

**Minutes of the North Belfast Locality Planning Group held on  
Tuesday 24 January 2017 at 10am in Duncairn Arts Centre**

**Present:**

|                   |   |
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| Katrina Newell    | New Lodge Arts and Ashton Community Trust (Chair) |
| Mervyn Bell       | Smile SureStart                                   |
| Caroline Milligan | Glenbrook SureStart                               |
| Christine McKeown | Ashton Community Trust                            |
| Linda Duffy       | 174 Trust   |
| Karen McLean      | Upper North Family Support Hub                    |
| Edith McManus     | Lower North Family Support Hub                    |
| Liz Brogan        | Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid                   |
| Claire Allen      | New Lodge Duncairn Health Initiative              |
| Kelly Maxwell     | Autism NI   |
| Lesley McMaster   | Niacro/EISS                                       |
| Jamie Compton-Rea | Ascert  |
| Elaine McWilliams | Ascert  |
| Graham Beattie    | Education Authority NI – Youth Service            |
| Una Casey         | CYPSP   |

**Apologies:**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Trevor McDonald  | Belfast City Council                                 |
| Paula Scott      | North Belfast Home Start                             |
| Michelle Harris  | Barnardos Collective Impact                          |
| Alison Templeton | New Life Counselling                                 |
| Lisa McManus     | Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Health Visiting |
| Stephen Reid     | Vine Centre  |
| Gabi Morniweg    | Belfast Health and Social Care Trust                 |

**In Attendance:**

|              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Lynn Heatley | Parenting NI |
|--------------|--------------|

**Welcome and Introductions**

Katrina welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Linda for hosting. A round of introductions took place.

## **Apologies**

The apologies were noted as above

## **Minutes of the previous meeting held 27 September 2016**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate recording of the meeting

## **Matter Arising**

Kelly took the opportunity to highlight that she now works for Autism NI. She highlighted that Autism NI offers pre- and post- diagnosis support initially through a helpline which operated 5 days per week. There are also peer support groups for parents. She also works with the Family Support Hubs.

## **Action Plan**

### *North Belfast Youth Information Event*

Katrina explained to the group that the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership is funding her to hold an information event for young people on 23<sup>rd</sup> March in Girdwood Community Hub. This event will be opened to young people in post-primary schools and also their parents. There will be information stands and also organisations will be invited to hold short 20 minute workshops. Katrina will share the information invitation with members and will contact those interested in doing workshops. She is hopefully that there will be a good turnout of young people as the schools will be bussing them to the event. If there is an appetite for this type of event it might be something to consider for the future LPG action plan.

**Action: Laura to circulate the invitation to the Information Event to members**

### *Feedback from Engagement at the St.Patrick's College Health and Wellbeing Fair*

Katrina noted that she and Una attended this event on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January. She highlighted that there was a really good number of service providers at the event but that there was a low turnout of young people and parents at the event, but that it was a good opportunity to network with the services there and also the teachers that were attending. Katrina and Una also took the opportunity to carry out a short survey with the young people there. Some of the young people surveyed highlighted that they weren't sure what services were available to them in the area and also the need for better communication with young

people about them. They felt that this might help to breakdown the stigma of using support services. Katrina also highlighted that St Malachy's are hosting an information event in partnership with TAMHI on 30<sup>th</sup> January in Girdwood.

### *Parental Participation – Parenting NI*

Lynn Heatley gave an update on the work that she has been carrying out as part of the work that CYPSP has commissioned Parenting NI to do. So far she has engaged with 25 parents through Holy Cross Nursery, Edenderry Nursery and the Vine Centre. Through these focus groups she has been exploring what the local issues are affecting the parents and their children, if they felt they needed support. She explained that all the information gathered will be included in a report. She highlighted that the focus group discussions included if the parents felt that they had an acceptable support network, what they considered to be family support, what would improve access to services, and what were barriers and what could be improved. The parents also discussed challenging behaviour. Lynn has a further two focus groups planned with parents of post-primary aged children through the Boys Model and St Patrick's College.

Members advised that the parents taking part should be further involved with feedback given to them after the initial focus groups are completed. Members suggested that more parents should be involved in the process. The members also felt that there needed to be a long term aim of having parents involved in the co-design of the future action plan and possibly become members of the LPG.

### *Contact with Area Learning Community*

Una highlighted that she has been contacting some of the Principals who are members of the Primary School Area Learning Community, so far she has been unable to talk to them but is hopeful she will get contact with them soon, in the hope of raising their awareness of the LPG and CYPSP process. She also spoke to the Principal of St Patrick's College, who currently chairs the Post-Primary ALC at their information event and will follow up with her again in order to present to the ALC.

### *Unblocking Potential Course*

Una highlighted that this course is free and offers people who have left school without qualifications to reengage with education. It's a very flexible course and can be run in community settings. Anyone interested in holding a course contact Una.

### *Current Action Plan and 2017-2020 Action Plan*

Una tabled the progress report for the current Locality Planning Group action plan and highlighted that it demonstrated that many of the actions had been addressed. There were a few actions that hadn't been addressed due to funding constraints, these could be actions that might be carried over to the new plan for 2017-2020. The group agreed to sign off on the current plan. The next meeting will involve developing the new action plan. The group agreed that they were in a good position for this with additional information coming from the Family Support Hubs.

