for further consultation and that someone from the community and voluntary sector needs to be on the Programme Board.

Ms A Campbell said that she felt that the fact that the community and voluntary sector was not represented on the Programme Board sent out a very bad message.

Mr White said that because of the scale of the programme there would be plenty of opportunities for the NGO sector to be involved.

Concluding the discussion Mr Liam Hannaway said that there was a clear need for further discussion and some changes to be made and that further engagement with the Partnership could take place through the Early Intervention subgroup.

## **7. Report from CES Working Group on ‘Supporting Parents in their Parenting Role’ (Gerry Conway, HSCB and Pip Jaffa, Parenting NI)**

Mrs Pip Jaffa gave an overview of the report from the CES Working Group – ‘Supporting Parents in their Parenting Role’.

Mrs Jaffa told members that this report provides a link between the north and south of Ireland in terms of policy and practice and dovetails with the work of the CYPSP. Mrs Jaffa stated that there was a gap in the quality framework in work with parents.

Mr Gerry Conway added that The Atlantic Philanthropies supported research across the island of Ireland in terms of parental support. He stated that research to date had clearly indicated that when it comes to supporting parents ‘no one size fits all’. Mr Conway said that it was wrong to think that by engaging with parents for 12 weeks that all their problems are solved and added that to be effective support to parents needed to be tailored to their specific needs and delivered via a range of different methods and in various settings which included 1-1 support at home, group based support or support in the form of a ‘helping hand’. Mr Conway added that it was essential that the right support was delivered to the right people and that people who delivered the programmes were appropriately trained and supported.

Mr Conway requested the support of members to move this work forward and asked that any comments should be forwarded to him.

Mrs Pip Jaffa said that in the context of this work it was necessary to look at the role of fathers and particularly important to engage with separated fathers. She added that children lose out when contact with fathers is lost. It was important to include 'hard to reach' groups and look at how they are supported in their parenting role.

Ms Koulla Yiasoma said that the advice given to parents was very important. She added that the absence of a male role model was detrimental to children and told members that children have a 60% chance of offending if their father or sibling offends.

## **8. Reports for Noting:**

- a. CYPSP Communications Scorecard

Deferred to next meeting.

- b. CYPSP Information System Scorecard

Deferred to next meeting.

- c. CYPSP Report from Outcomes Groups

Deferred to next meeting.

Unfortunately, time did not permit the CYPSP Communications Scorecard, the CYPSP Information System Scorecard or the CYPSP Report from Outcomes Groups to be considered at this meeting and they were deferred to the next meeting of the CYPSP.

Mr Liam Hannaway thanked members for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 at 2,00 pm in the Round Tower Council Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre, Stiles Way, Antrim.