

**Minutes of the North Belfast Locality Planning Group held on  
Tuesday 23 May at 10am in 174 Trust, Duncairn Complex, Duncairn  
Avenue, Belfast BT14 6BP**

**Present:**

Katrina Newell	New Lodge Arts and Ashton Community Trust (Chair)
Linda Duffy	174 Trust
Caroline Milligan	Glenbrook SureStart
Christine McKeown	Ashton Community Trust
Karen McLean	Upper North Family Support Hub
Edith McManus	Lower North Family Support Hub
Gabi Mornhinweg	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Lesley McMaster	Niacro - EISS
Alan Wilson	Education Authority NI – Youth Service
Una Casey	CYPSP
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Alison Templeton	New Life Counselling
Rachel Howe	New Lodge Duncairn Community Health Partnership (NLDCHP)
Jenny Potter	NOW Group
Gerry Largey	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

**Apologies:**

Liz Brogan	Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid
Jamie Compton-Rea	Ascertainment
Mervyn Bell	Smile SureStart
Michelle Harris	Barnardos Collective Impact
Stephen Reid	The Vine Centre
Jonathan Kennedy	Extern

**Welcome and Introductions**

Katrina welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked The 174 Trust for hosting. A round of introductions took place.

**Apologies**

The apologies were noted as above

## **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as accurate.

## **Matters Arising**

- Pilot between Autism NI and Sure Start on early years behaviour patterns to be added to the 2017-2020 Action Plan.
- Sure Start parental stress survey results still to come in. Caroline will complete evaluation and report back to Locality Planning Group in September. From the results so far Caroline commented that there has been a significant improvement in skills such as communication.
- Una has contacted Angela Mervyn and is awaiting her response. It is hoped she will be able to present at the July meeting.
- Una and Katrina had a meeting to discuss the Action Planning priorities, and will present them on today's agenda.

**Action: Angela Mervyn to present at July meeting**

**Action: Caroline to present pilot survey results at September meeting**

## **Family Support Hubs Update**

### Upper North Family Support Hub

Karen gave an update on the work of the Upper North Family Support Hub. So far there have been 353 referrals to this Hub. There were 30 referrals in March, 15 in April and 27 to date in May. The highest numbers of referrals were for ASD, home visiting, youth mentoring and primary school programmes for various issues, including behavioural issues.

### Lower North Family Support Hub

Edith reported on the recent referrals in the Lower North Family Support Hub. In April there were 20 referrals and 17 so far in May. There are high levels of referrals in this Hub for challenging behaviours. Both Family Support Hubs clarified that behavioural issues or challenging behaviours is when a child's behaviour is difficult to manage; this often includes those who are awaiting diagnosis. The Hub Co-ordinators explained that each family situation is different, which makes it hard to describe.

The Co-ordinators met with the new Vice Principal of Trinity College (the new school from the amalgamation of Little Flower and St Patrick's) which will have around 1500 pupils. Feedback from the school was very positive and there will be ongoing work with the new year 8 pupils at the

school, including an induction day in September which the Family Support Hubs will be attending. As the school will be an amalgamation of two single sex schools, it is important to have the Hubs involved for any issues which may arise. There are at least 27 primary schools that will be feeding into the school from a vast area.

### **Feedback from Belfast Area Outcomes Group**

At the last Belfast Outcomes Group drafted priorities were decided in preparation for the upcoming 2017-2020 action plan. There was a presentation given on the emerging needs of Locality Groups. Themes which were raised in the meeting include pressure on services, pressure on collaborative working in the Family Support Hubs (relying on good will), resilience, school attendance and distressed behaviour. It was raised that the actions in the plan need to be achievable and needs to be in partnership with all the agencies around the table.

Alan pointed out that school attendance is a particular issue in North Belfast, compared with other areas. Two thirds of wards in North Belfast are well below the Northern Ireland average of attendance. Members noted that this can be affected by other issues, including domestic violence and community safety. Caroline added that Sure Start have attendance procedures for all their programmes, so it is noticeable when children have a low pattern of attendance and this can be followed up. The Education Authority Strategic Area Plan consultation closes on 30<sup>th</sup> May and is available on the Education Authority website. A sub group has been established and will meet to focus on the action plan and establish key priorities. It is hoped the plan will be in draft format by July.

