

# Minute of Western Area Outcomes Group held on 7 December 2016 Strabane Enterprise Agency

**Present:** Mr Kieran Downey, Director of Women & Children's Services [Chair]

Mrs Brenda MacQueen, Dry Arch Children's Centres

Mrs Ann McDuff, Assistant Director [Community & Public Health] Ms Linda Watson, Caw/Nelson Drive Community Association

Mr Mustapha Ben Hassine, Barnardos

Ms Lisa McGarvey, A/Children's Services Manager, Action for Children

Mrs Monica MacIntyre, Department for Communities [DfC]

Ms Cathy McCloskey, Early Years Organisation Mr Kevin Duffy, Head of Service [Family Support]

Ms Kat Healy, MCNI

Ms Muriel Bailey, Director of Parents Helpline & Counselling Service,

Parenting NI

Ms Una Casey, Business Support Manager, CYPSP

In attendance: Ms Amanda McLean, Early Intervention Support Service Change

Manager

Ms Ally Robinson, Western Early Intervention Support Service Mrs Priscilla Magee, Family Support Locality Planning Co-ordinator Mrs Bronagh Donnelly, Family Support Locality Planning Co-ordinator

Mrs Margaret Ferris, Business Support, Western Trust Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

## 1 Presentation – Early Intervention Support Service

Mr Downey welcomed Ms Amanda McLean, Early Intervention Support Service Change Manager, and Ms Ally Robinson, Western Early Intervention Support Service, to the meeting.

Ms McLean advised that a key feature of the Early Intervention Support Service was to deliver short term intervention, via therapeutic and practical support, up to approximately 12 weeks, though this could be extended should extra time be required. She said referrals were accepted from all agencies and self referrals could

also be made. Ms McLean said 93 referrals from agencies had been received during the period January – September 2016. She said the main reason for the referrals was for EDB support for primary school children with 48% of referrals in the 5 - 10 age range. Ms McLean stated that progress with families was based on the "Family Star" where progress was monitored in the following ten areas – physical health, wellbeing, meeting emotional needs, keeping children safe, social networks, education and learning, boundaries and behavior, family routine, home and money, progress to work. She said in relation to closed cases, the length of time between referral to first contact had been 1 – 10 working days. Ms McLean reported that user satisfaction surveys were completed by 40 parents/carers and they had rated the service as excellent or very good and 22 children/young people had rated the service as excellent or good. Mr Robinson detailed a case study of a family who had requested help from the service and advised on the intervention and outcomes in this case.

Mr Hassine said EISS was a good resource for Strabane and was complementary to his own service. Members noted the outcomes of EISS and said they hoped it would be rolled out to other areas. Ms McLean advised that QUB's evaluation was to be completed in 2017 and that discussions were taking place with the Programme Board to secure additional funding.

Mr Downey thanked Ms McLean and Ms Robinson for their presentation and they withdrew from the meeting.

## 2 Apologies

Ms Orla Conway, Omagh Women's Aid

Mr Paul Sweeney, Extern

Ms Marie McGale, MENCAP

Chief Inspector Ivor Morton, PSNI

Ms Cathy Mullan, PHA

Ms Colleen Heaney, Youth Justice Agency

Ms Helen Dunn, Regional Hub Co-ordinator

Ms Helen Harley, Children & Young People's Officer, Derry City & Strabane District Council

Mr Downey welcomed Ms Lisa McGarvey, Action for Children, to the meeting who was covering for Mrs Bernie Tierney.

A group photograph of members was taken to update the website.

## 3 Notes of Previous Meeting held on 26 October 2016

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 October 2016 were agreed as an accurate record of the discussion.

## 4 Matters Arising

## **European Youth Capital Bid 2019**

Mr Downey informed members that Serbia had won the bid for European Youth Capital 2019. He said staff involved in the Derry City & Strabane District Council bid were keen to take forward some of the projects in their proposed bid and he agreed to keep members informed of developments.

## Youth Participation

Mr Downey advised that Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Magee had increased their hours to full time with the Trust which included an additional brief for youth participation. He said this staffing resource would allow for work to be progressed in this area.

## 5 Update from Locality Planning Groups

Mrs Magee reported that there were no longer any food banks operating in the Omagh area and that in the Fermanagh area St Vincent de Paul were no longer running the stamps for fuel scheme. She stated that the Fermanagh and Omagh Locality Planning Groups felt that the Council's Community Plan did not adequately reflect the concept of early intervention. Mr Downey said he had attended a meeting regarding the Community Plan and said there still was an opportunity to make a response to the plan as it was currently out for consultation.

Mrs Magee said the Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder Day on 9 September 2016 had been very successful and Facebook and Twitter had been widely used to promote this. She reported that meetings had been held for Locality Planning Groups, NEET's Forum and the Parenting Reference Group.

Mrs Donnelly reported that there was a particular gap in Derry for services for 5 – 11 year olds i.e., youth mentoring and one-to-one support for this age group. She reported that there were also complex issues around poverty in the Derry area. She informed members that she had met with Mr Sweeney and Ms Harley regarding youth participation and that an additional meeting was planned for January 2017 to include Ms Healy. Mrs Donnelly undertook to contact youth providers in relation to the forthcoming stakeholder events.

