

**Minutes of the East Belfast Locality Planning Group meeting
held on Wednesday 17 May 2017
at 10am in Tullycarnet Primary School, Kings Road, Tullycarnet,
Belfast, BT5 7EH.**

Present:

Maggie Andrews	EastSide Partnership (Chair)
Una Casey	CYPSP
Kris Morrison	NIACRO
Amy Gillen	Inner East Family Support Hub
James Scott	Belfast Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Team (BDACT)
Lorraine Brennan	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Jillian Barr	Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid
Barbara Wallace	EastSide Partnership
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Claire Humphrey	Barnardo's
Mary McManus	East Belfast Independent Advice Centre (EBIAC)
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council
Linda Armitage	EBCDA
Roberta Richmond	East Belfast Community Counselling
Yvonne Cowan	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Keeva Turner	Extern (Faces)
Jenny Potter	NOW Group

Apologies:

Ben Hanvey	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Gillian Hughes	Belfast Health and Social Care Truth Health Visiting
Elena Brewer	Extern (Reach Out)
Paul McCombe	Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)
Jamie Compton-Rea	ASCERT
Alison Templeton	New Life Counselling
Nicola Hannigan	Outer South and East Family Support Hub
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Ashlea Berryman	Early Years Organisation
Tracey Wilson	East Belfast Sure Start
Annette McCann	Save the Children
Glenn Thomas	Belfast City Council (PCSP)

Welcome and Introductions

Maggie welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Barnardo's for hosting the meeting. A round of introductions took place. It was explained that there are a number of themed meetings taking place to prepare for the Locality Planning Group's Action Plan 2017-2020 and the theme for this meeting is BME. Maggie proposed that before the next meeting, all the information gathered from the themed meetings will be collated to form a draft action plan. A meeting will take place to decide the Locality Group priorities and actions.

Action: Meeting to be held to draft key priorities and actions for Action Plan 2017-2020

Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 15 March 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

The poverty sub group have continued to meet since the last Locality Planning Group meeting. The group have submitted an application to Urban Villages to fund a person to support and raise awareness of poverty in the local area. Una noted that in other Outcomes Group areas they have had uniform sales with a small donation to help families afford pre-owned items of school uniforms. It was agreed that this is something which could be rolled out practically and quickly, with no cost for organisations. Mary established that the sub group are hoping to organise a uniform fair in East Belfast Network Centre at the end of the summer and would send out any information for circulation. It was raised that PTAs often have spare uniforms and should be contacted before the event as they may organise their own initiatives.

Holiday Hunger was raised as a concern for the upcoming summer period. Family Connections ran a breakfast for local parents, however, the media highlighted the scheme, which created stigma for parents and this resulted in a lower level of attendance. Members noted that summer schemes have previously been held and included meals for children. The initiatives were targeted at those who needed it; however there was no stigma attached as the programmes were activity based. It was emphasised that there needs to be no stigma for families so they will attend the programme. Linda made the group aware that Active

Belfast is funding a Holiday Hunger Summer Scheme this summer for four weeks. It was agreed that it would be useful to get a group together to replicate this for next year and plan in partnership with other organisations. Una explained that a similar approach took place in Kilkeel and will circulate the evaluation report card. If anyone is interested in joining the sub group they should contact Mary or Madeline.

Action: Una/ Laura to circulate Holiday Hunger initiative report card

Maggie noted that there will be a representative from East Side Learning at all Locality Planning meetings and will be able to feed back any progress from the project.

Amy commented that she has received a few updates from members since the last meeting and re-iterated that if anyone has any updates regarding their organisation they should send them to the Hub Co-ordinators.

Action: Nicola and Amy's email addresses to be circulated

Kris made the group aware that the Sunday Life recently decided to run a story about NIACRO employing rehabilitated offenders in their adult services. She highlighted that all employees are risk assessed, Access NI checked and the Children's Commissioner, Probation Panel and funders are aware of those who are employed in the organisation. NIACRO have a leaflet with an overview of all their services and agreed to send an electronic copy for circulation to members. Kris noted that if there are any further questions about the work of NIACRO, to contact herself or Rachel Long, who manages the project. Maggie explained that the Locality Planning Group is fully supportive of the work of NIACRO.

BME Theme

Maggie explained that the themes of the Locality Planning Group meetings have derived from conversations at the Locality Planning Group and from the East Belfast Family Support Hubs. The previous Action plan 2014-2017 was based on the Outcomes Group and CYPSP priorities and there had had been less opportunity for local input. Maggie noted that the formation of the Family Support Hubs, and a more joined up approach to Locality Planning has given an opportunity for local priorities to be included in this plan. The Locality Planning Group is made up of a number of individuals who want to work in partnership to

make a difference to the outcomes of children and young people. The ongoing work of the poverty sub group is a great example of this.

