

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

**TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2016 AT 2.00PM
IN OASIS ANTRIM**

Attending:	Mervyn Rea	<i>Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council</i>
	Catherine McCartney	<i>Barnardos</i>
	Davina Clements	<i>Family Mediation NI</i>
	Denise Nicholl	<i>PeoplePlus NI</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
Apologies:	Bill Sheridan	<i>Children's Contact Centre</i>
	Clare McFarlane	<i>Start360 Connections Service</i>
	Mary O'Connell	<i>Homestart Antrim</i>
	Noel Gallagher	<i>EA NI Youth Service</i>
	Petr Zvolsky	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Sinead Brady	<i>Empower Project NRC</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 20th September 2016**.

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

PRESENTATION – DAVINIA CANN, CAUDWELL CHILDREN

Davinia Cann works for Caudwell Children, an independent charity with the mission to transform the lives of children and their families, enabling them to challenge the barriers they face throughout childhood. Charity is building a new centre of excellence in England which will be a centre for working with and accessing children with Autism Spectrum. This should be ready and open in 2017. Children within NI will be able to access things in this building and children waiting on a diagnosis will be able to use the services also.

Davinia provided information on Family Services which offer vital support to families caring for a disabled child or a young person (0-18). The service can provide telephone, email and face to face support to help families to make informed choices and gain access to equipment, treatment, therapies and local services they need. Trained volunteers help with practical necessities like applying for grants, finding local support groups and information about medical conditions. These volunteers are supported by Davinia. Caudwell Children will provide 80% funding for equipment and other charities are good at coming up with ways of helping families with the other 20%. Families will be signposted to other charities and who to contact.

Families can self-refer into the service if they have a disabled or seriously ill child aged 0-18 years. This is a free service and will support families to gain access to:

- Therapy
- Treatment
- Support Groups
- Equipment
- Help in identifying grants and sources of funding
- Information relating to medical conditions
- Signposting to specialist sources of advice.

Information was provided on some of the equipment that can be provided to families which help to increase a child's independence and quality of life. Wheelchairs, therapy tricycles, specialised car seats and sensory equipment could be provided. Caudwell Children work closely with 3 suppliers in the Northern Area to enable them to get this equipment for families in need.

For further information visit the website www.caudwellchildren.com. Application forms can also be downloaded on the website also from www.caudwellchildren.com/applyforsupport

PRESENTATION – DENISE NICHOLL, PEOPLEPLUS NI

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

Denise provided information on the BEE Project – Building Employment through Education. The aim of the project is to re-engage disengaged adults in the education process and to build opportunities for subsequent employment through education. Free educational courses can be delivered to anyone 16+. It was noted PeoplePlus they don't want to duplicate services but compliment services already existing.

The training currently on offer was outlined and information sheets distributed. Denise highlighted PeoplePlus are in working with 20 Schools – 10 Primary and 10 Post Primary. An example of success was given from recent warehouse training, with 19 out of 21 participants who completed the course getting into employment.

Denise can be contacted by emailing Denise.Nicholl@peopleplusni.com

UPDATE – EDUCATION SUBGROUP

The Barnardos Collective Impact Project's main objective is to increase educational attainment in the Antrim area. Catherine came into post in August and has met with Schools and Community Groups. A subgroup was formed with good representation across all sectors. Catherine also

sits on the Youth Service group who are in the start of designing an Action Plan.

Barnardos provide training/capacity building and for practitioners to work together. Catherine noted she wants to keep a tap on what's happening in the area by attending the Antrim Locality planning Group. A date is to be set in December/January for the subgroup to meet again and for this to take shape as a consultation with Schools being invited.

Selena noted the issue of lobbying Schools for resilience programmes for young people. This will be added to the current Action Plan.

ACTION: Selena

FEEDBACK – ANTRIM YOUTH FAIR

The annual Antrim Youth Fair took place on Wednesday 5th October 2016 in Parkhall Senior Integrated School. Local Schools were represented with over 400 pupils attending across the Post Primary Schools. A breakdown of the responses regarding where young people would access help and support was feedback. Pictures along with the press release were also shared.

UPDATE – FAMILY SUPPORT HUB

Selena noted she will link with Phil Joyce to receive main themes of referrals and will circulate information. A large number of referrals are still being received by Family Support Hubs.

ACTION: Selena

MEMBER AGENCY UPDATE

Pamela Shields – Oasis Antrim

5 Year Big Lottery Funding has been awarded, working closely with Schools. Oasis Programmes have changed and delivered in 3 phases:

12-14 year olds – working in schools managing breakfast clubs.

14-16 year olds – work with 15 young people who are disengaged in education. Provide education and reengage back into education.

16+ - work with young people who have moved onto education and employment. Pick up any issues working with social services and Youth Justice Agency.

Information was also provided on a women's programme 'Time for the Girls' which runs on Thursday's from 10.30am – 12.30 and funded through the Community Pharmacy programme.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Barnardos Collective Impact

Consultation is pending for Barnardos Collective Impact Project and is planned for December/January.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 17th January 2017 at 2.00pm in Homestart Office, Antrim.**