### **Feedback from Belfast Area Outcomes Group**

Katrina explained that the last Belfast Area Outcomes Group was held in December. The main part of the meeting involved a presentation from the South Belfast One Family Support Hub. This presentation gave examples of how a referral to a FS Hub can have direct and indirect benefits for families. The meeting also involved a narrative case study. Members highlighted that funding had now been secured for a year for the coordination of the Family Support Hubs but they felt that this had been poorly managed.

### **Family Support Hub Presentation**

Edith and Karen gave the attached presentation. They highlighted that there has been 333 referrals to the two North Belfast Family Support Hubs between April and December 2016. They stated that they felt that the FS Hub has become part of the fabric for community work and that it was a credit to all the members of the hubs. There has been 400 referrals to services as some families have needed more than one service, which equates to 838 people as they often work with the whole family unit. They highlighted the importance of putting in a service as early as possible to a family so that they can effectively change the outcomes for them.

26% of the referrals have been self-referrals, which has been helped by word of mouth from service providers and people who have used it themselves and recommended it to family and friends. 20% referrals have been from schools. Many of the primary schools in the area have expressed how valuable the FS Hubs are to them. Karen and Edith highlighted that they are still working to make linkages with post-primary schools and that the LCAP area has been harder to engage with.

The main reason for referrals is emotional and behavioural support for primary aged children. There is also a high number of referrals about challenging behaviours and risk taking behaviour.

Karen and Edith highlighted that sometimes families aren't ready for group work and need some 1-1 support in order to get them group ready.

Katrina highlighted that the Belfast Outcomes Group might need to make their funding a little more flexible in order for the local services to be able to work with the families coming through the FS Hubs.

Members also discussed issues around the need to support families pre and post diagnosis of ASD and the pressure that families are under and the long waiting lists some services currently have for children with ASD and also speech and language needs and assessments. Members agreed that the LPG gives a strong foundation for decisions and joined up working to take place that will support the FS Hubs.

The members all thanked Edith and Karen for their presentation and for all their work with the FS Hubs, and highlighted how important it is to give evidence of unmet need in the area.

**Action: Una to circulate presentation**

### **Any Other Business**

The Children and Young People's Strategy 2016-2026 is currently out for consultation the closing date is 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

The Belfast Agenda is also currently out for consultation. There is a section in it about early intervention and Family Support Hubs but there is no mention of the Belfast Area Outcomes Group or the Locality Planning Groups. Members were encouraged to respond to this.

Una highlighted that the Adoption and Children's Bill is also out for consultation, there is a chapter in this about the CYPSP. It would be important for members to read this and give feedback on it.

Katrina gave the following update about Collective Impact on behalf of Michelle Harris. The *Awesome Science Project* is working with Holy Family Youth Centre, Street Beat Youth Project and the ROC (Redeeming our Communities) youth club which runs out of the Presbyterian Church on Crumlin Road. There were children and young people from both primary and post primary ages involved.

All three have taken part in the pilot which ran from October to December and all three are now working with Barnardo's to build on it. Although it started with a 4 week Science Programme we have now recruited a Project Worker to develop this in partnership with the youth

centres and we are working on literacy and numeracy themed programmes and on additional science materials.

*Study Skills* is being developed by Sentinus NI in 4 schools- BBMS, BGMS, Mercy College and Edmund Rice College. It is target at those young people currently on predicted D grade English and maths and the first session were delivered with the young people in December. There will be one more session this term and one in April/May time. Teachers also participated in an information session in October.

*Reading Rooms 'Book Buddies'* is being delivered as an after schools programme in Holy Family PS, Currie PS, St Patrick's PS, Sea View PS and Holy Cross Girls' PS. The community volunteers have been trained along with the teachers in delivery and the programmes are starting now and will run through to the end of the school year.

*Jamie Compton-Rea: Ascert* - highlighted that there will be a new Strengthening Families project starting in April, he highlighted that 50% of the families who have attended this programme have been from North Belfast so there is a strong referral rate from the area. He encouraged members to continue to refer families to this programme. He also highlighted that Ascert offers a selection of workforce development training which can be found on the Ascert website.

*Elaine McWilliams: Ascert* – explained that the North Belfast PCSP is establishing a Drugs and Alcohol Stakeholder group, looking at needs, gaps, will develop are working on developing an action plan with the community and voluntary sector, they want to be careful to avoid duplication. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Elaine.

**Action: Una to circulate Elaine's contact details**

Members discussed the recent announcement of funding cuts to the Youth Service and how this might affect many of the outreach projects and detached workers.

### **Bring up to Outcomes Group**

Need for flexibility in BAOG contracts to enable services to work with FS Hub referrals

Need for families to have 1-1 support to prepare them for parenting programmes

Approach to the Funding of Family Support Hubs

### **Dates of future meetings:**

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 10am | The Vine Centre |
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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tuesday 23 May 2016 at 10am       | TBC                       |
| Tuesday 25 July 2016 at 10am      | Duncairn Community Centre |
| Tuesday 26 September 2016 at 10am | TBC                       |
| Tuesday 28 November 2016 at 10am  | TBC                       |