

**MINUTES OF CARRICKFERGUS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP MEETING**

**FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2015 AT 10.00AM
IN COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,
CARRICKFERGUS**

Attending:	Roy Beggs	<i>MLA</i>
	Ann Doherty	<i>NHSCT Hearty Lives</i>
	Anne Thompson	<i>SACN</i>
	Davey Norris	<i>NEELB Youth Service</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute taker)</i>
	Ivor Mitchell	<i>YMCA</i>
	Karin Eyben	<i>Corrymeela</i>
	Leigh Whittlely	<i>NEELB Youth Service</i>
	Liz Brown	<i>NICMA</i>
	Margaret Armstrong	<i>Horizon Surestart</i>
	Martina McCooey	<i>Youth Justice Agency</i>
	Maurice McLaughlin	<i>Believe in Youth Project</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
Apologies:	David Gilliland	<i>YMCA</i>
	Gabrielle Nellis	<i>PHA</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roy welcomed everyone to the meeting today and invited a round of introductions.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held on **Friday 5th December 2014**.

MATTERS ARISING

None noted.

PRESENTATION – KARIN EYBEN, BUSHMILLS EDUCATION PROJECT

Karin works for Corrymeela as a Community Family Worker. Karin noted she has been asked to share the story of the Bushmills Education Project.

An issue was identified relating to education and under achievement which statistics confirmed, especially evident for young people with a Bushmills postcode. A group were interested in starting the Bushmills Education Project. Karin had the vision “It takes a community/village to educate a child”. Initial partnership was with CYPSP, BREF and a group of parents were brought together to identify what questions to ask. Response back from questionnaires was 50-60%. One thing that came from this research was people valued the schools in the community.

Key areas from survey

- Preschool education
- Lifeskills and skills of parents
- Relationship between parents/carers and their schools
- How do you know the child's doing well at school
- Homework
- Children with additional special needs

Year 1 – Discussing Issues

Next stage was to understand what lies in these issues. Kitchen table discussions took place. These were in coffee shops, Surestart building and homes. Part of this rotation was to bring people into different spaces. A speaker came in each time the group met and spoke about the topic they were discussing. Trips also took place with the group. This was all brought all together at the Bushmills Festival and showcased. The theatre group were invited and performed some of the discussions. This was powerful and got messages across very well. Event was also trying to connect the jigsaw and bring everything together. Paper planes with a wish were completed and released with each person's hope/dream. A report at the end of Year 1 was produced.

Year 2 – Trying to do something

A lot of things were tried out in Year 1 in regard to themes. A homework club was started. Essential Skills training was completed. Started parents café for sustained support and this was open to parents/carers with children of any age. Bushmills Education Charter was developed. Anna Grindle led this engagement with young people. The charter was developed through conversations and was launched at 2nd festival. Over 150 signed a large poster charter at this festival. BREF started a summer school open to primary school children to do Maths/English with the aim of keeping community connections. A pilot was run for 6 weeks.

At the festival young people showcased their talents to show different ways of being smart. As well as launching the charter the rap was also launched at the festival. An award was given to a shop for best trader open to young people to vote. The young people said they felt the owners give them the most respect in this shop in Bushmills.

Seed 21 was formed. Parents, Surestart, Police, Youth Service and a range of different people formed this group. Karin provided information on the Bushmills Transition Project. This was looking at transition from pre-school to primary school and from primary to post primary. This focused on looking at how to support young people and families in this transition. A new youth club and Homework club is running as a result.

Discussions took place around this project and how it could be replicated in this area. Roy noted there is a new Principal at Carrick College and Gareth Hamilton is the Principal of Sunnylands.

Ivor provided information on Big Lottery funding and discussions took place around partnership working and forming a strategy. The group were invited to get involved in this. Areas were discussed to target and it was noted the key factor to make this work would be to get a local community to have local champions. A meeting was suggested to members in order to discuss this application. Anyone interested were advised to speak to Ivor.

Action: All Members

CONSULTATION – NEELB YOUTH SERVICE

Leigh Whittle and Davey Norris presented the NEELB Youth Service Consultation to the group. Consultation forms were distributed to all present with the aim to receive feedback regarding the Action Plan.

Davey provided information to the group of his role as a Youth Officer. As part of this role he has responsibility to put the plan together and ensure it is implemented. Numerous consultations have taken place with stakeholders and a number of other people identifying potential areas needing addressed.

The Plan

Information was given on the plan and how the plan needs to take into account key government targets and policies. Davey noted he may have to make alternations to the plan which is a 3 year plan after feedback from various consultations. Priority of the youth 4-25 years is the key focus of this.

The key purpose of the NEELB Youth Service was explained. This is “To enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice/influence and place in society and to reach their full potential” (National Occupational Standards).

Youth Service in Carrickfergus

NEELB Youth Service presently in the Carrickfergus area was outlined.

