

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

**TUESDAY 17TH MAY 2016 AT 2.00PM
HOMESTART OFFICE, ANTRIM**

Attending:	Mervyn Rea	<i>Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council</i>
	Fiona O'Dowd	<i>Barnardos NI</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Janine Gaston	<i>SACN</i>
	Joanne Cleary	<i>Little Steps Surestart</i>
	Laura Crawford	<i>YJA</i>
	Marie McCloy	<i>NRC</i>
	Mary O'Connell	<i>Homestart Antrim</i>
	Michelle Harris	<i>Barnardos NI</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Siobhan Morgan	<i>Little Steps Surestart</i>
	Wendy Burgees	<i>Start360 Connections Service</i>
Apologies:	Joyce Kinnaird	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Jonathan McConnell	<i>PeoplePlus NI</i>
	Sandra Gourley	<i>Oriel Training</i>
	Seamus Davis	<i>Springfarm Association</i>
	Trudi Hall	<i>Turning Point NI</i>
	William Smyth	<i>AYICC</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mervyn 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 **Tuesday 15th March 2016**.

MATTERS ARISING

Parenting Programme

Sandra circulated information on Antrim Parenting Mornings which took place over 4 weeks in Homestart, Antrim. Paediatric First Aid, Challenging Behaviours, Mental Health and Stress Management were covered over these sessions with 12-14 parents attending. Between 8 and 13 children aged 0-4 years also availed of the free crèche facility provided.

Sandra highlighted recommendations from completed evaluations. Mary noted parents have asked for fitness programmes and have been awarded SACN funding. A fitness programme will be starting in October for this group and there will also be childcare provided.

PRESENTATION – MARIE MCCLOY, EMPOWER PROJECT

Mervyn thanked Marie for attending the meeting today and invited Marie to make her presentation to the group.

Marie provided information on the Empower Big Lottery Funded Project which has been up and running since September 2015. It is a five year project focusing on the Magherafelt and Antrim areas. The aim is to support children under 12 with Autism, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia along with their parents and wider family circle. Some aspects of the programme are currently being piloted and Marie provided details.

Some of the programmes coming up were detailed. These included summer workshops, Dyslexia information sessions and Parents Forums. There is also a dedicated information line for families through the Empower Project which is manned by Josie. The number for this is 028

9581 6852. For further information email empower@nrc.ac.uk or telephone 028 7939 5237.

Information was provided on Supporting Siblings taking place on 15th June in Antrim Forum. Information and discussions will take place and Young Carers will be present for young people to sign up for further support. These workshops will be delivered this year in Antrim and Magherafelt. Marie noted she is happy to work in partnership through the programme.

PRESENTATION – JONATHAN MCCONNELL, PEOPLEPLUS NI

Jonathan was unable to make today's meeting and sent apologies.

Selena provided a brief overview of programmes available through PeoplePlus NI. It was noted they are currently advertising for a number of workers. If anyone has any queries Jonathan can be contacted by email: Jonathan.McConnell@peopleplusni.com

UPDATE – IMPACT OF ALCOHOL

Selena noted there is a new coordinator in post and the Believe in Youth Project has 12 Peer Educators. These Peer Educators have capacity over the summer to deliver 2 hour drugs/alcohol sessions. If anyone would like supported they can email the Believe in Youth Coordinator: catherine.quinn@dunlewey.org

UPDATE – FAMILY SUPPORT HUBS

No update was provided.

CO-DESIGN FOR NEW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES STRATEGY

Selena has been tasked with gathering a response from Locality Planning Groups for the new Children and Young Peoples Strategy.

Particular issues were given by members to be considered in the new strategy. Further hand-outs were also given for members to complete. All information will be compiled and sent through to meet deadlines.

ACTION: Selena

MEMBER AGENCY UPDATE

Wendy Burgees – Start360 Connections Service

Wendy held a networking event in Loughguile for Moyle/Ballymoney LPG. This was for organisations to come together to find out about services covering particular areas. Wendy is also planning working with big companies to raise drug/alcohol awareness and help them put policies in place within the workplace. 2 hour drugs and alcohol training sessions are still on-going and can still be provided.

Siobhan Morgan – Little Steps Surestart

Baby Massage and Baby Yoga are being planned to take place over the summer. A newsletter was distributed to all present with information on all programmes organised and Siobhan noted Little Steps are trying to get registrations for all these courses. Due to successful attendance from service users on programmes at Farranshane House Little Steps have now moved their office base to Farranshane House. There is now a full staff team including a Health Visitor and Language Therapist.

Fiona O'Dowd – Parenting NI Families Together

Information was given on 3 programmes running in Sixmile, Parkhall and Ballycraigy. Families Together is a project that aims to improve family relationships with a range of activities offered. The 3 aspects of the programme are:

- Time for Parents – learn new parenting skills and meet other parents through informal group sessions. One to One Time for parents offers space for parents to be listened to.
- Time for Children – provides children with one to one time to explore and understand their feelings through a range of activities.
- Time Together – an 8 week programme for parents and children to spend focused time together for an hour each week.

Expression of interest forms were circulated to the group. It was noted there is currently a waiting list for counselling.

Marie McCloy – NRC

All courses will be uploaded on the Empower website and Facebook page.

Laura Crawford – YJA

There are now 8 volunteers within Youth Justice Agency with one recently winning the Community Justice Award.

Janine Gaston – SACN

One to One community support is still on-going through South Antrim Community Network. Action planning is currently taking place for a community wellbeing initiative. It is hoped to produce a 12-18 month plan. Janine noted they are hoping to bring in secure providers to deliver programmes. Janine will be releasing a training calendar and hopes to have this available for distribution at the next meeting. Information was also given on film screenings taking place of some locally produced films.

Michelle Harris – Barnardos Collective Impact

Michelle provided information on a Part Time Community Engagement post currently advertised on Community NI. The closing date is 24th May 2016. A consultation event is being planned for June.

Mary O'Connell – Homestart Antrim

7 new volunteers are now fully trained. Mary noted there is a steady flow of referrals with Autism being a high support need. Homestart will be completing funding in order for another recruitment drive for volunteers. They have been successful in securing funding to deliver a fitness programme and are in the process of applying for Children in Need. Some volunteers have expressed an interest in getting more training which Mary will explore.

William Smyth – AYICC

Information was given on the Heads Up Programme. This programme is specifically aimed at young people, particularly those aged 13-18 years. The information that has been built into this programme will help to inform young people of the dangers of drugs, alcohol and substance misuse. It also gives young people a range of coping skills which will support them in dealing with a range of issues that they may encounter in their lives. AYICC have developed and produced six Heads Up Leaflets: Drugs Leaflet, Alcohol Leaflet, Legal High Leaflet, Parental Information Leaflet, Legal Consequences Leaflet and a Directory Listing Leaflet. These are given out at the end of each training session and are available from AYICC.

AYICC have also developed and published an online resource through our website www.ayicc.co.uk. This information will be kept up to date with the latest substances and local issues.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 20th September 2016 at 2.00pm in Homestart Office, Antrim.**