

**Minutes of the South Belfast Locality Planning Group
held on Friday 28th April 2017 at 10am
in Save the Children, 15 Richmond Park, Belfast BT10 0HB**

Present:

Name:	Organisation:
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI (Chair)
Una Casey	CYPSP
Jamie Compton- Rea	ASCERT
Natasha Brennan	South Belfast One Family Support Hub
Kris Morrison	NIACRO
Karolina Morgan	CASA Family Support Hub
Annette McCann	Save the Children
Gerard Rice	LORAG
Mary- Frances McWade	Youth Justice Agency
Sarah Salters	ADDNI
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Laura Feeney	Save the Children
Alison Robinson	South Belfast Sure Start
Joan Henderson	Solas
Jenny Potter	NOW Group

Apologies:

Name:	Organisation:
Joanna Tarach	Barnardos BME project
Fionnguala McCotter	Schoil An Drochid
Claire Humphrey	Outer South and East Family Support Hub
Nicola Hannigan	Outer South and East Family Support Hub
Lauren Marks	Windsor Women's Centre
Ben Hanvey	Public Health Agency
Mary Murphy	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Gabi Mornhinweg	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Kerry McIvor	South Belfast Partnership Board

Welcome and Introductions

Kelly welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Save the Children for hosting today's meeting.

A round of introductions took place. Kelly explained that the purpose of the meeting was to focus on the upcoming 2017-2020 Action Plan, with 3-4 key priorities. When these are decided there will be a further meeting to decide on indicators and actions.

Apologies

Were noted as above

Background and 2014-17 Action Plan

Kelly gave an overview of the Locality Planning Group and the background to the CYPSP process and outlined that there is a diagram of the structure of CYPSP available on the website, www.cypsp.org. CYPSP was launched in 2011, and this was the first time all community, statutory and voluntary groups came together to work in partnership. The first Locality Planning Group was launched in 1999 and there are now 29 throughout Northern Ireland, based on geographies appropriate to the areas. There are also 5 Outcomes Groups, which are co-terminus with the Health and Social Care Trusts. Una explained that there is a wide range of data and statistical information available on the CYPSP website, including performance profiles and interactive maps which groups may find useful for funding applications or reports.

South Belfast Locality Planning Group and is open to anyone who works with or for children and young people and covers 19 ward areas. The first meeting of this group was held in June 2012. The Locality Planning Group has been instrumental to the design of the Family Support Hubs, developed in April 2014. It was emphasised that the previous South Belfast action plan was possibly too aspirational and the upcoming plan will be more realistic and focused.

Kelly explained that a Sub Group had met a few weeks ago and had suggested 4 draft priorities. Members were invited to break into groups to discuss these priorities in more detail. Kelly emphasised that the progress report (see attached) would be helpful in the action planning process as it shows how much the Locality Planning Group has achieved, which can clearly be seen using the Outcomes Based Accountability method:

South Belfast Locality Planning Group

How much did we do?

- Action Plan in place
- 3 Family Support Hubs

- Mental health mapping exercise
- Training mapping
- Engagement around EITP work
- Joint response to Children's Strategy
- Joint response to Belfast Agenda
- Nursery Practitioner's event
- Bounce, OBA, Autism Awareness, Mencap Inclusion Hub and Steps to Cope training
- Reports from members of more cross sector partnership working
- Family event
- Joint response with other LPGs Belfast to the Belfast Agenda Consultation

How well did we do it?

- All three Family Support Hubs operating
- EISS in the South Belfast One hub area
- Training mapping exercise rolled out by other LPGs in Belfast
- Members reporting more opportunities for cross sector working: this included opportunity to influence at commissioning stages
- Family Information event, 20 service providers and over 200+ families attended
- Nursery application workshop some schools represented and organisations ran own transition events

Is anyone better off?

- 100+ LPG members/ practitioners completed sessions with Autism NI
- Increased early help/ intervention and preventative work – at any point in a child or young person's life in South Belfast
- Unmet needs emerging that can influence through CYPSP structure, cross government department decisions
- Tracking of family outcomes and feedback from Family Support Hubs
- Sharing of knowledge and best practice at LPG

Una noted that there are regional discussions taking place about evaluation tools for their family support services. Belfast Area Outcomes Group is currently piloting the Locus of Control with their funded services. Other Outcomes Group areas are using Outcomes Star. After this pilot has been carried out, there will be a regional sub group meeting to decide the most effective evaluation tool. Karolina cautioned that many services already complete copious amounts of

monitoring forms etc, and advised that the evaluation tool needs to be straightforward and not create further paperwork.

Action Plan 2017-2020

Members split into two groups to focus on the four priorities and actions, as follows:

Outcome 1- Resilience - 'Families in South Belfast are more resilient'

Poverty was discussed as an issue and is often a barrier to resilience. Food and fuel poverty is a clear issue in the current climate, seen by the referrals to the Family Support Hubs and uptake in local food banks. The implementation of changes in benefits, universal credits and welfare reform has also impacted on families. It was suggested that training around these issues would be beneficial for both families and practitioners and was noted as an action going forward.

This group also discussed the impact of issues such as domestic violence and online safety, which are not typically identified through referrals to the Family Support Hub but are prevalent issues.

