

**MINUTES OF THE NORTH BELFAST LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26TH JULY AT 10AM IN THE
McSWEENEY CENTRE, 31 HENRY PLACE, BELFAST, BT15 2BB.**

Present:

Name	Organisation
Katrina Newell	Ashton (Chair)
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Liz Brown	NICMA
Michelle Harris	Barnardo's Collective Impact
Edith McManus	Ashton
Karen McLean	The Vine Centre
Caroline Milligan	Glenbrook SureStart
Declan Davey	Youth Justice
Christine McKeown	Ashton
Claire Allen	NBCHP
Gerry Largey	BHSCT
Lesley McMaster	EISS/ NIACRO
Alan Wilson	Education Authority
Jonathan Kennedy	Extern

Apologies:

Name:	Organisation:
Stephen Reid	The Vine Centre
Gabi Mornhinweg	BHSCT
Linda Duffy	174 Trust
Mervyn Bell	Smile SureStart
Natalie Killough	PHA

Welcome and Introductions

Katrina 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 accurate.

Matters Arising

All matters arising are covered on the agenda

NICMA new procedures

Liz Brown gave the group an introduction to NICMA and what they do. She also spoke about the support which is provided by NICMA to child minders. There are now 3 mandatory pieces of training, which need to be completed by child minders; First Aid, Health and Safety and safeguarding. Liz spoke about the importance of being registered as a child minder. She would be willing to come out and speak to any groups about this.

Action Plan.

Katrina expressed concern that the Action Plan is not reflective of current needs coming up through the Family Support Hubs. Members agreed that there needs to be a conversation about the fluidity of the document to reflect both current needs and long term needs.

Outcome 1- Family Fund Information day

Family Fund NI are an organisation that help families raising disabled and seriously ill children and young people and believe they should have the same opportunities as others. They provide grants for a wide range of items, such as washing machines, sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, tablets, furniture, outdoor play equipment, clothing and computers. It can be a struggle financially, emotionally and physically for families raising a disabled or seriously ill child, and these grants help break down many of the barriers families face, improving their quality of life and easing the additional daily pressures.

Family Fund wants to work alongside the Locality Planning Group to organise an information event on 29th November to get families to attend and find out more information about the organisation. They have also asked for a number of stands from LPG members to attend on the day, for information.

It was agreed that Laura will send out an email to get numbers of stands for the event, and then pass this on to Elaine from Family Fund NI to confirm.

Action: Laura to email members re. Family Fund information event

Mental and Emotional Wellbeing Event

St. Malachy's College have decided to have a Mental and Emotional Wellbeing event, due to issues of suicide and mental health affecting their pupils in the past few months. They are also keen to have local organisations attending.

The event is due to take place in the Autumn term, however the schools have been off since the end of June which means there has been no communication. Michelle agreed to keep the LPG updated on the progress of this event.

Action: Michelle to contact schools and keep LPG updated

Mental Health & Self Harm Training

Gary Symington has organised Mental Health & Self Harm Training in Mercy College on Wednesday 31st August from 1.30-3.30pm, for those who live/ work around the North Belfast area to gain knowledge and understanding of such issues, which may help in some way to support the work of local schools and youth organisations.

Outcome 2- Youth Provision

Alan and Katrina agreed they would meet to discuss Outcome 2 in more detail. Alan noted that the North Belfast Area Workers are looking at risky behaviours training for workers and would like this to be fed into the LPG Action Plan. The difficulty is trying to engage youth workers in the community sector, as there is no joined up approach.

Parenting NI engagement

Lynn Heatley from Parenting NI is currently working with Locality Planning Groups to find out what they would find useful in terms of engagement with parents. Lynn will attend the next Locality Planning meeting to give an overview of what the engagement will involve.

Action: Lynn to attend next LPG meeting

Family Support Hub Update

Edith and Michelle both attended at the North Belfast Area Learning Community. Edith noted that schools were interested in the hub and have been referring; however it is a worrying trend that schools are sending most children to the hub for counselling when other options could be more appropriate.

Upper North Hub

The summer has proved busy for the hubs, with self and school referrals being the highest. The most common reason for referrals has been behavioural issues in both Primary and Post-Primary stages. Support for Autism has also been a high reason for referral. This hub currently has 44 core/associate members.

Lower North Hub

The highest reason for referral from this hub has been support for children with ASD, either awaiting a diagnosis or those who have already been diagnosed. It was pointed out that even when families receive a diagnosis, it is only a piece of paper- they still have to deal with the consequential behaviour.

Both hubs recognised that the Early Intervention Support Service was vital in the referral process, as most of the referrals are made here. If this service was not in existence then many of the referrals could not be met.

Belfast Outcomes Group Update

There is permanent funding for the Locality Planning post, to support Locality Planning Groups in Belfast, however the format of this post has yet to be decided.

Collective Impact Update

Some members of the Locality Planning Group attended the 'Why People Need People' training run by Barnardos, and found it very useful. There was a desire from the schools to work more closely and collectively, which is the core business of Collective Impact.

Michelle is currently working with schools on literacy of Primary school children and improving 'D grades' in Post Primary schools. Michelle has met with youth and community centres who work with children and young people to offer educational programmes which complement the work done in schools i.e. educational activities, in order to get schools and communities to work together.

The 'Why People Need People' training is going to run a 12-18 month practitioners programme for 40-50 people. More information will be sent via Michelle for those who would like to register.

Members Update

- The Education Authority are completing an audit of all work which is happening with regard to SEN at primary and post-primary level, this will be released in September

-Glenbrook Sure Start have started a Facebook page, which will have all the latest news and event happening in the Sure Start

Any Other Business:

- Alan made the group aware that there will be Local Advisory Groups set up in every area re. youth provision within the Education Authority. These groups will be made up of different organisations including community rep, political rep, PCSP, councils, schools and young people (aged 16-19). This body will have a budget for programmes and activities they would like to be delivered. They will also oversee the area plan and ensure needs are met.

Dates of upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 27 th September 2016 @ 10am	Education Authority
Tuesday 29 th November 2016 @ 10am	Family Fund event

Feedback to the Belfast Outcomes Group:

1. A lot of requests for 1:1 mentoring services- with the current funding these needs are being met, but if funding is taken away this will be an issue
2. A high level of need and not enough services/ support for Autism pre and post diagnosis
3. A high level of need and not enough services for children with emotional and behavioural issues
4. Importance of EISS