

## **Press Release**

12 February 2015

### **Carrickfergus Youth Fair – supporting and encouraging local young people**

Over 400 pupils aged 14-15 from schools in Carrickfergus recently learnt more about social media, staying safe and mental health at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Fair at Oakfield Community Centre, Carrickfergus.

Hosted by the Carrickfergus Raising Attainment Group and the CYPSP Locality Planning Group, the fair offered the students from Carrick College, Carrickfergus Grammar, Downshire School and Ulidia Integrated College, a chance to find out more about services and activities in the local area.

Welcoming the fair, Hedley Webb, Principal of Carrickfergus College said, "The Principals of the 4 post-primary schools in Carrickfergus are again delighted to partner with the CYPSP to run the Carrickfergus Youth Fair. This is the fifth year of the Fair, and it goes from strength to strength, providing our young people with valuable information on organisations locally who they can approach for help, advice and support. The Fair is also a highlight in the school year for all the Year 11 pupils who attend it."

The main theme of the fair was "Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing" and 28 voluntary, community and statutory organisations attended, providing 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 both groups 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.

Roy Beggs MLA, Chair of the Locality Planning Group, said:

"Today's event is a good example of what the partnership is about - organisations coming together for the benefit of young people in the Borough."

Mr Beggs also thanked the Mayor's office for donating prizes for the quiz.

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](http://www.cypsp.org)

**ENDS**

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