

**Minutes of the North Belfast Locality Planning Group held on
Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 10am in The Vine Centre, 193 Crumlin
Road, Belfast BT14 7AA.**

Present:

Katrina Newell	New Lodge Arts and Ashton Community Trust (Chair)
Mervyn Bell	Smile SureStart
Caroline Milligan	Glenbrook SureStart
Christine McKeown	Ashton Community Trust
Karen McLean	Upper North Family Support Hub
Edith McManus	Lower North Family Support Hub
Gabi Mornhinweg	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Claire Allen	New Lodge Duncairn Health Initiative
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Lesley McMaster	Niacro - EISS
Graham Beattie	Education Authority NI – Youth Service
Una Casey	CYPSP
Stephen Reid	Vine Centre
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Michelle Harris	Barnardos Collective Impact
Gerry Largey	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Alison Templeton	New Life Counselling

Apologies:

Liz Brogan	Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid
Jamie Compton-Rea	Ascertainment
Declan Davey	Youth Justice Agency

Welcome and Introductions

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

Apologies

The apologies were noted as above

Action Plan

Katrina explained that today's meeting will concentrate on developing the North Belfast Locality Planning Group Action Plan for 2017-2020.

The Action Plan for 2014-2017 was signed off at the last meeting and Katrina proposed it is used as a starting point for the 2017-20 plan. Katrina emphasised that the last plan was very aspirational and suggested that going forward there will be more information available which can be included, for example from the Family Support Hubs, Education Authority and other anecdotal information as well as the information available on the CYPSP website, to help inform the new plan.

Katrina gave an overview of the outcomes and achievements from the last plan which included:

Outcome 1- Parents and ALL children will be supported to learn together.

Under this Outcome there were achievements including The Connected Baby early years event and collaboration with the Community Education Initiative Partnership (CEIP). There have been funding issues with some of the other actions in relation to education, including the Chill and Spill project; however the Locality Group is linking with the work of Collective Impact in schools.

Members agreed it is important to include nursery schools in the new plan as children are presenting with issues in the early years, especially at transition stages. It is important to make links with all schools. A discussion took place about attainment and pastoral care. Katrina pointed out that according to Education Authority's attainment statistics for individual schools the highest performing school and the schools with the lowest attainment in Northern Ireland are located in North Belfast. It was also emphasised that pupils at these schools may not all live in the North Belfast area, so it is important to look at other qualitative information, as well as statistics; and look at the information available at ward level of the area as young people from North Belfast may attend schools in other parts of the city and beyond.

It was also discussed that some schools with lower attainment outcomes may have really good pastoral care which also improves a young person's outcomes in life.

Outcome 2- Improved co-ordination and networking for all youth services to maximise overall provision and enhanced practise.

The Locality Planning Group has been able to avail of beneficial training through collaboration of Locality Planning members and other LPGs

across Belfast e.g. Autism Awareness Training with Niacro and Autism NI and Bounce Training and also through the Family Support Hubs.

Outcome 3- ALL children, young people and families will be supported to build resilience.

In relation to resilience, the Locality Planning Group was able to facilitate presentations and training, as well as attending events and this has been enhanced by the work of the Family Support Hubs.

As well as the work of the Family Support Hubs, it was suggested that it would be useful to hear the emerging needs from members of the group. Future presentations to the Locality Group should concentrate on emerging needs, rather than services provided. This will be beneficial for flagging up issues to the Outcomes Group and to possibly influence funding. The Family Support Hub Co-ordinators reported high levels of referrals for emotional and behavioural difficulties in parents, children age 5-10 and young people.

ASD is reported as a priority issue. 40% of families do not get a diagnosis and still need support. If a family receives a diagnosis this does not necessarily mean they will receive the support they need. Kelly noted there is an article on the Worthington website which states that children who have a statement (of Special Educational Need) cannot be expelled or given reduced hours because of their statement. It was suggested that a pilot project could be run with Sure Starts and Autism NI to look at behaviour patterns at a younger age. There was agreement this would be useful, however Caroline pointed out that funding for the project would be an issue. Caroline noted that Sure Start are currently completing a pilot parental stress survey and will feed back the evaluation of this to the Locality Planning Group.

Action: Locality Group to look at a pilot project between Autism NI and Sure Start on early years behaviour patterns.

Action: Caroline and Mervyn to feedback parental stress survey results.

For more detailed information, Katrina noted that the progress report for the 2014-2017 action plan has been sent to members for reference.

