



Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING
MINUTES OF MAGHERAFELT LOCALITY GROUP**

**FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2015 AT 10.00AM
NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE, MAGHERAFELT**

Attending:	Mary Tennyson	<i>Gold Surestart</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Gerry McDonald	<i>Think Drink, NHSCT</i>
	Louise May	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Michael McCrory	<i>Magherafelt District Council</i>
	Ross McCrea	<i>Family Fund</i>
	Sarah Jane Gading	<i>Women's Aid</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Teresa Bradley	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Terry Hamill	<i>EA</i>
Apologies:	Marie McCloy	<i>NRC</i>
	Clare McKay	<i>NICMA</i>
	Lisa Montgomery	<i>MAST</i>
	Marie Gilmore	<i>Magherafelt District Advice Services</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mary agreed to chair today's meeting in Marie's absence. Mary welcomed the group and apologies were noted. A round of introductions took place from all present.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held on **Friday 13th March 2015**.

MATTERS ARISING

Food Bank

The Dads funding application is still waiting confirmation for Magherafelt and Antrim.

ROSS MCCREA – FAMILY FUND. DISABILITY EVENT MID ULSTER

Ross provided information on family Fund which is a UK wide charity providing grant support for children up to 17 years old. This charity has been around for 40 years helping families raise disabled or seriously ill children in the UK. 1.5 million of finance in total is available through grants. Family Fund supported 3000 families last year alone. The Charity covers NI and North West of England.

Once applications are received they will be looked at to identify if families are meeting the set criteria for funding. These applications could come directly from families or supported by organisations and Family Fund try to keep it a straight forward process. There may be a need to complete an independent assessment on a family which is an informal assessment on the criteria. Ross noted 600 families were visited in NI last year. Main requests for grants would be for family breaks/day trips and technology for children. Family Fund also signpost families to other organisations for support as required.

Once a family are eligible and have been through the grant process they can then reapply for continued funding. Family Fund are always targeting new families and Ross noted he hopes to target Mid Ulster area for more grant applications.

Ross noted he hopes to organise a family event with local organisations there providing information to families and would like to do this within Mid-Ulster Magherafelt/Cookstown area. Family Fund can provide a small amount of money for a venue and associated costs but Ross is keen to get help in the planning of this. The group had some discussion regarding this event and discussed a good venue, good time and organisations to target for this event.

The subgroup was agreed to take this event forward. The subgroup is organised for Thursday 4th June at 12.30pm in Gortalowry House, Cookstown. All members are welcome to attend this subgroup meeting.

Action: All members

UPDATE – BELIVE IN YOUTH

Gerry noted Maurice is currently off sick and will be off for another 4-5 weeks. This has caused some difficulties within the Believe in Youth project. NI Youth Forum and Dunlewey have reorganised and prioritised workload. The project is currently covering 6 council areas. There is no capacity to cover Magherafelt and Cookstown

areas but Gerry noted this will be looked at in 2 months when programmes in other areas have been delivered. Referrals for Think Drink continues as normal.

Seasonal staff have come in to help the peer educators. All other components of Think Drink will be continuing in this area and not the Believe in Youth component. Dunlewey is coming to an end in June and their service will no longer be provided. At present they are holding referrals and ASCERT have the new contract. Discussions will take place for transition.

UPDATE – SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Information was provided on Supporting Siblings workshops. 2 workshops were organised for young people aged 10+ who have a brother or sister with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The Trust ASD team provided information to those attending and there were 3 discussion tables. These tables covered what is ASD, how this affects their brother and sister and top tips on how to cope. Young people also got the opportunity to ask questions. Young Carers attended the workshops for anyone who wanted continued support and young people had the opportunity to join. Dinner was provided for free along with a goodie bag and it was a great evening for everyone.

A workshop was delivered on Thursday 23rd April 2015 from 6pm – 8pm in Cookstown Leisure Centre and was very well attended. The Carrickfergus workshop took place on Thursday 30th April 2015 from 6pm – 8pm in Sunnylands Community Centre. Feedback from the Trust was the workshops would be useful in all Trust areas.

