

**West Belfast Locality Planning Group Action Planning Workshop
held on 12th April 2017 at 9.30am in Whiterock Children's Centre**

In Attendance:

Deirdre Walsh	Whiterock Children's Centre (Chair)
Yvonne Cowan	BHSCT Community Planning
Catherine Ferrin	Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid
Kris Morrison	NIACRO EISS
Leontia McKenna	Outer West Family Support Hub
Ihintz Oleden	Upper Springfield and Whiterock Family Support Hub
Mairead Gilmartin	Outer West SureStart
Una Casey	CYPSP
Jackie Russell	Newhill Youth
Jenny Potter	Now Group Family Project
Jamie Compton-Rea	Ascort
Leah Semple	BSCHT Health Visiting
Nikki Terlik	Libraries NI
Karen Burns	BHSCT – Early Intervention Team
Tina Gregory	Clán Mór SureStart
Donna Maxwell	Education Authority NI - Transitions Team
Hillary Livingstone	Education Authority NI - Transitions Team

Apologies:

Dympna Johnston	Shankill Family Support Hub
Penny Ambrose	Beechmount SureStart
Ciara Fusco	Youth Justice Agency
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together
Mairead McCrea	Kids Together
Jim Girvan	West Belfast Partnership Board
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Suzanne Baskin	Extern

Facilitated by: Brendan Smith

1. Is there a need for the West Belfast Locality Planning Group?

There was unanimous agreement that the West Belfast LPG is needed and adds value in a range of areas as follows:

- Acts as a strategic reference group (e.g. To make a strategic input to developments such as the new children's hospital)
- Gives an opportunity for members to connect, work together, share information and practice and understand each other's services
- Identifies West Belfast needs holistically, particularly through work of the Family Support Hubs and provides local knowledge
- Identifies trends, gaps and addresses duplication problems
- Feeds into a wider NI wide structure to ensure West Belfast issues are included
- Formalises conversations between agencies, develops relationships across individuals, organisations and sectors
- Ensures the people we work with don't get lost!
- Ensures continuity, for example members may move posts but the organisation remains represented

2. Key Outcomes

The draft Programme for Government outcomes particularly addressed by the work of the West Belfast LPG are:

We give our children and young people the best start in life

We care for others and help those in need

We enjoy long, healthy, active lives

Additional outcomes identified by the Group are:

All children and young people have good family lives

All children and young people will have access to inclusive community services and social activities

3. Strategic Priorities

1. Educate, support and empower parents to be good enough .
 - Parents can often become disempowered either by their circumstances, other family members etc.
 - Help to build parental skills and resilience
 - Help them to feel good enough; don't need to be perfect – no such thing and this often leads to feelings of failure, frustration etc
 - Help families connect to existing programmes by improving communication, raising awareness of support available, building relationships with parents/families to get them programme ready – home visiting service
 - Link with Infant Mental Health Group
 - Parents often need 1:1 home-based support before they are ready to attend programmes
 - Social isolation of parents who do not have support from wider family circle

2. Healthy relationships from a young age
 - Social media is often leading to social isolation, family arguments, sleep deprivation- also dangerous trends e.g. 'suicide challenge'
 - Teenage anger management
 - Gap in support services for age 5-10 year olds (same model as Sure Start)
 - Issues presenting in teenage years include social isolation, low level self-harm, and anxiety and stress
 - Concerns around domestic violence in ethnic minority families living in the local community due to cultural differences

Action- Social media training for parents, could link with schools and other organisations such as Barnardos and Parenting NI

Action- Play showing with Youth Justice Agency around key issues for young people

Action- Check for permission to show Cookstown Women's Aid Domestic Violence DVD

Action: Link with Domestic Violence Partnership

3. Education supports for primary school age children

- Homework support in after schools – link with West Belfast Partnership Board homework support
- Managing behaviour
- Issue of children on restricted curriculum
- Waiting lists for diagnosis

4. Improve Resilience for families to cope with life challenges

5. Poverty – Link to the Poverty Network

6. Inclusion of children and young people with disabilities and ethnic minorities

- Inclusion Charter launched in June 2017