

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

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015 AT 10.00AM  
IN COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL BUILDINGS,  
CARRICKFERGUS**

<b>Attending:</b>	Roy Beggs	<i>MLA</i>
	Anne Thompson	<i>SACN</i>
	Ben Rayot	<i>Youth Justice Agency</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute taker)</i>
	Gerry McDonald	<i>Impact of Alcohol - NHSCT</i>
	Hedley Webb	<i>Carrickfergus College</i>
	Ivor Mitchell	<i>YMCA</i>
	Margaret Armstrong	<i>Horizon Surestart</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Shirley Clarke	<i>NHSCT</i>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Ann Doherty	<i>NHSCT Hearty Lives</i>
	Davey Norris	<i>NEELB Youth Service</i>
	David Gilliland	<i>YMCA</i>
	Gabrielle Nellis	<i>PHA</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 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015**.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

None noted.

## **YOUTH FAIR EVALUATION – SANDRA ANDERSON CYPSP**

The Carrickfergus annual youth fair was held in February 2015 with the overall aim to improve outcomes for young people. The purpose was to make young people better aware of all services available to them in their local area and the fair focused on different themes as identified.

Hedley helped Sandra organise pre and post focus groups. This was to identify if youth fairs are making a difference to young people in their knowledge of services. The focus groups were discussed and thanks was given to Hedley for all his help with this. A post focus group was held 2 weeks after the youth fair and results of this were explained by Sandra.

What young people enjoyed most about the youth fair included NEELB photos, freebies, information, the quiz, beer goggles, visual aids, video, stilts and the amount of sugar in drink stand. Some young people thought that the quiz took away from the information and there was not enough time to get around all the stands.

Feedback from pupils on exhibitors was outlined:

- Stands packed up before it was over
- Some stands just give out the answer to the quiz
- Some stands did not tell you what service/support they provide
- Freebies not available for all pupils

Some additional exhibitors were highlighted that the young people would like to see there.

### Youth fair Recommendations

Young people made suggestions on how to make the youth fair better for their peers.

- Support for school
- Mental Health info
- Careers Info – young people said they wanted careers info and for trade people to come in in their overalls and give them information on how to get the skills to go into a particular career option.

All young people received a certificate for their participation with these focus groups.

Sandra noted the feedback is very positive and worthwhile. Some suggestions were made by the members attending and these as follows:

- Have young people from a School do a stand to promote youth clubs/groups they go to in order to provide info for all the pupils coming
- To make the answer for the quiz very visual with some correct and incorrect answers

- Use the post focus group for the pre focus group youth fair. They would have the knowledge from being at the previous youth fair

It was noted the buses were funded by the NICHI project. A subgroup will be meeting again prior to Christmas and this will give time to organise the things young people are suggesting.

Sandra agreed to send the presentation to Hedley and noted exhibitors will be getting feedback also.

**Action: Sandra**

## **PAKT UPDATE – IVOR MITCHELL**

Ivor provided information at the last meeting regarding a Big Lottery Funding application he is completing. A few members met to discuss this further and to discuss if the Bushmills model could be replicated in this area. The model would focus on 3 areas within Carrickfergus.

The PAKT (Parents and Kids Together) programme works with the whole family. The programme seeks to involve all the family members in a developmental programme that offers a series of activities and learning opportunities for both parent and child, with the core themes of:

- Facilitating the participation of family members, in all aspects of the project, thereby contributing to the personal development of both parents and children
- Enabling family members to explore different religious and social cultures within both their community and Ireland as a whole, exploring the implications of the terms equity, diversity and interdependence to their lives
- Exploring issues of concern within the group, while looking at the needs of the wider community thereby, testing values and beliefs.

Ivor showed pictures to the group of activities being completed through the PAKT programme. These have all been taking in the last couple of weeks. Photos were of young people completing OCN level 1 Drugs and Alcohol Training, parents in a cookery class and young people completing activities.

There are currently 71 families enrolled in the programme with children aged 5-11. There are 88 children. 28 families with young people aged 12+ and 36 teenagers are still waiting to be involved in the programme. There is a Facebook page which is used as a way of feeding back.

Ivor noted he sat down with parents and discussed issues and current needs. These were outlined.

- Isolation was identified. Lack of facilities to meet and some parents said they place feels like a ghetto
- Low educational achievement. Parents want to improve their education to see their children achieve more than they have.
- Economic circumstances
- Availability of drugs and alcohol – evidenced by drug packets and empty bottles on the street. Parents are afraid of the influences impacting their children.
- Parents identified fear and lack of social relationships as an issue. “There is a suspicion of those people you know and those you don’t know”.

A focus group was done as part of the Big Lottery bid. Ivor wanted to put forward PAKT for this in trying to address some issues. The group were asked what outcomes they would like and these are listed:

- Families and children under 11 will gain skills and knowledge necessary to overcome adversity.
- Children under 11 and their families will come together and learn more often and to a greater effect.
- Families and children will engage more actively with the wider community in which they live.

