

**Minutes of the West Belfast Locality Planning Group  
held on Wednesday 14 June 2017 at 10am  
in Blackie River Community Group, 43 Beechmount Pass,  
Belfast BT12 7NW**

**PRESENT:**

| <b>Name:</b>    | <b>Organisation:</b>               |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Deirdre Walsh   | Whiterock Children's Centre(Chair) |
| Una Casey       | CYPSP                              |
| Deborah Burnett | Greater Falls Family Support Hub   |
| Laura Rankin    | CYPSP (notetaker)                  |
| Nikki Terlik    | Libraries NI                       |
| Kelly Maxwell   | Autism NI                          |
| Gerry Largey    | BHSCT                              |
| Leah Semple     | BHSCT- Home Visitor                |
| Leontia McKenna | Outer West Family Support Hub      |
| Ihintz Oleden   | Whiterock Family Support Hub       |
| Dympna Johnston | Shankill Family Support Hub        |
| Ciara Fusco     | Youth Justice Agency               |
| Annette Conlon  | Whiterock Children's Centre        |

**APOLOGIES:**

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Marie-Therese Cassin | Cedar                        |
| Sue Pentel           | Ionad Uíbh Eachach           |
| Rita Simmonds        | Toybox                       |
| Jackie Redpath       | Greater Shankill Partnership |
| Liz Gracey           | Action Ability               |
| Mairead Gilmartin    | OuterWest SureStart          |
| Kris Morrison        | Niacro                       |

**Welcome and Introductions**

Deirdre welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Blackie River Community Group for hosting. A round of introductions took place.

**Apologies**

Were noted as above.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Brendan, who facilitated the action planning workshop, has sent a draft copy of the notes from April's action planning meeting, he is working on a more indepth write up and will share with Deidre soon.

**Action: Brendan Smith to write up the final draft of priorities for approval**

### **Matters Arising**

Deirdre noted it was good to have Dympna attending from Shankill Hub as the LPG meeting currently clashes with their Family Support Hub meeting. It was agreed that the Locality Planning Group meetings from now on should take place on the first Wednesday of each month, so that the members from the Shankill areas can attend.

**Action: Locality Planning meetings to be changed to the first Wednesday bimonthly at 10am**

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

Members noted that at the last meeting it was valuable to hear the benefits that members gained from attending the Locality Planning Group which helped re-focus everyone into the new action planning cycle. At the action planning meeting members were split into two groups, and both groups identified similar priorities that they agreed needed to be included in the new 2017-2020 plan. These themes are also replicated throughout Belfast. Family Support Hubs are producing data and evidencing issues which have been discussed anecdotally in Locality Planning Groups over the years.

Members agreed it was important to discuss how to work together to achieve the six priorities which have been agreed.

#### *Priority 1. Educate, support and empower good enough parenting*

The Hub Co-ordinators explained that there are a lot of parenting programmes available in the local area; however parents often need one- to-one home-based support before they are ready and confident to attend these programmes.

It was highlighted that social isolation of parents is a significant issue as they may not have support from the wider family circle, for various reasons.

## Priority 2. Healthy relationships from a young age

The Family Support Hub Co-ordinators noted there is a gap in support services for age 5-10 year olds, and discussed the need for something similar to the SureStart model. Gerry emphasised that this is an issue across the Belfast area, and the age of referrals is rising. This is a result of the success of the linkages in Locality Planning and Hub networks. Issues presenting in teenage years include social isolation, low level self-harm, anxiety/ stress and social media. These issues are often interlinked.

Members expressed concern about the number of issues arising in relation to use of technology and social media. These issues are affecting children as young as 8 years old e.g. 'Blue Whale' suicide challenge and music applications on mobile phones with inappropriate content.

It was proposed that as part of the Locality Planning Group Action Plan, there should be a focus on social media training in priority 2. It was suggested that the Locality Planning Group could link with schools as they could already be running similar initiatives with organisations such as Barnardos and Parenting NI. Deirdre identified that community settings are likely to get a good turn out as there are good relationships established with local communities. Una explained that there is examples of good practise in other areas e.g. The Southern area ran a 'Toxic Childhood' conference around addiction to technology and unhealthy food, and their effects on family life and how to address these. Cookstown LPG also hosted a 'Changing Childhood conference and workshop also discussing addictions to technology and social media and also how to work together to address the negative outcomes for these. It was recognised that parents are aware they are not social media savvy, and would be more likely to attend this training rather than a parenting programme. It could include other useful tips around parenting under the theme of social media. Kelly suggested that it might be useful for members to attend a Train the Trainer course and host a session for LPG members and train others in their organisations.

**Action: Una to contact PCSP/ Council to check if there are grants available to host internet safety sessions**

Ciara explained that the Youth Justice Agency hosted a play, which focused on self-harm, child sexual exploitation, domestic violence and

other relevant themes affecting young people, presented in a powerful way. There was a question and answer session at the end to highlight issues from the play. Members agreed something like this would be achievable for the group and informative for young people and parents around key issues.

