

Raising awareness of disability support services in Belfast

Parents and carers of children and young people with a disability or additional needs from across Northern Ireland recently attended an information support day at the Girdwood Community Hub in Belfast.

The aim of the event was to ensure parents and carers were aware of services available locally to help them better support their child and families.



The free event was organised by the Family Fund in partnership with the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) North and West Belfast Locality Planning Groups. The event was supported over thirty family support organisations who attended the event and shared information about the services they offer to support families in need including Sure Start, Carers NI, Tiny Life, Libraries NI, Extern and many more.

Speaking from the event, Family Fund stated 'we are delighted to host an Information and Support Day at the Girdwood Community Hub and have been overwhelmed by the numbers of families that have come along to meet us. It has also been great to have so many NI sector organisations join us to inform families of the sterling work they are doing'.

Over 70 families attended the event and one parent shared their experience of support for their child waiting for an ASD diagnosis, 'I found the event very useful and a great fact finding mission for me, it was nice to have one-to-one conversations and learn about the services available to my family'.

Katrina Newell, from New Lodge Arts Belfast and Chair of the CYPSP North Belfast Locality Planning Group reflected on the information support morning and stated; 'It was overwhelming to hear about the very complex issues faced by families with a child with a disability and the difficulties they face accessing services. The

information we gathered today will feed in to our next Locality Planning Group Action Plan 2017-2020 to work towards improving outcomes for all children, young people and families across the area. I am extremely grateful to The Family Fund for organising the event today and would like to thank the families and the organisations that came along to provide information about their services’.

The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), led by the Health and Social Care Board, is a multi-agency partnership that includes the leadership of key statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.



Family Fund is a UK-wide charity that has been providing grants to families on a low income raising a disabled or seriously ill child aged 17 and under for over 40 years. In 2014 in Northern Ireland, we were delighted to be able to support over 4,000 families with over £1.4 million in grants for essential items such as washing machines, sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, clothing and computers.

For more information about the CYPSP visit www.cypsp.org

GET IN TOUCH

For further information about the event please contact Una Casey, Business Support Manager for CYPSP at una.casey@hscni.net or Telephone 02895 36 2848