These outcomes were discussed by all members present. Further information was provided on the Big Lottery Application. It is a 5 year programme with the aim of reaching 100 families. It will be operating in Woodburn, Sunnylands and Castlemara and Glenfield. The application will be submitted next week but organisations can still get involved. A number of organisations are already on board and in partnership with the application.

The group were asked if they are interested in getting involved and supporting the application to contact Ivor. Telephone: 028 9335 5890 Email:

[ivor.mitchell@carrickymca.org](mailto:ivor.mitchell@carrickymca.org)

## **UPDATE – CAMHS MEETING**

Selena met with Colette Sloan from CAMHS along with David Gilliland regarding an outreach service in CAMHS. It was noted there is going to be a service starting in the next few months from Whiteabbey Hospital. Selena noted a letter is drafted and sitting with Anne Hardy to send to receive DNA rates in Carrickfergus along with the number of referrals for the Carrick area. Both Selena and David found the meeting

useful and will keep the group updated at future meetings. Nadine Simpson CAMHS will present at the next meeting.

## **CARRICKFERGUS / LARNE HUB UPDATE**

Selena met with Clare who is hoping to attend groups in the future. There is limited staff at present and it is not possible to attend Locality groups due to capacity issues.

Claire McKay, Family Support Hub co-ordinator provided feedback regarding the emerging needs from referrals to the family hubs:

- Provision for 0-4 outside of Surestart area.
- 5-8 year olds
- Provision for 14+ (choices no longer taking referral's due to capacity)
- Family breakdown

These were the key themes in this area and all referrals are being picked up. It was noted an emotional and well-being hub was launched yesterday for adults 18-25 year olds.

## **MEMBER UPDATES**

### Margaret Armstrong – Horizon Surestart

Margaret made the group aware of a cut to Surestart of 4.2% which will have a big impact. It was noted there will be no staff cuts this year as a member is off on maternity leave. Surestart have to advertise for 2 volunteers and they will be developing their volunteers to deliver more programmes etc. They are also looking at all their current programmes to identify if they are value for money. All programmes currently being delivered are going well.

### Anne Thompson – SACN

Anne informed the group Promoting Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Small grants are now open for up to £1000. Any active group or organisation within the Carrickfergus, Newtownabbey and Antrim Borough Council areas may apply to the Small Grants Programme for relevant projects or initiatives.

### Shirley Clarke – NHSCT

A new health visiting group has been established in Carrick Leisure Centre and is well attended. Shirley noted one will be started in Whitehead and currently looking at a venue for this. School Nurses are delivering a healthy eating project within Whitehead Primary School and are covering healthy eating with P1's and P2's. The Leisure Centre Physical Activity Coordinator is coming down to the School. Cook It is being delivered with a number of mums in the evenings.

### Ben Rayot – Youth Justice Agency

Martin has got a new post and a number of staff have applied for the early and voluntary exit scheme. This will be rolled out over 3 strands. Carrickfergus will not be part of Belfast team and Ben will not find out until after July 2015 what new areas he will cover as part of council changes.

### Gerry McDonald – NHSCT

Maurice is currently off sick and will be off for another 4 weeks. An outreach programme will be starting next week in Sunnylands as this area was previously identified to target. 2 peer educators along with Margaret Rose will be delivering this. 2 groups of 20 young people have been identified to work with. This will be a 12 week programme. In addition to the outreach programme there will be preventative information and some training programmes delivered to parents. Peer educators will be delivering this work.

Gerry distributed Think Drink leaflets and information was provided. Gerry will be holding a Sharing the Learning event in June 2015. This will look at Strategic, Community and voluntary sector and how to leave a legacy after the Impact of Alcohol programme has ended. Gerry noted he is looking to get someone from Glasgow Community Planning Partnership as they have used community researchers. This piece of work pushed alcohol to the top of the government agenda. Invites will be emailed and everyone is welcome to come to the event.

### Sandra – CYPSP

Information was provided on Supporting Siblings workshops. These have been organised for young people aged 10+ who have a brother or sister with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The Trust ASD team will be providing information to those attending. Dinner will be provided along with a goodie bag. The Carrickfergus workshop will be take place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 from 6pm – 8pm in

Sunnylands Community Centre. 22 young people have registered with 30 places available in total. The group were encouraged to circulate leaflets to any families.

A Top Tips leaflet was developed to give to young people with information on ASD. These are going to be distributed across the Northern Trust ASD teams as a resource for young people to use. May be additional top tips as young people are coming up with some ideas in the workshops.

#### Ivor Mitchell – YMCA

Information was provided on the RAFT programme. RAFT will give home based support for up to 6-8 weeks as well as monthly support. All updates on programmes and current groups can be found by checking out the Carrick Health Hub Facebook page.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing noted.

#### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed the next meeting will take place on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 10.00am in Community Forum Meeting Room, Town Hall Buildings, Carrickfergus.**

Ivor's apologies were noted for this meeting.