It was highlighted that families need to be aware of the services which are available to them and it may be beneficial to carry out a mapping exercise of local services. Una suggested that the Family Support NI database is a useful source of this information and encouraged all members to be aware and update their information regularly, to keep the website up to date.

Challenging behaviours is one of the main sources of referral to the Family Support Hubs, members noted it would be important for families to get further support with these issues. Home-based intervention was recognised as a good way to increase resilience and it was acknowledged that there is a lack of services at the Tier 2 level, which can be seen through waiting lists for referrals to the Family Support Hubs. Locality members agreed to encourage investment in these services at Outcomes Group level.

Social media was highlighted as an issue and Una pointed out that it is an increasingly concerning theme throughout Locality Planning Groups and Outcomes Groups in Northern Ireland. Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI) ran a number of Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP)

training courses for parents in March and it was noted it would be useful to hear the outcomes/ evaluation of these courses. Members agreed training is an important part of resilience; however it is essential to evaluate and carry out an impact analysis to see if the training has made a difference.

Una highlighted that Connected for Life is premiering the documentary Resilience: the Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope which will be screened in Belfast on Monday 26th June at 6.30pm in NICVA. Information about this session will be sent out to members if they wish to attend.

Action: Resilience documentary screening information to be circulated

Outcome 2- Education

It was recognised that there needs to be an emphasis placed on attendance at school and working in partnership to portray consistent messages around attendance. The Department of Education are currently promoting their 'Miss School= Miss Out' campaign, to encourage higher levels of attendance at schools. The leaflet is being distributed to schools and members were encouraged to highlight this within their individual organisations. It was made clear that parents should be targeted as they are essential in the process. The Good Enough Parenting message was noted as a good way to promote consistent messages through social media etc. The Locality Planning Group currently has no representation from the Education Authority, specifically schools and Education Welfare Officers. This is also identified as a gap at the Family Support Hubs. As education is one of the key priorities going forward, it is important to have an input from this organisation. It was agreed that they should be invited to the Locality Planning Group.

Support for transitional stages was noted as a key area within education, especially in boys; this links with the outcome around resilience. Key stages include transition from nursery to primary school and the primary to post primary school transition period. It was suggested that an action could be homework clubs to give more support to children and young people. Queen's University have an initiative to train volunteers to go into schools to help with homework and encourage parents to be involved. Members agreed it is important to dovetail services already available. It was suggested that some work could be undertaken with parents. Una explained that she is working with PTANI who are doing

some volunteer work with parents and would like to link with Locality Planning. Annette explained that Save the Children 'Families Connect' project supports parents and children to learn together in three key areas: literacy, numeracy and emotional development. This pilot has been completed and evaluated and information will be sent to Laura/Una for circulation.

Action: Evaluation of Families Connect to be circulated

The importance of promoting the work of the Family Support Hubs was recognised. This can be done through good communication and retention of information. To do this it is important to get the right representation at Locality Planning level, so they will be able to communicate the information about the Hubs effectively within their organisation.

Outcome 3- Empower young people to engage with services

The group suggested it is important that children and young people feel empowered, instead of stigmatised and feel able to have their voice heard. It was agreed that the action plan will be shown to groups of parents, children and young people for their input. There was an in-depth discussion around the barriers to engaging with services, and the following reasons were identified:

1. Disability/ mental health a barrier to up taking a service
2. May want to access but have no support to be 'programme/service ready'
3. May not be a suitable service available due to funding constraints or waiting lists
4. Access and support for children and young people

Social isolation and lack of social skills is becoming an increasing trend in children, with parents becoming concerned that their children will not engage socially or with services.

Outcome 4- Appropriate services/ pathways for children and young people with a disability

Sarah expressed her concerns that all challenging behaviours are often included together; instead of tailoring services to specific needs e.g. A Christmas party for children who have Autism. The wording of the outcome was changed from 'Inclusion for children with disabilities' to 'Appropriate services/pathways for children and young people with a disability' as children with a disability may need a specific service.

Children and young people who have a parent with a disability or learning difficulties were identified as needing extra support. This can often trigger anxiety or mental health issues. Jenny made the group aware that NOW service supports parents with learning difficulties, who will often experience anxiety, especially when their children reach transition stages.

Jamie explained that there are information sessions around risk taking behaviour being funded by the Public Health Agency to go into groups which are already established. Members agreed this was helpful and would be useful for Locality Planning to link into this work.

At the Belfast Outcomes Group there was a presentation from the Family Support Hubs and a discussion about how a service can benefit family members and others indirectly. There is a piece of work being undertaken to establish how this information can be recorded.

Action: Information from this meeting to be shared so those not present can also contribute

Action: Identify groups of young people/ parents to consult around the 2017-2020 Action Plan

Any Other Business

- The ADDNI Youth Committee (age 16-25) is working with NICCY (Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People) to launch a DVD called 'It is okay to have ADHD' which highlights the challenges they face having ADHD. Sarah noted that she may be able to consult with these young people around the Action Plan.

Kelly asked members to write one contribution they felt they made to today's discussions and stick it on the flip chart.

Una made members aware that she would be tweeting about today's meeting and encouraged those present to share the information on Twitter.

Action: Sarah Salters (ADDNI) to do a presentation at the next Locality Planning Group meeting.