

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

PRESENT:

Name:

Tina Gregory

Laura Rankin

Nikki Terlik

Colm Walsh

Elizabeth Gracey

Mairead McCrea

Gerry Largey

Leontia McKenna

Ann-Marie McKee

Tish Holland

Pamela Hughes

Rita Simmonds

Kelly Maxwell

Mairead Gilmartin

Liz Brown

Organisation:

Clan Mor Sure Start

CYPSP

Libraries NI

Extern

Action Ability Belfast

Kids Together

BHSCT

Outer West Family Support Hub

Outer West Family Support Hub

ANP

Kids Together

Toybox

NIACRO

Outer West Sure Start

NICMA

APOLOGIES:

Dermot Glackin

West Belfast Partnership Board

Deirdre Walsh

Whiterock Children's Centre

Penny Ambrose

Beechmount Sure Start

Karen Burns

BHSCT

Dympna Johnston

Greater Shankill Partnership

Roisin Mohan

Suffolk Community Forum

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

All matters arising are covered on the agenda.

Rub-a-dub Hub- Libraries NI

Nikki presented the new Libraries NI online children's resource to support parents and carers of 0-4 year olds with tools, top tips and fun activities to develop language and communication skills. There are different sections to the website, which include read along sessions and information for parents. It has been a useful resource for ethnic minority families to develop speech, language and communication skills. There is also a Facebook page, which has all the latest up-to-date information on what is happening in local libraries. There are outreach staff within Libraries NI who can come out to a group and do an event incorporating rhythm and rhyme, using their resources, depending on the library branch. Members noted this was useful information.

NICMA new procedures- Liz Brown

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

Inclusion Charter West Belfast

Tina reminded the group that we have to think of what we want to achieve with the charter. The OuterWest hub has given some recommendations which have been agreed on and the group agreed that the charter should read as follows: 'West Belfast aspires to be a child friendly area providing for all children, of all abilities to be safe, happy and healthy and achieve their fullest potential'. This is to be sent out to get organisations to agree and sign up to before the next meeting.

Action: Laura to email out and ask organisations if they would sign up to charter

Family Fund event

Laura gave an overview of Family Fund as an organisation. They provide grants for families who have children with serious disabilities. They would like to raise awareness of their organisation in Northern Ireland so have asked if the Locality Planning Group would like to run a North and West Belfast event with both Locality Planning Groups. Members agreed that this sounded like a beneficial event, however there may be transport issues if the event is held in Girdwood Hub, as there is no public transport which goes from West Belfast directly to Girdwood. It was suggested that it would be better to have a separate event for West, or to see if a pot of money can be set aside for buses to transport people from West.

Action: Laura to contact Family Fund re. West Belfast event/ funding for transport

Health for All Strategy West Belfast

Tina updated the group on the Health for All Strategy in West Belfast. There were 4 workshops which took place to inform the strategy; Early Years, children and young

people, adults and the elderly generation. There is going to be a meeting in early September to discuss the key points from the four workshops.

Family Support Hub Updates

Outer West Hub

From September 2015- July 2016 there have been 163 referrals altogether. These have primarily been from community organisations, self-referrals, GPs and other health professionals. The age group with the highest referrals have been 5-10, then 11-15 years old. The majority of referrals to the hub have been in relation to disability; learning, physical or special educational needs. Out of the 211 children referred, 146 have been relating to a disability. The main reasons for referral include disability, parenting support, parenting programmes, emotional and behavioural disabilities and referrals for youth activities (summer schemes). Members around the table commented on the rising levels of disability and Autism in particular.

The Broken Promises report from the National Autistic Society is a report on research which was carried out into Autism for a number of months in 2015. Gives evidence to show the numbers of those who have Autism each year is increasing, however the funding is not increasing year on year to match this increase. Members agreed that their organisations are having to think about what coping mechanisms can be used- for those both with and without a diagnosis.

Members acknowledged that the Education Authority are now sending in a lot of referrals to the Family Support Hubs, which is positive. However, it is important that other agencies contribute to the Outcomes Group funding pot.

Action: Laura agreed to circulate the 'Broken Promises' report

Hub Overview

An issue which has come up from the hubs is that families are being offered a place with a service; however they do not take this service and instead go through the hub to take this place.

Feedback from Belfast Outcomes Group

Tina noted that the Autism issues had been raised with the Belfast Outcomes Group. The Outcomes Group have agreed permanent funding to support the Locality Planning Groups, but it is not clear which format this will take. Tina commented that it is important to recognise the need for additional costs to be covered such as room hire, and resources, as they are in some other areas.

It was also discussed that there needs to be clarification around the funding for the Family Support Hubs as soon as possible. This was agreed at the Locality Planning Group, as last year's funding situation would be unacceptable.

In terms of funding children with disability, it was pointed out that there is a substantially higher cost to transport and have activities for children and young people who have disabilities, and this should be taken into account more when funding is being allocated.

Any other business

- Staging roll out of Welfare Reform having an impact on poverty already. Many of those being re-assessed will not get their payments. 16 year old being asked to fill out forms, raises issues if they have any form of learning disability. This issue to be taken to Belfast Outcomes Group. This will place a massive need on Family Support Hubs/ services.

Tina noted that she will be stepping down as Chair of the Locality Planning Group in December 2016. A new Chair to be elected at the December meeting.

In light of this, the need of benefits/ financial advice was highlighted as increasingly important. It was agreed that an email should be sent out to find out what organisations in West Belfast provide this service and this will be collated before the next meeting.

Action: Laura to collate information re. Financial advice provided in West Belfast.

Date, Time and venue for Next Meetings

Dates for future meetings are as follows:-

Wednesday 12 th October 2016 @ 2.30pm	Stewartstown Road regeneration project
Wednesday 14 th December 2016 @ 2.30pm	Shankill Library