

Clonoe Family fun and information day

Children and their families from Clonoe and the surrounding town lands attended a family fun and information day in Clonoe Community Centre recently. There were many representatives from the statutory, voluntary and community sector in attendance to help highlight the range of services available across the local area, including: Employers for Childcare, Early Years, Parenting NI, Home-Start, Southern Health and Social Care Trust's Health Promotion (Armagh and Dungannon), Volunteer Now and Capper Fuels.

The children enjoyed the activities on offer such as balloon modelling, face painting and creative dance! And there were delicious refreshments available which were donated to the event from Quinfresh, Supervalu (Coalisland), Mulrine's (Ballybofey), Springisland (Coalisland) and Newell Stores (Coalisland). Their kind donations were gratefully received.

What's more, children and adults alike were able to fill their reusable shopping bags (kindly contributed by the Consumer Council) with freebies including toothpaste and information leaflets donated by McCann's Dental Surgery and the Community Health Clinic, story books from DELTA as well as flexible Frisbees from Early Years, not to mention the ever popular reflective bands and stress balls from Mid Ulster Council.

This occasion proved to be extremely worthwhile for Orla Hughes and family in particular as they won £50 of oil stamps from Mid Ulster Council in the free prize draw!

This event was organised by a subgroup within Dungannon Locality Planning Group which is part of the "Children's and Young People's Strategic Partnership" (CYPSP). This sub-group included Alice Campbell (Clonoe Rural Development Agency), Joanne McCourt (Belfast Central Mission), Ciara Burke (Mid Ulster District Council), Lynsey Arthurs (Start 360), Lorraine O'Neill (DELTA), Jacqueline Connolly (SHSCT), Annie Clarke (CYPSP), and Nuala Haughey (CYPSP).

Locality Development Officer, Annie Clare, explained that "Locality Planning Groups are partnerships between statutory, voluntary and community organisations that work with and for children, young people and families at a local level. The knowledge of those partners involved in the group is vital in identifying local need at an early stage and essential in planning early intervention services."

Alice from Clonoe Rural Development Agency, who contributed greatly to the organisation of the event, expressed that she was delighted with the turn-out of approximately 100 children and parents and it appeared that they really enjoyed it and got lots out of it. Alice also commented that she had spoken with a few parents a couple of days later and they had not been expecting to gather so much information from various organisations. Moreover, they had learnt about various services that are out there of which they had not previously been aware; which suggests that the objective of the Family fun and information day was fulfilled.

If you would like to learn more about Locality Planning Groups or get involved, do not hesitate to contact Annie on: 077 2523 2566 or visit www.cypsp.org