### **2017-2020 Action Plan**

As agreed at the last meeting Una and Katrina met to refine the actions for the priorities which were decided at the previous Locality Planning Group meeting. Una explained that all Locality Planning Groups across Belfast will have a one page action plan, with a working document. Copies of the priorities were given out and members asked for their comments. Discussions were as follows:

#### *1. Improve resilience for children, young people and parents/ families*

The actions under this priority were agreed upon, however it was suggested that 'lobby for investment in Early Intervention initiatives to improve resiliency' should also include work around funding programmes which are already available e.g. Sure Start. Also added

to this priority 'Pilot project between Autism NI and Sure Start on early years behaviour patterns'.

One of the actions in this priority is to screen The Connected Life resiliency documentary about Adverse Childhood Experiences. This documentary will be screened in Belfast on 26 June which has sold out. There are other screenings across the other Trust areas in September.

It was pointed out that the priorities in the action plan will link together as supporting parents and families will increase resilience. The majority of points in this priority are about encouraging people to get help if they're struggling and let people know they have somewhere they can go to access help.

*2. Improve school attendance for children and young people*

It was emphasised that this means focussing on attendance and not just attainment and agreed on the drafted actions.

*3. Improved partnership and communication*

Members discussed the importance of advocating for the locality planning process as part of priority 3. This means promoting the priorities and message in other groups and networks that members are involved with.

Promotion of community resilience programmes was recognised as an important action. Members agreed that it is important to know what is available locally, to plan for services. Una pointed out that this information is available on the Family Support NI database; however it can only be as up to date as the information which is sent through and there is no budget for promotion.

One important aspect of the action is inclusion of children and young people, so it was agreed this should be included somewhere in the plan. Mark McBride (NBAP) runs YAP (Youth Advocacy Programme) and Alan pointed out that he would have young people aged 14-18 who could be involved.

**Action: Involvement of children and young people to be added to action plan**

**Action: Contact Mark McBride to involve children and young people**

The Family Support Hub Co-Ordinators pointed out there is a lot of collaborative working and services being accessed in goodwill. An example is sharing information when it is available, such as the training calendar produced by the Locality Planning Group and other training which has been shared. Edith highlighted that the Family Support Hubs ran prescription drugs training, which organisations found helpful for capacity building. The Family Support Hubs have carried out a scoping exercise around what training is needed in the local area, and this is being collated by the Belfast Trust. It was acknowledged the Locality Group plans for services and Family Support Hubs are the co-ordination of the delivery of the services. Some of the achievements of the Locality Planning Group were outlined, including discussion and implementation of Family Support Hubs, EISS (Early Intervention Support Services). It was agreed that 'Building capacity through shared information available through training' should be added as an action to priority 3. Through the Family Support Hubs there is now up-to-date information available around what the current needs are. Una noted that linkages will be improved as she attends Locality Planning Groups, Outcomes Groups and the CYPSP meetings and will feed information through.

Alison pointed out that a key element of the action plan is the unique selling point and should state the purpose of Locality Planning. Kelly noted that the West Belfast Locality Planning Group members stated why they attend the group and what members have found useful. Jenny was also present at this meeting and emphasised that as a new member it was beneficial to hear what had come out of the Locality Planning process. It was agreed that the group should have an overarching statement which demonstrates the purpose of the Locality Planning Group. This should include something around 'promoting reciprocal communication'.

**Action: Group to develop an overarching mission statement for the action plan- add to next meeting's agenda**

It was decided that a sub group should be formed to finalise the action plan and bring to the next meeting to be signed off. Katrina, Gabi, Rachel, Jenny, Christine and Kelly all agreed to be part of this sub group and dates will be circulated for this meeting.

**Action: Una/ Laura to send out dates for action planning sub group to meet**

### **Any Other Business**

- (i) NIACRO – Lesley 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. Lesley noted that if there are any further questions about the work of NIACRO, to contact herself.
- (ii) Education Authority- The Area Plans for the region are now online and can be shared. There are statistics and other information which organisations can use. Alan pointed out that there are high levels of newcomer families and SEN in North Belfast areas, these are often hidden.
- (iii) Belfast Trust- The Trust Community Interdisciplinary Team have been renamed to RISE NI.

### **Dates of future meetings:**

Tuesday 25 July 2017 at 10am	Duncairn Community Centre
Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 10am	TBC
Tuesday 28 November 2017 at 10am	TBC