

**MINUTES OF THE WEST BELFAST LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2016 AT 2.30PM
IN EXTERN IFSS, BLOCK 5, JENNYMOUNT BUSINESS PARK,
NORTH DERBY STREET, BELFAST BT15 3HL.**

PRESENT:

Name:	Organisation:
Tina Gregory	Clan Mor Sure Start (Chair)
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Penny Ambrose	Beechmount Sure Start
Irene Cooke	Shankill Sure Start
Damien Magee	Simon Community NI
Mairead Gilmartin	Outer West Sure Start
Nikki Terlik	Libraries NI
Colm Walsh	Extern
Roisin Mohan	Suffolk Community Forum
Dympna Johnston	Greater Shankill Partnership
Karen Burns	BHSCT
Natalie Killough	PHA

APOLOGIES:

Una Casey	CYPSP
Jackie Redpath	Greater Shankill Partnership
Janice Clarke	Girls Model School
Leontia McKenna	Outer West Hub
Marie Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation
Kelly Maxwell	NIACRO
Sue Pentel	Ionad Uíbh Eachach
Jim Girvan	Blackie River Community Group
Tina Black	Grosvenor Community Centre
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together
Mairead McCrea	Kids Together

Welcome and Introductions

Tina welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions took place. It was noted that there are a large number of apologies as there is a Pathways workshop taking place.

Apologies

Were noted as above

Natalie Killough- Child Development Interventions Co-ordinator

Natalie gave the group an update about what her role involves and how she will be involved in the Locality Planning Groups in Belfast. The post is funded by the PHA to look at evidence based parenting support programmes such as Strengthening Families, Incredible Years etc. and what the barriers may be to these programmes. Natalie will also be looking at organisations who are working with parents and how to build relationships. She explained that she will also be researching standardised tools and measures of success. Natalie emphasised that the post does not come with funding attached, but that she will be able to shape and show the need for certain programmes. Natalie noted the importance of co-operative working groups such as Locality Planning and the hubs and the importance of drawing the attention of these groups to the Department.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

Matters Arising

Laura thanked the members for offering venues for the future Locality Planning meetings, as they are organised until the end of 2016.

Action Plan

Outcome 2 & 3

Laura produced a list of the play parks in West Belfast as a starting point and will continue to liaise with Belfast City Council and Belfast Healthy Cities to establish the parks and spaces for children and young people.

The Locality Planning Group is currently developing a Statement of Excellence. It was suggested that all organisations around the table send the mission statement of their organisation and Laura will pull these together for the next meeting as a starting point. Members agreed it could link to the hubs.

Action: Members to send Laura their organisation's mission statement to collate for April meeting.

The group talked about the case studies which had been sent in around the poverty update. Members noted that there had been a significant increase in hub referrals and services over the Christmas period in relation to poverty. There has been a new foodbank opened in Lother Buildings. Nikki noted that in Libraries NI they are running debt training

and online debt management; however there has not been a big uptake in these classes. Members discussed other initiatives available for those who are facing financial difficulties. Christians Against Poverty have a scheme to negotiate to have debts written of, or offer a range of other appropriate services.

Damien noted that the Simon Community is a member of the 'Making Moves' project. It is a new project which has been developed in North Belfast and West for the local community to help with issues such as maintaining tenancy; benefits; debt; accommodation; training; skills development; employment; health and wellbeing and emergency provision (food and clothing). This project is in partnership with a number of other organisations such as NIACRO, Housing Executive, Christians Against Poverty etc. The hub will be held fortnightly in Falls Library. Damien noted that there have been a lot of referrals in the North Belfast area but the West has not seen as big an uptake. Damien agreed that it would be a good idea for him to do a presentation to the hubs in West Belfast, about this project.

The group discussed the Welfare reform implications in West Belfast and the affect this would have on poverty. Dympna made the group aware that there will be information sessions which people can attend to find out how they will be affected by the changes.

Action: Dympna to send details of Welfare implementation information workshops

Chill and Spill Update

Damien gave the group an update on the progress of Chill and Spill in West Belfast. In the initial stages of the process there was a lot of interest from various schools in the area, however they were not willing to take on the project. Damien expressed concern that funding for his post has only been confirmed until March, which leaves the future of the project uncertain. Members suggested that the Chill and Spill could be reshaped, if there is a lack of interest. It may be worth looking into sessions in youth centres to target children and young people who are vulnerable and at risk.

Family Support Hub Updates

Shankill Hub Update

Dympna gave an update on the progress of the Shankill hub. There was no meeting in January as there was a joint event in West with the other

hubs. There were about 100 people at the event, it is hoped that it will have raised funding concerns to decision makers. There were 12 referrals in January, which was significantly less than before the Christmas break. However in the first 2 weeks in February there have been 7 referrals, so this indicates a rise in referrals. Recent referrals have been for mentoring for young people (instead of counselling) and poverty. Dympna indicated there have been a number of new services which have joined the hub

Falls Hub Update

The main issues in the Falls hub has been families awaiting an ASD diagnosis, and Children with disabilities services having long waiting lists. In addition there are difficulties surrounding childcare for children where a parent is attending a programme or session. This is not covered in the SureStart budget.

Hub Update (general)

Karen fed back to the group that in the Outer West Family Support hub the main issues were around welfare rights and housing poverty. It was highlighted that some Big Lottery funded services are coming to the hub. There was concern expressed that these projects are not quality assured and there is a responsibility on the funders to look at this.

Karen explained that the funding has not yet been secured for the Family Support hubs for another year, however it is hopeful that this will happen. Members agreed that it would be devastating to lose these structures as there has been a lot of hard work and commitment in the hubs process.

Any other business

Members talked about linking with the Mental Health hub, it would be useful for the hubs. Dympna noted she has a contact, and Laura agreed to follow this up and invite someone to the next LPG meeting.

Action: Laura to make contact with Mental Health Hub rep.

Tina made members aware that she would like to see someone else taking over as chair to give the role a fresh voice. Anyone who is interested should contact Laura.

Action: Anyone interested in chairing the group contact Laura

Tina thanked members for their contribution to the meeting and thanked Colm for hosting.

Date, Time and venue for Next Meetings

Dates for future meetings are as follows:-

Wednesday 13 th April 2016 @ 2.30pm	Stewartstown Road regeneration project
Wednesday 8 th June 2016 @ 2.30pm	Falls Road Library
Wednesday 10 th August 2016 @ 2.30pm	Extern- Jennymount
Wednesday 12 th October 2016 @ 2.30pm	Stewartstown Road regeneration project
Wednesday 14 th December 2016 @ 2.30pm	Shankill Library