

**Minutes of the East Belfast Locality Planning Group meeting
held on Wednesday 5 July 2017
at 10am in New Life Counselling, Bloomfield House, 395-405
Newtownards Road, BT4 1AH.**

Present:

Maggie Andrews	EastSide Partnership (Chair)
Una Casey	CYPSP
Amy Gillen	Inner East Family Support Hub
Lorraine Brennan	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Jillian Barr	Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Claire Humphrey	Barnardo's
Keeva Turner	Extern (Faces)
Jenny Potter	NOW Group
Annette McCann	Save the Children
Stephen Cruise	Oasis

Apologies:

Gillian Hughes	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Health Visiting
Alison Templeton	New Life Counselling
Nicola Hannigan	Outer South and East Family Support Hub
Mary McManus	East Belfast Independent Advice Centre (EBIAC)
Barbara Wallace	EastSide Partnership
Linda Armitage	East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA)
Kris Morrison	Niacro
Roberta Richmond	East Belfast Community Counselling
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council

Welcome and Introductions

Maggie welcomed members to the meeting and thanks New Life Counselling for hosting. A round of introductions took place.

Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 17 May 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

- The Holiday Hunger report card was circulated along with the agenda and minutes. Una gave details of the project which CiNI (Children in Northern Ireland) ran with Pathways with pupils who receive free school meals. The initiative was called 'Get Active Kilkeel' and was run last summer. This year a longer pilot is planned for Portadown. CiNI presented this Holiday Hunger information to the All Party Group in Stormont to raise awareness of the issue. Annette attended this meeting and noted that it was beneficial to hear presentations from a number of organisations about the issue.
- EBCDA have received funding to make fruit and vegetable packages for families, initially there was funding available for 45 families, however additional funding is also being sourced.
- The poverty sub group have been successful in their funding bid to Urban Villages for their poverty initiatives and are hoping to support the EBCDA fruit and vegetable initiative.

Action: Maggie to ask Linda to send details about the poverty scheme

Action: Madeline from the poverty sub group to give an update at the next meeting on the initiatives being undertaken

Locality Planning Standards

A set of regional Locality Planning Standards similar in nature to the Family Support Hub Standards. Members were asked to split into two groups to discuss each of the standards and rate the performance of the Locality Planning Group in these areas along with comments. Members noted that the exercise was useful to identify what is being done well and what needs to be improved. Claire pointed out that it would be useful to have a more structured systems in place so that members can identify why they attend Locality Planning Group meetings. Since the Family Support Hubs have a more structured way of reporting to the LPG it is important that all groups can input and share information, for example, numbers of referrals and types of issues arising from the area in their services in the same way. The data arising from the Family Support Hubs is very useful for planning, but there are parallel systems in other organisations which should also be recognised and discussed at Locality Planning level.

Family Support Hubs Update

Inner East Belfast Family Support Hub

Amy reported that there were 20 referrals in April, 29 in May and 27 in June. Since the last meeting reasons for referrals have remained the same; high levels of referrals for BME services, which should be raised at Outcomes Group level. There has been a substantial demand for summer schemes, as many have been booked up very quickly. In many cases those families who are already engaged with youth centres will be able to get places on the summer schemes, while others will miss out. Amy noted she is continuing to make useful linkages, and has given a presentation at the Inner East Partnership.

Maggie made the group aware that SIF (Social Investment Fund) are investing money through EastSide Learning to support families around literacy and numeracy. There is currently analysis being carried out about what is available through talking to parents and it is hoped the programme will be set up next year according to this engagement.

Stephen queried if there was a central system where all local information is available. Una explained that information sharing is one of the main purposes of the Locality Planning Group. As well as this there is the www.familysupportNI.gov.uk, which holds information about all the family support services which are available across the region. Members agreed that this database has been useful, however is only as useful as the information which is received from organisations; and is therefore important the organisations keep their details up-to-date. Maggie emphasised that the Early Years Network are working on a database of what is available to parents in the local area for easy access for parents and are hoping to make it available on their website.