Ms McCloskey withdrew from the meeting.

## 6 Early Intervention Updates

#### **Pioneer Communities**

Mrs McDuff reported on visits to the Trust by Mr George Hosking and the mapping exercises currently being undertaken. She said Trust staff had also met with Professor Antonio Bifulco, Professor of Lifespan Psychology, Middlesex University, regarding CLEAR [Computerised Life Events Assessment Record], which had been designed to assess life events and long term problems over a 12 month period. She said it was exciting to try this tool created by staff at Middlesex University and that the

Trust were currently engaging with Midwifery and Nursing colleagues, but said she was hoping to engage with more professionals and community and voluntary representatives to look at the gap analysis for the pilot site. Mrs McDuff said the Trust were also looking at other assessment tools as Mr Hosking had international expertise and contacts to ensure the right tools for the Western Trust were being utilised. Mrs McDuff said the Trust were also looking at another programme used by Professor Cerezo, University of Valencia, Spain, to learn from her expertise.

Mrs McDuff said there was a need for a marketing and communications strategy as Pioneer Communities was gaining momentum in the community. Mrs Donnelly stated that she was happy to assist with a simple presentation or leaflet to help manage expectations. Mrs McDuff undertook to link with Mrs Donnelly. She said she would consider organising open briefing sessions and welcomed any suggestions or assistance from Outcomes Group members. Mr Downey said the progression of a Pioneer Community would take lots of commitment and effort. Mrs McDuff agreed to keep members apprised of developments.

## **EITP Overview Report, September 2016**

Members noted receipt of an EITP overview report for September 2016.

## 7 Action Plan Workshop

Western Outcomes Group Children & Young People's Plan for 2017/20

Mr Downey thanked Ms Casey, Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Magee for preparing the one page Western Outcomes Group Children & Young People's Plan for 2017/20 following work undertaken at the last meeting on 26 October 2016. The plan detailed the three obsessions, priorities, and how this work would be taken forward. Ms Casey said the approved plan would be designed with enhanced infographics. Mrs MacQueen said it would be important to get the indicators right. Mr Downey asked members to share and consult on the plan within their own organisations and that he would list the plan for final sign off at the next meeting in preparation for the stakeholder meetings. Mr Downey thanked everyone for their input to the action plan.

#### Stakeholder Events

Following discussion, it was agreed that five stakeholder events, based on the three obsessions, would be organised in March 2017. These events would provide opportunities for engagement on the plan to allow people to take ownership of it. Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Magee undertook to engage with young people through their networks in all the localities and to invite young people to the stakeholder events. Mr Downey agreed that a budget would be made available to fund the stakeholder events. Mrs MacQueen suggested involving Community Planners. Mrs Magee said it would be useful to engage with universities to get experts for the projects.

Mr Downey agreed to follow up on a representative from Omagh Council for the Western Area Outcomes Group.

Mrs McDuff withdrew from the meeting.

## **Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

To be listed for the next meeting.

## 8 Funding 2016/17

Mr Downey advised of remaining Outcomes Group funding of approximately £60,000 for 2016/17. Following discussion, it was agreed that £20,000 would be set aside for each of the three obsessions, although this would be flexible depending on the nature of the applications received. An application form and information would be emailed to members today for organisations who held a contract with the Trust, Health and Social Care Board or Public Health Agency, to submit an application for non recurrent funding up to £5,000 based on one of the three obsessions, with funding to be utilised by 31 March 2017. An adjudication panel of Mrs Ferris, Mr Duffy and Mrs MacIntyre was agreed and panel members undertook to meet in early January. Application forms for funding to be returned to Mrs Ferris. Mrs Ferris stated that any organisation who received funding would be asked to complete a project evaluation report.

Ms Casey withdrew from the meeting.

# 9 Drug and Alcohol Support Interventions, Projects and Activities in the Western Area

Mr Downey shared information Mrs Magee had collated on drug and alcohol support inventions, projects and activities delivered within communities in the Western Trust area which could be accessed directly by families from within their communities. Members agreed that the localised information was very helpful and captured small projects and detailed good practice.

Mrs Donnelly agreed to forward Mr Downey a "Guide to Local Alcohol and Drug Services in the Western Trust Area" produced by the Western Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Team, for circulating to members.

## 10 Safeguarding

Mr Downey advised of a forthcoming conference "Safeguarding in a Global Context" being organised by the Trust on 21 & 22 February 2017 with a team of experts from England to raise awareness of issues around child and adult abuse within minority ethnic communities and to share knowledge that would support practice. Mr Downey advised that the conference programme would be circulated to members and places would be extended to members or a representative from their organisation.

## 11 CYPSP Think Family Sub Group/Hidden Harm

Discussion deferred to next meeting.

## 12 Any Other Business

#### PEACE IV

Ms Healy advised that tenders for PEACE IV were to be opened in February 2017 for Derry City & Strabane and proposed that representatives be invited to a future meeting. Ms Healy advised that Ms Sue Divan was the contact officer. Mr Downey agreed to invite representatives from the Council to a future meeting.

## Meeting Dates for 2017

Members noted the meeting dates for 2017 which had already been circulated.

## 13 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

22 February 2017 at 10.00 am in the Conference Room, Strabane Enterprise Agency.