

Ards Family Fun Day!

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Ards and North Down Locality Planning Group hosted their first Family Fun Day event recently at Londonderry Park in Newtownards.



Photograph Caption: Pathways Adventures NI, Bangor Sure Start, Health and Social Care Board, Ards Community Network, Barnardos and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust with locality planning group partners encouraged families to come along to the CYPSP Ards and North Down Fun Day!

The event was organised to encourage families with children up to 18 years to spend time and take part in social activities together. Activities on the day included archery, an inflatable bungee run, bouncy castle, face painting, crazy golf, Police Car and Dog Show, 5K family walk, explore animals from The Ark Farm, Plant and Play, Jumping Clay, sports taster sessions and much more.

Over 550 parents, children and young people from across the Ards and North Down Borough attended the event to celebrate the end of summer! Speaking from the event one parent said 'It was a great day with lots for kids to do and great for parents as it was free!!' A second parent highlighted that 'there was plenty to do for everyone well done to all!! It was very informative. A holistic therapist and gained a lot of knowledge of services for clients'.

Cathy Polly, Ards Community Network Manager and Chair of the CYPSP Ards and North Down Locality Planning Group spoke following the event and said 'This event was a great opportunity for the support organisations from across Ards and North Down to come together and engage with families from different areas and backgrounds. The day was a great success with over 30 organisations providing a range of information of local services and also providing fun activities for all ages.

There was something for everyone and most importantly the children and their families really enjoyed taking part in the different games and activities’.

Thirty agencies who are members of the CYPSP Ards and North Down Locality Planning Group attended the event to provide helpful information to parents about community support services including children and young peoples’ programmes, healthy eating, mental health and well-being, home safety, de-stress sessions, taster sessions and health checks from Boots the chemist.



Photograph Caption: Julie Bickerstaff, Barnardos and Ralston Perera, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust share the Ards and North Down service directory with families at recent family fun event!



Photograph Caption: Helen O'Neill, Family Support NI raises awareness among families of the online service directory of family support services for Northern Ireland, www.familysupportni.gov.uk



Photograph Caption: Marty McCann, South Eastern Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team meet families at the recent Ards and North Down family fun day and to raise awareness of alcohol limits.

The Ards and North Down Locality Planning Group is a partnership of over 30 organisations from the community, voluntary and statutory sector including the Peninsula Healthy Living Centre, Barnardo's, Ards Community Network, North Down Community Network, Sure Start, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust and Police Service Northern Ireland. The partnership come together to provide local solutions to the needs of children, young people and their families in the Ards and North Down area.



Photograph Caption: Local puppet carnival shows entertained children and families in Londonderry Park



Photograph Caption: Locality member organisations attended the Ards and North Down family fun day to engagement children and families in their local services and activities

A three year action plan contributing to the Ards and North Down Community Plan 'The Big Plan' has been developed to take forward children and young people's issues in the area by this group. For further information about the Ards and North Down Locality Planning Group and to find out what is happening in your area see www.cypsp.org/locality-planning-groups/ards-and-north-down-locality-planning-group/

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), led by the Health and Social Care Board, is a multi-agency partnership that includes the leadership of key statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

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