- One Youth Tutor
- 3 buildings set aside groups
- Full Time Youth Worker
- Senior Youth Worker
- Inclusion Worker
- 24hr Centre Based provision

Types of Provision

Targeted and Generalist types of provision were both explained to the group.

Analysis of Carrick

Leigh explained statistics from Carrickfergus Local Government District. These were based around key themes – education, health etc. Some statistics included:

- Almost 20% of young people are under 16 years
- The income scale shows that there are 7,153 people in Carrick experiencing income deprivation
- 38.30% had no or low qualifications
- NEELB YP Registration is 44,472 with 4,156 young people registered in Carrickfergus. This is over half of the young people in Carrick.

Key Themes in Plan

Key themes from research and local knowledge that help underpin the plan were discussed. The 5 priority areas covered by the plan were outlined. Education has key objectives and associated targets of the 5 priority areas. The vision for NEELB Youth Service is for “every young person achieving his or her full potential at each stage of his or her development”.

2 of the key themes consulting on is raising standards for all and closing the performance gap / increasing access and equity. The 9 key areas for action under these key themes were explained and discussed. Members were asked to complete evaluations for this consultation.

FEEDBACK – CAMHS MEETING

Selena and David met with CAMHS regarding access to CAMHS meetings and transport available. There is going to be a pilot to move to Whiteabbey Hospital in April 2015. CAMHS had noted that transport was not an issue with accessing the project and support is available. It was also noted CAMHS have changed and now have 2 teams which is split into tier 2 work which is primarily the mental health team and the other is the crisis team. CAMHS no longer have the contract with Contact. It was agreed this will be kept as an agenda item for future meetings and updates will be provided regarding this.

Action: Selena

FEEDBACK – YOUTH FAIR 2015

The Carrickfergus Youth Fair took place on Wednesday 11th February 2015 in Oakfield Community Centre. Selena provided feedback and noted the youth fair went really well. Organisations provided excellent engagement tools to the young people. NEELB provided a photobooth and young people got a picture printed on a sheet which detailed all the youth provision. This went down really well with the young people. The key themes were also covered at the Youth Fair which focused on Commitment and Social Media.

Sandra is completing engagement with young people pre and post of the youth fair to complete evaluations for evidence. This will be fed back at the next meeting.

Action: Sandra

CARRICKFERGUS / LARNE HUB UPDATE

Surestart have a representative that attends the Carrickfergus / Larne Hub meetings. It was noted these are much more structured and Clare is now in post. Selena noted she hopes to get regular themes of referrals being received in order to feed into the action plan. It was noted a better system needs put in place in order for this to happen.

MEMBER UPDATES

Maurice McLaughlin – Believe in Youth

Maurice noted there are a few changes in Believe in Youth. They have decided to focus on the area of Sunnylands and started to do outreach in this area once a week. Maurice noted he is hoping to develop this further. Peer educators were invited to the Carrickfergus Youth Fair. Work is taking place in the youth club in the evening and offering a 12 week course.

Maurice provided information on a training event coming up around young people and alcohol and coping mechanisms. Quarterly training is also being held in Northern Trust areas. Training will begin in March in Ballymena in Engage. This is taking place on 21st March and this is the first one that will be running. Accredited OCN Level 1 is also being offered. Dunlewey are providing this training. This will be a 2 day commitment for anyone who wishes to complete. Believe in Youth are also holding CAIFE – Community and Family Information Evenings. Info will be provided to families on alcohol and abuse and coping strategies. This will be provided on an on-going basis in the Northern Trust. 40 dates are currently scheduled for 2016.

Roy Beggs – MLA

Roy noted a young person has a petition to improve mental health services and wellbeing in Carrickfergus and how the module of health and wellbeing should be compulsory.

Ivor Mitchell – YMCA

Ivor noted YMCA has changed the way they are operating. There is a teenage group with Glenfield with around 16 young people doing programme looking at boundaries. Youthcentre is open 5 nights on weekdays and Sundays. This is going well and there is good numbers. Health hub is now open on Monday afternoon and Friday

afternoon for 15+. The purpose of this is to pick up kids before and after the weekend. Young people are taking the responsibility themselves of this.

Selena Ramsey – CYPSP

Selena provided information on a Supporting Siblings Workshop in Carrickfergus. The Date has been organised on Thursday 30th April 2015 from 6pm-8pm in Sunnylands Community Centre Carrickfergus. Flyers were distributed to all present with further information.

Margaret Armstrong – Horizon Surestart

Margaret informed members Surestart is going well. Nurturing programme is going great also. Money has been awarded for future nurturing programmes.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing noted.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed the next meeting will take place on **Friday 24th April 2015 at 10.00am in Community Forum Meeting Room, Town Hall Buildings, Carrickfergus.**