

**MINUTES OF THE WEST BELFAST LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016 AT 2.30PM IN FALLS ROAD LIBRARY,  
FALLS ROAD, BELFAST.**

**PRESENT:**

**Name:**

Tina Gregory

Laura Rankin

Nikki Terlik

Karen Burns

Elizabeth Gracey

Mairead McCrea

Dympna Johnston

Jim Girvan

Leontia McKenna

Ann-Marie McKee

Sue Pentel

Pamela Hughes

Natalie Killough

Kelly Maxwell

Jamie Compton-Rea

Dermot Glackin

**Organisation:**

Clan Mor Sure Start

CYPSP

Libraries NI

BHSCT

Action Ability Belfast

Kids Together

Greater Shankill Partnership

Blackie River Community Group

OuterWest Family Support Hub

OuterWest Family Support Hub

Ionad Uibh Eachach

Kids Together

BHSCT

NIACRO

ASCERT

West Belfast Partnership Board

**APOLOGIES:**

Colm Walsh

Extern

Deirdre Walsh

Whiterock Children's Centre

**Welcome and Introductions**

Tina welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions took place.

**Apologies**

Were noted as above

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

**Matters Arising**

Sue gave an update on the Bright Start funding. The holiday grant forms were sent out early this year and organisations should find out within a couple of weeks if they have been successful. The issues from last year's application process appear to have been resolved.

### **Strengthening Families Programme- Jamie Compton-Rea**

The Strengthening Families programme has been running for 2 years and has been extended for 2 more years. It is a nationally and internationally recognized parenting and family strengthening program for high-risk and general population families. Strengthening Families is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce problem behaviours, delinquency and alcohol and drug abuse in children and to improve social skills and school performance. The programme lasts 3.5 months and is a whole family approach. The capacity is 12 referrals per session and Jamie noted that they encourage Family Support Hub referrals. There is a screening panel to make sure all families are relevant referrals and there is a 'booster session' families can do as follow up.

**Action: Jamie to send Laura information re. Strengthening Families to circulate**

### **Community Youth Providers Update- Sue and Jim**

#### Blackie River Community Group

Blackie River runs mentoring sessions for young people aged 13-18, with 1:1 support, linking in with other local services as this is a gap in the local area. There is a SIF Early Intervention programme running in Beechmount and St. James' Farm area, run by Damien Lindsay for 16-18 years olds, linking with an apprenticeship with the Parks Centre. Blackie River also runs an Autism support programme on Saturdays and a summer programme (3 weeks, with 3 different sets of children and young people), which is funded by the Outcomes Group money. Blackie also have day care facilities, homework support and after schools. In the summer they run an interfaces project of residential to deter young people from committing crime, this includes around 400 young people from Greater Falls area.

#### Ionad Uibh Eachach/ Beechmount

Programmes run by Ionad Uibh Eachach/ Beechmount include day care places for 140 children, 50-60 after-schools places, sponsored day care, Surestart and respite day care. There is a support group for parents of children with Autism, called 'Shine'. Also they offer packages of taster Irish language sessions for parents and children.

It was acknowledged by members that there is a lot of hard work going on in the youth sector in West Belfast and it is hoped this will continue.

### **Action Plan**

#### Inclusion Charter West Belfast

Although there were reservations from some members of the group about how it will make a difference, it was made clear that the Charter will be a good vehicle to get other things on the agenda e.g. disability, minority ethnic groups etc. It is hoped it will challenge all organisation to think about their policies and work together to create the best environment possible. It was discussed that it would be a good idea to have a 5\* mechanism for different aspects such as equal opportunities, disability etc. Sue commented on the importance of language and cultural aspects in the charter, and

agreed to send Laura information to include in the Charter. It will be signed off on at the LPG meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Action: Sue to send Laura information to include in the Charter**

**Health for All Strategy West Belfast – Dermot Glackin**

Dermot gave the group some background information Health for All Strategy in West Belfast. The strategy will aim to localise the Making Life Better Strategy for West Belfast. There were 4 workshops to inform the strategy; Early Years, children and young people, adults and elderly. These workshops will now shape the report along with Locality Planning outcomes, PHA and local reports. Dermot assured the LPG that it will not be duplicating their work and will get the raw data as soon as it is in draft form. The next stage of the process is to get a draft version of the strategy.

Dermot made the group aware that the 'Take 5' grants are now out and the locality group could work with the partnership board to put something together to do an event or activity to link both together.

**Action: Dermot to send details of the Health for All Strategy to Laura for circulation**

**Action: Dermot/ Tina/ Laura to meet to discuss possibility of 'Take 5' funding**

**Family Support Hub Updates**

**Shankill Hub**

There were 8 referrals in the month of April and have been 52 since then. Dympna explained that sometimes organisations know when programmes are going to become available and that is when they send the referral. There has been an increase in financial advice and food parcels. Members commented that local food banks are not co-ordinated and there is no information which can be accessed which details opening hours. This is only available for Trussell food banks. Hub co-ordinators noted that this would be useful to have. There are also issues around those waiting for an ASD diagnosis. Mairead explained that Kids Together.

**OuterWest Hub**

Since the hub launched there have been 118 referrals to the OuterWest hub. The referrals have mostly been from community and then self- referrals. The highest age group for referrals was 5-10 years and then 11-15. There has been a high number of referrals for issues affecting those with disabilities, other issues include emotional support, parenting support- there is a high level of need for counselling/ mentoring in the area.

**Falls Hub**

So far this month there have been 14 referrals and 170 since September. 46% of the referrals have been associated with Autism. A gap in support has been for young girls personal development, age 10-13 and support for young people age 13-16. The highest requires services relate to family support and emotional support.

### **Hub Overview**

Karen gave a general overview of the hub. Spending cutbacks in the education sector have impacted on schools, there have been more schools referring to the hubs for support. There are difficulties as some children with additional needs choose to attend mainstream school, but there may not be the support in place that is needed, or the correct training provided.

### **Feedback from Belfast Outcomes Group**

The last meeting of the Belfast Outcomes Group was productive in that members could see a way forward for a lot of the work which is currently happening. The feedback from the Family Support Hubs and enthusiasm was shown for the continuation of Hubs. The commonality of issues was raised e.g. primary school aged children who need behavioural support and a lot of home tailored support for families, across all hubs in Belfast. Lesley informed the group that permanent funding will be available to cover the locality work in Belfast on a permanent basis. At the Outcomes Group, Lesley gave some positive feedback from the CYPSP. There was a presentation given by Outcomes Group Chairs and Locality Planning Groups, and there was a good response from members and constructive discussions around collaborative working. The Belfast Outcomes Group Action Plan is currently being finalised and will be circulated in due course.

### **Member Updates**

Libraries NI have a new online resource called 'Rub-a-dub hub', Nikki agreed to do a short presentation about this resource at the next meeting.

**Action: Nikki to present 'Rub-a-dub hub' resource at the next meeting.**

### **Any other business**

Autism NI 'broken promises' report has been launched.

'The History of our Troubles according to our babies' conference took place on 7<sup>th</sup> June and members who attended noted that it was very informative. Natalie agreed to send Laura information for circulation.

**Action: Natalie to send Laura conference information for circulation**

### **Date, Time and venue for Next Meetings**

Dates for future meetings are as follows:-

Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2016 @ 2.30pm	Extern- Jennymount
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2016 @ 2.30pm	Stewartstown Road regeneration project
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2016 @ 2.30pm	Shankill Library