

**Minutes of the South Belfast Locality Planning Group held on Thursday 10th
December in LORAG, 97 Balfour Avenue,
Belfast BT7 2EW**

Present:

Name:	Organisation:
Kelly Maxwell	NIACRO (Chair)
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Helen Elder	Mental Health Hub
Mary-Frances McWade	Youth Justice Agency
Anne McKay	Mornington
Mary Murphy	BHSCT
Joanne Tarach	Barnardo's (BME hub)
Karolina Morgan	Windsor Women's Centre
Tara Gibney	An Droichead
Stephanie Thompson	South Belfast Partnership Board
Julie Sykes	Belvoir ASD
Allison Breadon	Belvoir ASD
Joan Henderson	Sólás
Joy Poots	South Belfast SureStart
Natasha Brennan	LORAG
Claire Humphrey	Barnardos
Helen Crickard	Women's info
Fiona O'donnell	SENAC
Eleanor Jordan	Windsor Women's Centre

Apologies:

Name:	Organisation:
Una Casey	CYPSP
Anita Duff	Education Authority (Youth Service)
Gabi Mornhinweg	BHSCT
Natalie Killough	BHSCT Child Intervention Co-Ordinator
Nicola Hannigan	Outer South & East Hub
Richard Mealey	Donegall Pass Community Forum
Aine Kelly	Save the Children

In attendance:

Fiona O'Donnell- SENAC

Welcome and Introductions

Kelly welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked LORAG for hosting today's meeting. A round of introductions took place.

Apologies

Were noted as above

Presentation- Fiona O'Donnell (SENAC- Special Educational Needs Advice Centre)

SENAC is a registered charity which has been working regionally in NI since 2003. It is funded by donations, fundraising events and grant award bodies and has a team of 6 staff and 6 advice line volunteers. SENAC offers practical information and advice for children with special needs and learning difficulties, including advocacy, assisting parental knowledge and challenging adequate provision for the child. SENAC has a telephone advice service, and a service for Looked After Children, to help them get the right support.

Fiona talked about the five stages of Special Educational Needs in Northern Ireland and what an assessment/ statement contains. For further information on this and recent changes to the SEN system visit SENAC's website www.senac.co.uk.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The date and location of the minutes was incorrect- to be amended. The content of the discussions in the minutes was agreed as accurate.

Matters Arising

Members wanted it noted that they are concerned about the sustainability of the Family Support Hubs. Natasha agreed to take this feedback to the Belfast Outcomes Group.

Action: Family Support Hubs to do a presentation at the next meeting

Mental Health Hub- Helen Elder

Helen gave the group an update on the Mental Health hub. The Mental Health hub has been live since the 22nd September 2015 and there have been 300 referrals in South Belfast alone. There can be up to 600 referrals a month, however around 7% of these are rejected, this is usually age related. Helen noted that around 30% of the referrals received are from those age 18-25 and a further 30% are aged 26-45. In addition to this 17% have reported Mental health symptoms for 2 months or less, 57% a year and under and 26% for more than two years. The University Health Centre is the biggest source of referrals. Most of the services with contracts for the hub have been inundated and have needed help from other services.

BME Hub- Joanne Tarach

Joanne updated the group on the BME hub. They have been working closely with two schools in South Belfast- Fane Street and Holy Rosary. Five years funding has been secured for the project, however the current workers are only secured until March. Joanne noted that the name may be changed from a 'hub' to something else. They offer a range of parenting programmes, which complement the services in the Primary schools. There is also a male worker, which helps to engage fathers in the programmes. The hub also works with the speech and language students at the University of Ulster.

Family Support Hubs Update-

South Belfast One (Natasha)- There have been 25 referrals to the hub so far this month, 12 of these have been for support for families at Christmas. There were also referrals about children's challenging behaviours and delays in diagnosis. The South Belfast One hub will be live one year in February and they will be hosting an anniversary event to mark this. Details will be circulated closer to the time.

South Belfast 2 (Eleanor/Karolina) – The launch of the hub will be taking place on Monday 14th December. There are currently 10 core members and 7 associate members. The common issues which are coming up frequently are speech and language difficulties and primary school statementing issues.

Outer South and East (Claire)- The launch of the Outer South and East hub is taking place on Tuesday 19th January at 9am in the Ivanhoe Inn. Claire pointed out that this hub spans a large geographical area and aims to reach families who are isolated and have trouble reaching services. The need to increase membership was emphasised to those around the table to make this process work.

Action Plan

Outcome 4- Feedback from the sub group on Outcome 4 was given to the group. The group agreed that pre-school age should be included in outcome 4 instead on outcome 2 which is focussed on educational achievement. This is due to the separate need of pre-school support, outside of SureStart. It was also pointed out that the education and health funding should be pulled together as they are closely linked. It was noted that SENAC presented at the Locality Planning Group as there were some misconceptions at the sub group about the processes which schools/ pre-schools would have to go through regarding SEN.

Members of the wider group agreed with the sub group that there needs to be a mapping exercise carried out in relation to what all the groups around what local services are available and there needs to be an annual update of the Mental Health mapping which was carried out as these details may have changed.

The sub group had discussed the need to do a training calendar, to map out what training is available locally, as some organisations are paying a lot more for courses than they are offered elsewhere.

Action: Short mapping exercise to be carried out

Action: Mental health map to be updated

Action: Laura to email a short training calendar for members to complete

Action: Pre-school children to be included in Outcome 4 in the Action Plan

Information sharing: Measurement Tools

The NICCY, in her September Think Piece on Community Relations noted that there was little research carried out for additional needs. In the research paper which Laura brought to the group, it shows levels of DLA much above the NI average in the area. On this basis it was proposed to invite NCB to the next meeting to cover specifically what the action planning sub group has identified in relation to looking at

measurement and best practise tools. It was pointed out that measurement and assessment is a big issues in the BME community and bilingual children as these families may experience mixed messages.

Action: Invite NCB to the next meeting

Any Other Business

The Children's Bill is out for consultation, so it was agreed to try and get a representative to the next LPG meeting on the 26th February.

Action: Children's Bill presented at the next meeting

Upcoming meetings

Friday 26 th February 2016 @10am	Belvoir
Friday 29 th April 2016 @ 10am	Mornington
Friday 24 th June 2016 @ 10am	TBC
Friday 26 th August 2016 @ 10am	TBC
Friday 28 th October 2016 @ 10am	TBC
Friday 9 th December 2016 @ 10am	TBC