

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING  
MINUTES OF BALLYCLARE & RURAL NEWTOWNABBEY**

**THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015 AT 2.00PM  
BALLYCLARE COMMUNITY CONCERNS**

<b>Attending:</b>	Adelyn Carr	<i>Ballyclare Family Focus</i>
	Christine Craig	<i>ASDA Ballyclare</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Katy Donnelly	<i>NHSCT Gateway</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Liz Brown	<i>NICMA</i>
	Pamela Davis	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Shirley Laughlin	<i>Public Health Nursing NHSCT</i>

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Adelyn welcomed everyone to the meeting today and apologies were noted.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015**.

**MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arising.

**STRENGTHENING FAMILIES – UPDATE**

Selena provided background information to the PHA funded Strengthening Families programme for parents/carers and their children aged 10-14 years. There is a programme presently running in Ballyclare and Emma McElhone is the lead for this. The programme is on its 4<sup>th</sup> week and takes place in the evening once a week. Feedback to date has been very positive with 6 families attending. Discussions took place regarding this programme.

Adelyn agreed to keep a note of families on file for the next programme in the area.

Selena noted EITP Early Intervention Transformation programme will also be delivering Strengthening Families as well in Mid & East Antrim. Selena agreed to send information to the group again.

**Action: Selena**

Any queries on Strengthening Families contact Emma on 028 2563 6600 or [emma.mcelhone@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:emma.mcelhone@northerntrust.hscni.net)

## **AUTISM PROGRAMME - UPDATE**

Pamela was previously successful in securing funding for an Autism Support Group through the Northern Outcomes Group and this was discussed. Parents involved continue to meet and have got funding to purchase additional sensory resources. This is a very positive outcome for families and young people and Pamela is keen to get more volunteers who she would be happy to link with.

## **PARENTING NI OPPORTUNITIES**

Selena noted Parenting NI have a contract to get a parents group as a sounding board for the Northern Outcomes Group. The Locality Group have been offered the opportunity for families to avail of a number of programmes through Parenting NI or the opportunity to set up a Facebook Page. The group discussed the potential to set up the Facebook page or offer training to parents. Selena expressed the challenge at times encouraging parents to join a parenting programme.

The group felt Facebook would be a great idea for the area. Discussions took place around how this would work and the information that could be provided. It was identified Family Focus and Mums Net have Facebook Pages.

Selena noted Parenting NI could organise this Facebook Page and have control over the administration. Members could feed into it and send information to be uploaded in order for families to see. Sandra agreed to meet Parenting NI to take this forward.

**ACTION: Sandra**

## **ACTION PLAN – SETTING THE PRIORITIES**

Selena recapped on the Ballyclare & Rural Newtownabbey Group and noted it has been running since 2012. To date the group have successfully achieved the following:

- Engagement Event
- Cmeb+
- Produced What's happening in Ballyclare
- Fun and Facts Morning

Selena addressed how the group are low in numbers and asked how best to take the group forward.

Adelyn expressed that it would be a shame to lose the locality group in Ballyclare. The very purpose is to address the needs of a rural community that normally gets forgotten. Adelyn noted Kathy Wolfe's expertise is needed in the group and added her knowledge would be valuable. Selena also noted other key members are vital for the group to strengthen and building on members is something the group will focus on doing.

### **ACTION: All Members**

Selena noted setting 3 priorities for the group and a number of actions to deliver on. The group agreed on the following:

- Ring around and identify who used to come to the group
- Invite councillors to attend
- Set a date to look at priorities

From this it will give an idea how often the group need to meet and commitment from members will be for fewer dates. Adelyn noted it would be a good development and would encourage people to get on board if the group met 4 times a year to move on priorities.

It is hoped to have an update on the Facebook Page at the next meeting.

## **MEMBER UPDATES**

### Adelyn Carr – Ballyclare Family Focus

A Child Bereavement course runs for 12 weeks supporting children who have lost a loved one. This helps young people deal with issues and accepting change. Adelyn hopes to set up a peer support group to start in September and run to December. Adelyn is in the process of sending information out to principals and organisations / groups in the area. This group will be for 6-11 year olds. Adelyn will send information to cascade for referrals for this programme.

### Sandra Anderson – CYPSP

Information was provided on Supporting Siblings workshops. These were organised for young people aged 10+ who have a brother or sister with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A workshop was delivered in Carrickfergus and Cookstown with the Trust ASD team providing information to those attending.

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. These were also distributed to everyone present to be given to any families. Sandra also agreed to forward to Adelyn as a PDF.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing noted.

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 2.00pm in Ballyclare Community Concerns.**

**Please note: The venue may change depending on members attending.**