Following the above discussion, members split into 4 groups to discuss draft outcomes and actions, which were presented as follows:

1. Resilience

- Important to clarify what resilience is as there are many ways of interpreting it.
- There has been a lot of investment in Early Intervention Programmes, it is important to invest in what works and not duplicate.
- Important to work with community resiliency programmes e.g. Collective Impact.
- Consistent messages from all groups and sectors - joint approach to work or training.
- Brain development 0-18 awareness raising and training
- Access to appropriate supports to improve resiliency (for children, young people and families.)
- Focus on self-esteem and youth mentoring to improve sense of belonging.
- Resilience is an overarching theme for all outcomes, it is important for the Locality Planning Group to have a 'unique selling point', but also be attainable for the group.

2. Education

- Focus on attendance **NOT just** attainment as attending school gives young people other skills e.g. social skills, time management, life coping skills. Lack of attendance often results in young people becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- Reducing barriers to attendance, for example, cost, out of routine, half-days and the day off for birthdays. An issue is mixed messages from schools/ teachers/ parents.
- The role of the Locality Planning Group is to emphasise the importance of school attendance to practitioners, parents and young people. There are often bigger issues in families, which impacts on school attendance e.g. domestic violence.
- Improved school relations with parents and schools e.g. Parent Liaison Officers.
- Many teachers do not receive adequate training as it is difficult and expensive for teachers to be released to attend.
- Through Collective Impact young people identified they would like more exam subject support outside of the school environment. There have been programmes run in other areas outside a school environment including 'Milkshake and Maths', which provides a less formal learning environment. Delivering Social Change (DSC) ran a successful programme last year to get GCSE pupils from a D

grade to a C grade and also gave new teachers the opportunity to gain experience. West Belfast Partnership Board ran an education programme in West Belfast and it would be useful to have a presentation from Angela Mervyn to share learning. Could lobby for resources to support young people to learn in a less formal environment.

- Alison identified that there are difficulties with counselling in a school environment as pupils are being called out of class, which can be embarrassing. It also means missing out on lessons.

Action: Una/ Laura to contact Angela Mervyn to do a presentation at the LPG

3. Parents/ families supported

- Development of a charter/ positive statement/ framework around parenting e.g. 'Parenting is effective when _____ happens' e.g. nutrition, exercise, talking, reading and problem solving. Supports evidence coming from the Family Support Hubs that there is a need for 1:1 support for parents or home visiting. Should show parents realistic expectations and coping skills and support available. Should also show what is not acceptable for those who have not experienced positive parenting themselves. Get organisations to sign up to 'Good enough parenting' charter to give consistent messages to parents.
- Lobby for additional resources to support the whole family in the home
- Promotion of programmes that support parents

4. Improved partnership/ communication

- Develop data exchange on children and young people and family need, to ensure all data is included e.g. Education Authority, Family Support Hubs, EISS, Community family support programme and Sure Start.
- Prioritise 2 or 3 areas to improve linkages within the youth sector as the last plan was all schools e.g. EA Youth, Autism Intervention Service, Community Interdisciplinary Teams.
- If organisations are attending events it would be useful for them to promote CYPSP and the work of the Locality Planning Group and Family Support Hubs.
- Develop 'unique selling point' of LPG.
- Think about how North Belfast LPG Action Plan will work with other local plans e.g. PCSP, Neighbourhood Renewal and Belfast City Council community plans. It is important to get other

organisations to embed the Locality outcomes and actions in their plans and work together to achieve these.

These ideas will form a draft Action Plan. Katrina suggested it would be useful for herself and Una to meet up and put a document together.

Action: Una and Katrina to meet to put together a draft Action Plan

Members Updates

New Lodge Arts – Katrina Newell

- The Neighbourhood Renewal Youth Information event took place on Thursday 23rd March in Girdwood, Katrina thanked the organisations who attended this event and passed around an evaluation of the surveys carried out with the young people who attended.
- The Education Authority has made changes to how youth workers get paid. Voluntary and community groups have to take on the payroll duties of their staff. This is of great concern as many groups will not be able to provide this function and staff may lose their jobs as a result.

Ashton Centre – Christine McKeown

- As a provider of social enterprise day care, Christine emphasised that standards for inspection of groups have deviated from what they were previously and groups were not consulted about this. There are ongoing discussions about implementation of a new set of standards.
- The North Belfast Friendship Club meet every Tuesday from 6-8pm in R City Coffee to exchange ideas, experiences and information, learn about life in other countries or practise language skills. Anyone from any background, area or age is welcome.

CYPSP – Una Casey

- The Adoption and Children's Bill is out for consultation until 29 April 17. Chapter 3 discusses the CYPSP structures and suggests that CYPSP should be put on a statutory footing with the Safeguarding Board becoming a sub group of it. There is also a proposal about the Outcomes Groups being put on a statutory footing; members were asked to respond.

Dates of future meetings:

Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 10am	174 Trust
Tuesday 25 July 2017 at 10am	Duncairn Community Centre

Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 10am	TBC
Tuesday 28 November 2017 at 10am	TBC