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. Copies were given to everyone present. If anyone is looking further copies contact Sandra.

CURRENT POSITION – YOUTH FAIR/ BIKE PURCHASE/ DYSLEXIA PROGRAMME

Dyslexia Programme

Feedback will be given at the next meeting. Marie organised an additional event and it went well.

Youth Fair

Marie is taking the lead on the Looked after Children being delivered in Schools. Due to this no youth fair will be organised as this would be duplication. Sandra provided information regarding youth fairs and what young people remember the most. This feedback will be useful resource for the area when planning future events.

Bike Purchase

The smoothie bike has been purchased and it will be housed in the Youth Service. The level of obesity is growing and this was purchased to meet this need. Any organisation can get the use of this for any projects/work. Terry and Michael will agree on the arrangements for hiring this smoothie bike.

UPDATE – FAMILY SUPPORT HUBS

Selena noted the key themes haven't changed. The 4 key themes were discussed and Selena suggested the group look at these themes to identify what the locality group could do. The Family Support Hubs are going well with a range of organisations attending. A survey monkey has also been circulated to organisations to get feedback on how they think the Hubs are being coordinated.

MEMBER UPDATES

Terry Hamill – EA

The NEELB service are no longer and are now EA – Education Authority. There are new templates for paperwork and terry noted he hasn't noticed change in any areas at present. Staff are to be appointed as Head of each region. Shaun McCormick is the new support worker for the Young Men's post. Terry is getting ready for a 3 week summer scheme and there will be a summer camp starting in August. Camp Rock takes place from 28 June – 3 July and is a 5 day residential in Bushmills Education centre. 50 spaces are available for young people interested in music. Young people put on a performance at the end of the programme in Braid Arts Centre, Ballymena. Places are open to anyone from all areas and Terry is currently recruiting young people for this.

Discussions took place regarding the Education Authority and what the needs are and how they are addressing these needs and targeting these areas. Terry suggested inviting Shaun McCormick to a future meeting. Selena agreed to send information to Shaun.

Action: Selena

Teresa Bradley – NHSCT

A speech and language review was carried out on the last couple of years. As a result of this review staff may be downgraded which is dissatisfying. There is also restructuring within the Trust and some staff are going to be affected by this.

Gerry McDonald – Think Drink

Information was given on training for trainers starting in Magherafelt in September. This will give participants the skills to deliver training by the end of the programme. As part of this each participant develops a programme and thinks about what and when they are going to deliver it and who to deliver it to. Training for Trainers has already been delivered in Coleraine and Ballyclare with one also starting in Larne.

Gerry will be holding a Sharing the Learning event on Tuesday 23rd June 2015 in Leighinmohr House Hotel, Ballymena. 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 Glasgow Community Planning Partnership will be coming over for the event as they have used community researchers. This piece of work pushed alcohol to the top of the government agenda. Invites have already been emailed and everyone is welcome to come to the event.

Mary Tennyson – Gold Surestart

Maghera Surestart is well established. Mary noted Surestart are looking at cuts and this will affect service delivery. Local Women are doing a feature on Gold Surestart. A reporter came and done a piece of work with a parent group and this should be in the papers.

Sarah Jane – Mid-Ulster Women's Aid

2 Family Support Workers have been appointed and there is to be another worker appointed. Sarah Jane noted the refuge is full to capacity. Families are involved in making a DVD and this is in the final stage of editing and will be launched in September.

Louise May – NHSCT

Refer into Women's Aid/Surestart who offer support to families. Louise noted referring into other agencies is a great support for them and families. Continue to manage families and their needs in the area. Staffing is low at present but the service is being met.

Michael McCrory – Magherafelt District Council

Magherafelt District Council merged to cover Cookstown Dungannon and Magherafelt and is now Mid Ulster Council. They are looking to develop a community

plan by the end of the year. Michael is now responsible for Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership in the role of PCSP Manager.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing noted.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Friday 10th July 2015 at 10.00am** in Northern Regional College, Magherafelt Campus.