

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING  
MINUTES OF ANTRIM LOCALITY GROUP**

**TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 2.00PM  
IN HOMESTART ANTRIM**

<b>Attending:</b>	Mervyn Rea	<i>Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</i>
	Andrew Gamble	<i>Public Health Agency</i>
	Charlene McKeown	<i>Women's Aid</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Helen O'Neill	<i>HSCB</i>
	Janine Gaston	<i>SACN</i>
	Joanne Cleary	<i>Little Steps Surestart</i>
	John McLeod	<i>RISE NI</i>
	Kelly Forsythe	<i>Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</i>
	Leeann Kelly	<i>Contact NI</i>
	Louise Aitcheson	<i>Antrim Grammar School</i>
	Mary O'Connell	<i>Home Start Antrim</i>
	Pamela Shields	<i>Oasis Antrim</i>
	Phil Joyce	<i>Action for Children</i>
	Roisin O'Neill	<i>Barnardos</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	William Smyth	<i>AYICC</i>
	Yasmin Malik	<i>Youth Justice Agency</i>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Clare McKay	<i>NICMA</i>
	Noel Gallagher	<i>EA NI</i>

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mervyn welcomed all members for attending and a round of introductions took place.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017**.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arising.

## **PRESENTATION – HELEN O’NEILL, FAMILY SUPPORT DATABASE**

Mervyn thanked Helen for attending today’s meeting and invited Helen to make her presentation to the group.

Helen O’Neill is the Communications Manager for Family Support NI and is attending today to provide information on the Family Support NI website: <http://www.familysupportni.gov.uk/>

The website lists family support services in Northern Ireland and is a useful directory of local family services. The website also details all registered childcare in NI and is the most up to date list of childcare providers, with monthly updates from Early Years Teams throughout the Northern HSC Trust. HMRC are linked directly to the website to check childcare providers are registered.

Helen explained step by step how users can navigate their way through the various pages on the website. Locations of services when selected can be viewed on a map and each entry gives an overview of services. Helen noted there is a translation function and users can select a language with a large range available through Google languages. Information can then be viewed and printed and given to families on particular services.

Helen asked everyone present to check the Family Support NI website to ensure their organisation was detailed and information was up to date. Helen also noted she can publicise any news/events on the website and also on Twitter for organisations to help raise awareness.

If you would like to update your organisations details on the website or send information for publicising Helen can be contacted by emailing: Helen.O'Neill@hscni.net

## **FEEDBACK – FAMILY LINKS NUTURING PROGRAMME**

Sandra provided information on the Family Links 10 Week Nurturing Programme which finished in April 2017 with 7 parents completing the programme. One of the benefits of the programme was Homestart being a partner, as this allowed childcare to be provided for families each week. The programme was a great success with parents returning each week. Evaluations were also completed and focused on parents separately.

Sandra provided further information on the Family Links Programme which is evidence based, monitored and evaluated to improve parent / child relationships and to make a positive difference. The lack of provision outside of Surestart areas was noted and the level of need for the families from referrals coming from social work team etc.

Jayne Colville, Health Improvement Specialist – Child Development Interventions NHSC is funding 2 volunteers to be trained in the Incredible Years Programme. Pamela expressed Young mums would be very keen to get trained and could deliver the programme in the community. Selena agreed to pass this on to Jayne.

**ACTION- Selena**

## **UPDATE – ANTRIM YOUTH FAIR**

The Youth Fair is planned for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and will take place in Parkhall Senior School. To date there has been a good

number of organisations confirming their attendance and final arrangements are being put in place.

## **UPDATE – EDUCATION SUBGROUP / COLLECTIVE IMPACT**

Roisin provided background information to the Collective Impact Programme. The programme brings together Schools/Community Groups to develop working partnerships. Work is on-going with Schools in Antrim and some community groups covering 'Ready to Learn'.

Community Resilience 12 month professional development programme will be delivered with the aim to raise awareness on the impact of trauma on behaviour and relationships. Roisin organises the training and organises bespoke follow up training.

It was noted for Barnardos to look at organising a Dissemination workshop. Selena agreed to help Roisin organise this.

**ACTION: Selena / Roisin**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA TASK GROUP**

Selena provided information on the social media task group and the concerns that were raised around parent's use of social media and the impact this has on children and relationships. It is hoped to develop a 2 minute clip to showcase the impact parents mobile phone use has. Suggestions were welcomed from members on any ideas or good images to help with this.

Janine commented on a very good graphic image of a mum at an airport and a child on the floor which got the message across well. Louise noted Antrim Grammar pupils could work on images for this campaign. Evidence was mentioned and the need to get supporting evidence for the campaign.

Selena will speak with Suzanne Zedeeyk and Jason Gonzalez who recently presented at a Conference looking at the challenges posed by both technology and unhealthy food and the capacity of parents to deal

with this challenge. Selena also asked if anyone sees any messages/research on social media – impact of brain development / stimulation etc. to send links through to her.