Amy gave the group an overview of BME referrals to the Inner East Belfast Family Support Hub. In March there were 31 referrals to the Hub and 4 of these were BME, in April there were 30 referrals and 6 from BME and May there have been 12 referrals so far and 4 of these are from BME families. Amy outlined that these referrals are from a wide range of ethnicities including African, Chinese, Hungarian and Polish. The main reasons for referral include support for ASD assessment, overcrowding in the home (links with poverty and practical support) and social isolation. Language barrier is a difficult issue as it is expensive to use translators. Amy emphasised that a befriending scheme may be useful to families to help them feel less isolated.

Claire outlined the issues regarding BME for the Outer South and East Family Support Hub. There are similar levels of referrals for BME to this Hub, however these referrals are from a much smaller range of ethnicities, mostly Polish and Filipino. Claire emphasised that there is a high level of referrals for disability in the Outer South and East Hub area and the loss of the Employers for Childcare service is felt. This Hub area does not have access to the EISS service, so there are fewer services to send referrals to. Isolation and lack of translation services are also a main concern for this Hub area. BME families may be provided with a service but they cannot attend as there are language barriers. There is a high demand for English classes, however organisations have seen a poor turn out when they have hosted formal classes, it may be more of a drop-in system which is needed. James pointed out that there is an international meeting point in South Belfast, which hosts formal English classes and also has a less formal space to meet up and chat. This is currently being replicated in Carlisle in North Belfast. Members agreed this could be a better way to engage BME communities. Kris emphasised these difficulties as an interpreter costs around £84 per hour. Even with an interpreting service it can be difficult for a family to engage as it creates a different family dynamic. It was pointed out that in some cases, due to the cost of translation services, children are expected to translate and this can present child protection issues and Mental Health issues for children. Mary suggested that there may be scope for organisations to apply for funding from banks for translation services.

Amy explained that she had received a referral from the maternity sector for a Spanish family to receive home support. Amy has arranged for the

Health Visitor to visit the family and bring an interpreter. Members agreed this should not happen and Yvonne noted she would contact Seana Talbot on the East Belfast Community Network to raise this. Members also noted it would be useful for this to be raised at the Family Support Hub Steering Group as they should have a budget for this. Maggie acknowledged that it is important to bring Locality issues up at the right forum to ensure the appropriate actions are carried out and this emphasises the importance of Locality Planning.

NIACRO STEM project offer support for those whose tenancy is at risk due to their ethnicity. It was agreed that housing is now becoming more of an issue than it was previously. E.g. Overcrowding with large BME families and damp conditions. It was agreed it would be useful to have representation from the Housing Executive, however many of the issues are in private rental accommodation. NIHE have employed a person to deal with ethnic minority families in the Inner East area and it would be good to link in.

Action: LPG to link with NI Housing Executive BME worker

Yvonne suggested some BME contacts the Locality Group could link with, including Stephen from NINES (Northern Ireland New Entrant Service) who works with Syrian families. Jennifer Ewe would also be a useful contact, from the Chinese Welfare Association. Volunteers from The Diamond Project did a presentation at the East Belfast Community Network Forum. They visit new BME families and advise them what services are available in the area and take them to the services. Members agreed it would be useful to hear this presentation at the Locality Planning Group.

It was noted that there are churches in the area that do BME work e.g. Parent and Toddler groups and it would be useful to collate this information. Una agreed that she and Laura could take on this work.

Action: Una/ Laura to make a directory of the BME work of local churches

Action: The Diamond Project to do a presentation at the Locality Planning Group

It was agreed that it is important to get all these people together to meet and discuss local issues regarding the BME population in East Belfast. Linda and Yvonne are due to meet Jonny from the East Belfast

Community Network as this forum raise a lot of these issues, however they deal more with community safety and not isolation and translating services. Linda and Yvonne agreed to suggest a workshop to bring these people together. This would also be a good way to promote the Family Support Hubs.

Action: Linda and Yvonne to meet Jonny from East Belfast Community Network and propose BME workshop

Linda made the group aware that EBCDA had produced crisis mental health leaflets in a number of languages and these had previously been circulated, but should be circulated to members again.

Action: Crisis mental health services leaflet to be re-circulated

James explained that alcohol and mental health issues are higher in BME communities. The Polish Association reported that those with alcohol issues have less chance of asking for help, perhaps due to the stigma. There is also a cultural issue around drug and alcohol use as it may be more acceptable in other countries e.g. Cannabis use is accepted in some African countries, so there is potential for crime and convictions. Amy explained that these issues are not often referred to the Family Support Hub and are more hidden issues, as they carry stigma.

