

Press Release

12 May 2015

Antrim Youth Fair – supporting and encouraging local young people

Over 500 pupils aged 15 - 16 from schools in the Antrim area recently learnt about making positive choices and the importance of good mental health at a Youth Fair in Parkhall Senior Integrated School, Antrim.

Hosted by the Antrim Children and Young People's Locality Group and Antrim Learning Together, the fair offered the students from Parkhall Senior Integrated School, Antrim Grammar, Crumlin Integrated, Riverside Special School and St Benedict's College a chance to find out more about services and activities in the local area.

The main theme of the fair was "Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing". Lifeline, Antrim Counselling Centre, NEELB Youth Service, PCSP, Womens Aid, New Life Counselling, Barnardos Bereavement and Young Carers were among the voluntary, community and statutory organisations which attended to provide local information and advice relevant to the young people.

The fair was opened by Selena Ramsay, CYPSP Locality Planning Officer for the area who emphasised the aim of the groups, which is to help young people get a sense of achievement, enable them to gain better and more useful qualifications and become confident young adults.

The Locality Planning Group works to co-ordinate existing services for young people to make them more effective. It also regularly reviews needs in the area to see that services meet the actual needs identified by young people and their families.

Councillor Mervyn Rae, Chair of Antrim Locality Planning Group said: "It is encouraging to see so many young people here today taking note of what services are there for them. We are very aware that today's young people face challenges, and hope that they have gained an awareness of the support and service available for them."

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), led by the Health and Social Care Board, is a multi-agency partnership that includes the leadership of

key statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

For more information about the CYPSP visit www.cypsp.org

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