

MINUTES

EAST BELFAST LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2015 AT 10AM IN EAST BELFAST PARTNERSHIP OFFICE, NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, BT4 1AF

PRESENT:

Name	Organisation:
Maggie Andrews	EBPB (LPG Chair)
Una Casey	CYPSP
Kelly Maxwell	NIACRO
Mary McManus	East Belfast Independent Advice Centre
Tracey Wilson	Oasis
Su Finch	Nettlefield Primary School
Bernie McConnell	Short Strand Community Forum
Gerry Largey	BHSCT
Yvonne Cowan	BHSCT
Carolyn Stewart	Mencap
Martina McCooley	Youth Justice Agency
Karen Purdy	Bloomfield Community Association
Geraldine O'Regan	East Belfast SureStart

APOLOGIES:

Name	Organisation
Ashlea Berryman	Early Years Organisation
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Aine Kelly	Save the Children
Michele Bryans	Alternatives

Welcome and Introductions

Maggie welcomed everyone and a round of introductions took place.

Apologies

Apologies were noted as above

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on the 21st January 2015 were agreed as accurate by the group.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Action Plan

Feedback from Dental Health working group

The dental health group have not met since the last LPG meeting. The group wanted to raise awareness targeted at the early years sector, with a proposal being taken to the Early Years Network. This proposal provides a support package for community groups and would include free resources. The aim is to increase the dental registrations at an earlier age in the local area.. There are a few issues with a potential application to Awards for All due to the applicant needing to be a constituted group. Sue noted that primary 1 look at dental health so there may be a link with schools and a way to help parents understand what is good for children's teeth.

Action: Tracey to email next date for the group to meet.

Networking event sub group

The networking event sub group met on the 2/3/15 there was very low attendance at this. It was hoped that this event would take place in April but this will need to be changed. It is a good opportunity to invite schools and politicians who do not currently fully engage with the locality planning process along to hear more about what the group does; what it has achieved and also for members to hear about each other's work.

Action: Una to reconvene the sub group to plan the event.

Poverty task group

The poverty task group met on the 10th February; the task group discussed carrying out a poverty and social exclusion survey in order to determine the levels of poverty locally that will be comparable to regional research.

It was noted that the group may be able to avail of funding opportunities from the Joseph Roundtree Foundation.

A directory of crisis has been put together and Maggie shared some of these with the group. It is important to look at what others are doing with local relevancy which may be able to be used within the group.

Members also discussed the issue of food poverty.

The LPG noted that there needs to be more awareness raising with schools and members need to think how we can get an agenda within schools or on their development plans. East-side learning connections with schools may be helpful. Members discussed need to improve community links with schools and how this could be achieved. Maggie invited everyone along to the East-side learning event on Thursday 19th March.

Action: Maggie and Bernie to raise at East-Side Learning Network

Kelly discussed that there was a booklet available that includes guidelines for parents to challenge extra costs in schools. The booklet is produced by Save the Children which includes a chapter on participation in school activities and notes 'School trips are not only valued for their educational benefits but are a means of providing a shared experience between school pupils. As we have seen, because of the costs associated, poor children are more unlikely than non-poor children to share these experiences. It should be noted that, in reality, charges for school trips during the school day are purely voluntary, although this is not always communicated to parents or children'. Kelly explained that her team have found that schools been very accommodating and worked with the family but it is that support to raise awareness and working with families. The booklet covers a range of things and is led out in a way that is very informative and interesting.

Action: Kelly to bring along a copy of the Booklet

Outcomes Group Feedback

Members of the groups expressed their concern that the application process for Family Support funding was difficult and time consuming. This funding is over a period of 3 years, but will be on a 1+1+1 years basis. There was agreement that this process was too difficult and complicated compared with other funding opportunities.

The Outcomes Group also discussed the Early Intervention Service. They decided on a compromise which tries to bring part of the service to all four areas, rather than to give everything to one area. It was agreed that it would be logical to work with the areas which have an existing hub and also gives something to compare to. It was emphasised at the Outcomes Group that this will be a pilot.

Hub Feedback

Tracey and Karen feedback to the group about the current situation of the hubs. There have been 15 referrals to the Inner East hub, which include issues such as support for younger children, mental health issues, respite and children in care places. There has so far been a good buy in to the hubs and it has created more connectivity between services. Services for BME families is coming through as a gap in the area.

Sue told the group she had been using the hub and there is a gap in young boys aged 8-11 struggling emotionally. These young men need help early on before these difficulties develop. A discussion followed about the take 10 project in schools in West Belfast, training for teachers and children's self-management.

Kelly highlighted that CAPS service would work with the children that Sue discussed.

The Roots of Empathy programme was highlighted as is a free resource which teaches children to be in other people's shoes. Part of the programme involves bringing a baby into the classroom for one year to enhance skills of young people. There has been a low take up of the programme in the schools in East Belfast as there needs to be an investment to keep the scheme running.

Member Updates

Yvonne Cowan - The sexual health workshop in February was well attended; however it would have been good to see more youth providers at the event. Yvonne highlighted that Barnardos have a good hard hitting DVD that would be useful for LPG members to see. Yvonne reported that a worrying number of young people in Brook under the age of 16 are looking for the morning after pill.

Kelly Maxwell- NIACRO's 'Off the Record' campaign is now up and running. To get more information please see the website. Kelly highlighted that NIACRO believes that now is the time to implement and extend the scope of Recommendation 21 of the Youth Justice Review. We believe there is an opportunity to include this amendment to the current criminal records regime within the Justice Bill currently being considered by the Committee for Justice.

We propose that young people and adults should have the opportunity to apply to a multi-agency panel to have old and minor offences committed when they were under the age of 18 removed from their criminal record. Similarly, they should be able to apply to have non-conviction information relating to when they were aged under 18 removed from their police records.

Former Director of Strategy at the Youth Justice Board in England, Bob Ashford, has also lent his support to the call for change in Northern Ireland. Bob founded the 'Wipe The Slate Clean' campaign in England and Wales when a fine of two pounds and 10 shillings from 47 years ago for trespassing stopped him standing as a candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset in 2012.

The East Belfast Urban Village festival day will take place on 28th March. There will be a variety of activities happening on this day including street theatre, mad hatters tea party and arts and crafts.

There will be an Easter school from 7th-10th April, for those struggling to attain a C grade in their English and Maths GCSEs. This will take place in the Skainos Centre.

Dates of Future Meetings

The group continue to meet bi-monthly to accommodate working groups.

Future dates are as follows:

Wednesday 20th May 2015 @ 10am

Wednesday 15th July 2015 @ 10am

Wednesday 16th September 2015 @ 10am

Wednesday 18th November 2015 @ 10am