Outer South and East Family Support Hub

Claire reported that there continues to be around 30 referrals per month to the Hub. The main challenge for this Family Support Hub is the lack of services available in the area. There is a high level of children with disability and concern about a lack of service available for children awaiting diagnosis. Claire expressed concern at the loss of Employers for Childcare in the area. There is also demand for support for families before they receive a service. At the last Family Support Hub meeting there were good relationships being built with schools through an increased number of referrals and good promotion of Family Support Hubs in the school environment. There are also good links with Health Visitors in the area.

Members questioned the accessibility of city wide services, as it was noted that it may be difficult for families to travel across the city to access a service that is supposed to provide city wide. It was suggested that organisations should be able to keep a small pot of flexible funds aside to be able to fund taxis to transport families to services.

Claire emphasised that there is a lot of good ongoing work and network building in the Hub structure as people are adapting the work they do to work better together.

BME workshop update

Maggie gave an update on the BME workshop, which took place on Thursday 29 June. There was a large number of organisations present. The Race Relations Council gave a presentation and it was well received. Initially the Race Relations Council was established to deal with community safety issues in the local area, however over time there have been a lot of queries around services and family support issues. Amy noted that she found it useful to make new connections in relation to the Family Support Hub and she raised BME issues coming through the Hub and Locality Planning Group, such as isolation and benefits. Many of the issues around BME families have involved cultural misunderstandings, and have been easily resolved. Embrace, a church based group from East Belfast are working with BME families around housing issues and are co-ordinating a database of english classes which are available. Members recognised that it would be useful to link with this piece of work. The NINES (Northern Ireland New Entrant Service) were also present at the workshop and provided information about their health assessments for new families. The One to One service was also discussed at the workshop. This is a regional BME befriending service, however it is currently only available for the Chinese community. From the workshop there was an appetite to make clearer links between the Locality Planning Group and the Race Relations Forum to deal with any upcoming issues.

Action: Maggie to write up notes from the BME workshop and circulate.

Action: LPG to link with working being done by Embrace around English classes

Action Planning 2017-2020

Maggie circulated a summary of the themed meetings, which have been used to shape the East Belfast action plan 2017-2020. There have been

a lot of useful conversations and Una agreed to collate these before the next meeting, so members can agree on the priorities and actions. The group agreed that the thematic meetings had been useful in establishing priorities in different areas. Una explained that when the priorities have been decided it may be useful to carry out a logic modelling exercise to look at how actions can be achieved and what the action plan will look like.

Una explained to the group that Logic Modelling is being used across the region to assist with the 2017-2020 action plans. Logic modelling will be used to frame the action planning discussions and enable the action plans to be put together

Belfast Outcomes Group Update

Una gave an update on the last Belfast Outcomes Group, which took place on 27 June. A draft action plan has been put together based on the priorities agreed at the action planning day in April and Locality Planning Group feedback. The Outcomes Group are looking at replicating the Early Years Network throughout the city as a model of good practise.

Information Sharing

- (i) Urban Villages are going to fund an early years project for 0-3 year olds and to support transitions to primary school. This money will be available for 3 years and will include Solihull training and a conference in year 3 of the funding.
- (ii) EBCDA are developing a Take 5 initiative in East Belfast- details to be circulated
- (iii) The Suzanne Zeedyk Connected for Life DVD has been purchased by the HSCB and it is hoped that Locality Planning Groups will be able to show it. The initial screening was held in Belfast on 26 June and involved a panel afterwards to discuss issues raised in the DVD. It was emphasised that there needs to be a co-ordinated approach and a panel present. It would be better to show the DVD to practitioners initially, instead of general public.
- (iv) Una noted that herself, Tommy and Tracey are involved in a Belfast wide Infant Mental Health group leading on a project around Baby Day in September. This initiative will link with Locality Planning Groups.

- (v) Save the Children offices are currently being redeveloped and will be launched in September. Annette invited all members to the launch of the new offices.
- (vi) Amy informed the group that there was a presentation at the Youth Practitioners Forum from the Belfast Met. They are willing to come out to groups of 13 or more to hold essential skills classes. The venue would have to be funded by the organisation, but they will provide the tuition.

Dates of Future meetings:

Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 10am	Dee Street Community Centre
Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 10am	TBC