Jenny noted that cultural differences can also be an issue with a learning disability as the individual may not have been diagnosed in their home country; this would make learning a second language more difficult. It would also make it difficult to understand information leaflets etc. and this is how most information is given. NOW service runs BME family baby classes for those who have learning difficulties and they do not have to possess a diagnosis.

Maggie emphasised the importance of deciding what can be done as a Locality Planning Group and what would have to be raised at the Outcomes Group. The actions need to be achievable; it may be about support specific organisations or forums to do the work if it is in their remit. Una noted that there may be work currently being undertaken by the CYPSP Regional Sub Group around BME, which the Locality Planning Group could link with.

Action: Una to find out what work is being undertaken by the BME Regional Sub Group

Principles of Locality Planning Group

The Principles of Locality Planning Groups were circulated to members. The Principles are based on Family Support Hub Standards and have been used to show the advantages of the process. Locality Planning Groups have been running since 1999 and this pilot has been introduced as a way to measure the work being done. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting to give members a chance to look at them. Una explained that Locality Planning Groups are not always good at showing the amount of work being done and this is a visual way for members to see and evaluate it.

Action: Una/ Laura to send LPG principles to members

Belfast Outcomes Group/ Regional Update

The Outcomes Group met at the end of April to prepare for their upcoming Action Plan 2017-2020 and Una is currently collating this information. At the Outcomes Groups Chairs and Regional Sub Group Chairs meeting Una presented a paper of the emerging needs of all Locality Groups regionally. It was raised that 'challenging behaviours' is a recurring issue coming through Locality Planning Groups and Family Support Hubs and this needs to be reported in more detail as various issues are being grouped together. Una pointed out that she is on the CYPSP, Outcomes Group and Locality Planning Groups, so is able to feed the information through the process and the Outcomes Group can effectively fund the issues coming through the Locality Planning process. Una will be presenting the regional Locality Planning issues at the CYPSP meeting on 24th May.

Members Updates

- (i) *East Belfast Community Counselling* – Services continue as normal. The organisation has been successful in gaining two new posts from Victims of Survivors funding.
- (ii) *Extern (FACES)* – FACES (Family and Children Empowerment Services) provide intensive support to children and young people aged 8-18 years in the South and East Belfast area who are having difficulty within the education system, are at risk of being received into care placement. Keeva to bring information to the next meeting.
- (iii) *EastSide Learning* – Family Learning Co-ordinator in education project is engaging family learning visits, support and linking with summer schemes and literacy support over the summer

- period. EastSide Learning is hosting a literacy event in June for Co-ordinators. The summer period will be used to make sure the links are there. Staff are currently being trained in outdoor learning/ forest schools to utilise outdoor spaces for learning.
- (iv) *BDACT* – Alcohol Awareness week will be running from 19th-24th June. It is important that organisations think about what they can do to promote this. There is a recovery café being held in Jacks Café in East Belfast on Wednesday 21st June for those who are in recovery for addiction. There is potential for replication across Belfast. A film screening of ‘28 days’ is being held in an 80 seat cinema screen, followed by a short talk and bringing agencies together to do one information stand. There is a youth focussed evening called ‘Through the lens’ being held in Willowfield church, to raise awareness about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse and will promote this through using music and art, with an artwork walkthrough on 22nd June. The ‘New Normal’ consultation evaluation is due to be published soon and James agreed to share this. BDACT have produced a youth road map of drug and alcohol services which is available and will be circulated to members.
 - (v) *Early Years Network*- An application has been submitted for programmes for the transition period between pre-school and nursery school, involving Solihull training. This will also include transition events. The annual reading fair will also be run by the Early Years Network. At the last meeting there was a presentation the Health Visiting service and there will be more health visits at earlier stages as this was previously recognised as a need.
 - (vi) *BHSCT*- The Physical Activity programme from Belfast Trust is now available and has been circulated. There are classes for a range of ages, including street dancing for older children and early movers training. There are also classes being run with Disability Sport NI.
 - (vii) *EBCDA*- Classes are running as normal, including meditation, yoga and pilates. These classes are donation-based.
 - (viii) *NOW Group*- The office at NOW Group is being re-developed, so there will be no services from June- September held there. If anyone could offer a venue for any classes, could they please contact Jenny.
 - (ix) *Women’s Aid*- Three workers have been retained in Women’s Aid to work alongside Early Years children(1 in Belfast and 2 in the South- Eastern area), which means they will be able to

continue providing services for families with children in the Early Years sector.