**ACTION: Selena / All Members**

## **UPDATE – FAMILY SUPPORT HUBS**

Phil provided information on the Family Support Hubs and the range of referrals coming through. The 2 Family Support Practitioners are trying to provide more one to one support for families from those referrals that this would be appropriate to do. The aim of this is to take pressure off organisations and free up services with the referrals. Practitioners are getting the adequate training in order to provide brief intervention.

## **MEMBER AGENCY UPDATES**

### William Smyth – AYICC

Antrim Youth Information and Counselling Centre continues to offer their counselling service. William noted the new youth worker is going from strength to strength. The Heads Up programme is starting back after not being delivered over the summer months. William will be working within Schools starting in October and delivering drugs and alcohol programmes. The focus group for suicide prevention AYICC represents has seen the biggest number of suicides since the group began. The group are organising a Table Quiz for Antrim, Newtownabbey and Ballymena and goodie bags will be given away on the night. AYICC received the Queens Award for voluntary service last week and William also visited Hillsborough Castle to meet Prince Harry as part of the celebrations for being awarded the Queen's Award. Mervyn congratulated William on behalf of the group for this achievement.

### Pamela Shields – OASIS Antrim

OASIS Antrim continues to work with the youth worker in Schools in the Breakfast Club. 'It's the Girls' programme runs on Thursday's from 10.30am–12.30 although there is no funding at present it is hoped to get funding in order to continue to deliver the programme. The Foodbank continues with Pamela coordinating the Foodbank in the area. Members were asked if interested in volunteering, to get in touch with Pamela. Young Mums started a group for young mums and this is funded through Janine – South Antrim Community Network. The idea is to empower mums and to get back into training / employment.

### Kelly Forsythe – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Energy Efficiency grants remain open. Information was given on Fuel Poverty and Home Safety schemes. Home Safety aims to reduce the number of accidents within the home and is for residents over the age of 65 and for households with children under 5 years. Home Safety checks can be carried out free of charge. Information on Keep Warm packs was provided and some organisations are already getting these for distributing. If anyone knows of a family that could benefit from this scheme contact Kelly [Kelly.Forsythe@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.Forsythe@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

### John McLeod – RISE NI

RISE (Regional Integrated Support for Education) information was given and John noted is now in every Primary School with Teachers being the main referral agent. The idea of RISE is to take pressure off current waiting lists for speech and language. Support is given to SENCO's, Teachers and assistants as well as directly to children and their parents/carers.

### Yasmin Malik – Youth Justice Agency / Northern Area

Yasmin explained the work of Youth Justice Agency and the referral process.

### Charlene McKeown – Women's Aid

Charlene is new to her current post and is working between 5 areas developing a voices group. Information was given on the work taking place in Secondary Schools for awareness raising and completion of OCN's. Women's Aid are currently recruiting Safe Places and carrying out training on this. Charlene will provide training for any organisation / group who is interested in becoming a safe place.

### Joanne Clearly - Little Steps Sure Start

Little Steps is based in Antrim and Joanne highlighted all areas supported. The Staff team are at full capacity and are getting training on various programmes in order to deliver to families. Ballycraigy Primary School, Six Mile Primary School and Farranshane House are all used for venues for programmes. Ballycraigy Primary is a permanent crèche room and this was transformed over the summer months. Sixmile also has a crèche room available for programmes. Information was given on the Toy and Book library and a newsletter shared with details on all upcoming programmes.

### Mary O'Connell – Home Start Antrim

There has been a 93% increase in referrals from one 12 month period. Home Start have secured Children in Need funding and 2 volunteers are getting trained in Incredible Years. Mary linked with Pamela (OASIS) and Janine (SACN) to deliver 5 to Thrive. A Cook IT programme will be delivered in Autumn. 8-10 volunteers are starting their training tonight after a recruitment drive took place.

### Louise Aitcheson – Antrim Grammar School

Louise is new to post and noted how useful it is to find out about the range of services available in the area.

### Janine Gaston – South Antrim Community Network

Janine provided information on some training opportunities upcoming. Two training dates have been organised for Understanding Self Harm on 10<sup>th</sup> October in Whitehead Community Centre or 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 in Oakfield Community Centre. Bereavement Awareness Training has also been organised for 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 in Carrickfergus Town Hall. Cara-Friend have organised an LGBTQ event aiming to educate educators. PHA continues their small grants scheme with 40 bespoke training programmes running through SACN. Janine noted she has seen an increase in families coming through for Autism support through SACN. Information was given on the Infant Mental Health Strategy launch taking place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

### Roisin O'Neill – Barnardos

A Senior Practitioner Workshop is being planned and will be an opportunity to share best practice. This is planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> October and is open to anyone to attend.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nothing noted.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed for the next meeting to take place on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 at 2.00pm in Homestart Office, Antrim.**