- (x) East Belfast Family Connections- Currently working with schools around family support and family learning. They are also running parenting programmes, including Incredible Years, Incredible Years Preschool programme and Positive Parenting. A family learning event is being held in Cregagh Primary School, as they have good links with the Hub in the area.
- (xi) The Connected for Life Resiliency documentary is being screened in Belfast in June, however tickets for this were sold out quickly. There is a waiting list for the Belfast showing and it is thought that there will be screenings in other areas.
- (xii) There is currently a lack of foster parents in Northern Ireland. Pauline Kerr is promoting this work among organisations and events. If any members have events which Pauline could attend, contact Yvonne for details.

Action: BDACT 'New Normal' findings to be published and circulated

Action: BDACT youth services road map to be circulated

Dates of Future meetings:

Wednesday 5 July 2017 at 10am	New Life Counselling
Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 10am	TBC
Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 10am	TBC

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1. English as an additional language

- FSH Co-ordinators Language barrier is a difficult issue as it is expensive to use translators.
- BME families may be provided with a service but they cannot attend as there are language barriers. There is a high demand for English classes, however organisations have seen a poor turn out when they have hosted formal classes.
- International meeting point in South Belfast hosts formal English classes and also has a less formal space to meet up and chat. This is currently being replicated in Carlisle in North Belfast.
- Kris emphasised these difficulties as an interpreter costs around £84 per hour.

- Even with an interpreting service it can be difficult for a family to engage as it creates a different family dynamic.
- In some cases, due to cost of translation services, children are expected to translate, this can present child protection issues and Mental Health issues for children.
- Mary suggested that there may be scope for organisations to apply for funding from banks for translation services.
- Jenny noted that cultural differences can also be an issue with a learning disability as the individual may not have been diagnosed in their home country; this would make learning a second language more difficult. It would also make it difficult to understand information leaflets etc. and this is how most information is given. NOW service runs BME family baby classes for those who have learning difficulties and they do not have to possess a diagnosis.

2. *Befriending*

- Amy emphasised that a befriending scheme may be useful to families to help them feel less isolated.
- Isolation and lack of translation services are also a main concern for this Hub area

3. *Use of existing networks*

- Amy explained that she had received a referral from the maternity sector for a Spanish family to receive home support. Amy has arranged for the Health Visitor to visit the family and bring an interpreter. Members agreed this should not happen and Yvonne noted she would contact Seana Talbot on the East Belfast Community Network to raise this. Family Support Hub Steering Group should have a budget for this.
- Outer South and East Hub area does not have access to the EISS service, so there are fewer services to send referrals to.
- Maggie acknowledged that it is important to bring Locality issues up at the right forum to ensure the appropriate actions are carried out and this emphasises the importance of Locality Planning.
- NIACRO STEM project offer support for those whose tenancy is at risk due to their ethnicity. It was agreed that housing is now becoming more of an issue than it was previously. E.g. Overcrowding. It was agreed it would be useful to have representation from the Housing Executive, however many of the issues are in private rental accommodation. NIHE have employed

a person to deal with ethnic minority families in the Inner East area and it would be good to link in.

- Yvonne suggested some BME contacts the Locality Group could link with, including Stephen from NINES (Northern Ireland New Entrant Service) who works with Syrian families. Jennifer Ewe would also be a useful contact, from the Chinese Welfare Association. Volunteers from The Diamond Project did a presentation at the East Belfast Community Network Forum. They visit new BME families and advise them what services are available in the area and take them to the services. Members agreed it would be useful to hear this presentation.
- Some churches in the area that do BME work e.g. Parent and Toddler groups and it would be useful to collate this information. Una agreed that she and Laura could take on this work.
- Important to get all BME link people together to meet and discuss local issues regarding the BME population in East Belfast. Linda and Yvonne are due to meet Jonny from the East Belfast Community Network as this forum raise a lot of these issues; however they deal more with community safety and not isolation and translating services.
- Linda and Yvonne agreed to suggest a workshop to bring these people together. This would also be a good way to promote the Family Support Hubs.
- Linda made the group aware that EBCDA had produced crisis mental health leaflets in a number of languages and will be circulated again
- Maggie emphasised importance of deciding what LPG can do and what needs to be passed to OG. The actions need to be achievable; it may be about support specific organisations or forums to do the work if it is in their remit.
- Important to link in with work being done by CYPSP Regional Sub Group around BME.

4. *Cultural Issues*

- James explained that alcohol and mental health issues are higher in BME communities. The Polish Association reported that those with alcohol issues have less chance of asking for help, perhaps due to the stigma.
- There is also a cultural issue around drug and alcohol use as it may be more acceptable in other countries e.g. Cannabis use is

accepted in some African countries, so there is potential for crime and convictions.

- Amy explained that these issues are not often referred to the Family Support Hub and are more hidden issues, as they carry stigma.