**Action: Ciara to find out more details about cost of hosting the play**

Also within priority 2 healthy relationships were discussed. The Family Support Hub Co-ordinators made the group aware that there are not many referrals for domestic abuse. This may be due to the stigma attached, and may be hidden within other issues on the referral form. Ihintz emphasised that there are concerns around domestic abuse in ethnic minority families living in the local community, possibly due to cultural differences around treatment of women. It is important to make children and young people aware of what is healthy and acceptable behaviour in a relationship. This can help children and young people identify if there is domestic abuse happening within families or their own relationships and raise it with a trusted adult. Una told the group that a questionnaire was carried out with young people in the Northern area around healthy relationships and there were worrying results around what young people considered was 'normal' behaviour. Mid-Ulster Women's Aid has produced a DVD about domestic abuse and healthy relationships which is aimed at raising awareness to children and young people and is screened in schools. Una will contact Women's Aid to see if this can be shared. There are other organisations who are also dealing with issues around domestic abuse, including PSNI and Health Visitors who are part of the Domestic Violence Partnership Forum. It was agreed it would be useful to link with this group.

**Action: Una to contact the Mid-Ulster Women's Aid about domestic abuse DVD aimed at children and young people**

**Action: Make links with Domestic Violence Partnership Forum**

Ciara identified that the Youth Justice Agency experiences issues with abuse of children and young people towards their parents, which often goes unreported. This can also lead to sibling violence.

*Priority 3. Education supports for primary school age children*

West Belfast Partnership Board is running an initiative linked with schools in the West Belfast area to support homework in after schools clubs. Schools will identify children they feel could benefit most from the

project and they will be encouraged to attend. The initiative is for children in key stage one (age 4-7) and is available for children from any primary school in West Belfast. The project is open for any after-school provision to apply for. The group agreed this is a very worthwhile project and will be interesting to hear about the outcomes.

Members identified that an on-going issue in West Belfast is the number of children and young people on a restricted or reduced timetables. This means that they will attend school for part of the day or week and be marked present for full time attendance. This can often lead to difficulties within the family and up additional stress on parents, as well as create additional problems for the children themselves. It can often be difficult for the school to resource children with behavioural issues due to financial constraints, which can also lead to them having a reduced timetable. This presents problems for parents as they can be unaware of what their rights are. Una highlighted that this is a regional problem and has been raised with the Education Authority as there is currently no data collected on the numbers of children and young people on reduced timetables.

Members expressed frustration at the length of time children and young people are waiting on a diagnosis of autism and other social, emotion and behavioural issues, which leads to a lower chance of children being diagnosed at an earlier age.

There is regional work being undertaken in the Health and Social Care Board regarding pathways to diagnosis, which aims to shorten waiting lists. Kelly made the group aware that if one appointment for a diagnosis is missed then families will be dropped to the bottom of the waiting list and it is often the families in most need who will miss out. Autism NI have a leaflet around the process of diagnosis for Autism and Kelly agreed to send this to Laura for circulation to the group. There is an Autism Act, and the Department of Health have a duty to review this, however there is no funding attached. Members expressed that they would like more information around diagnosis processes so the correct advice can be given to families. It was agreed this is an action which could be achievable through the action plan. Gerry noted that the Belfast Health and Social Trust is aiming to hold meetings to get the information needed and will pass this on to Family Support Hubs through a short workshop. One difficulty is that often families expect that a diagnosis will solve problems; however it does not resolve all issues.

When Simon Hamilton was Health Minister he committed £2m around diagnosis work for Autism, however there is no funding for support to families post diagnosis, which presents difficulties.

**Action: Belfast Trust to give Family Support Hub Co-ordinators information around diagnosis process by September**

**Action: Circulate '6 steps for Autism Care' information**

Priority 5. Poverty- Link to the poverty network

Children in Northern Ireland (CiNI) are launching their Holiday Hunger programme on Thursday 15 June in Stormont. The programme will run in Portadown and will be advertised as a summer scheme for children and young people, who will do activities and receive qualifications.

Department for Communities have launched their 'Make the Call' campaign at a series of Hubathons, urging people to check if they are missing out on unclaimed benefits and support their family are entitled to.

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

Bright-Start Holiday Scheme for Children with Disability money has been allocated. This covers holiday periods including summer, Halloween, half term and Easter. Deborah explained that Sue Pentel had asked Deborah to enquire if there was any interest from the group around Bright Start round 2 as there has been no publicity around it. Gerry told the group that there will be a second round of funding, but it will be a different theme to the first. Deirdre explained that the Whiterock Children's Centre planned to apply for the funding, however the money needs to be spent and then reimbursed depending on numbers and this was a considerable risk.

The Inclusion Charter is an achievement in the Action Plan around inclusion of children and young people with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

Dympna agreed to show the details of the plan to members of the Shankill Family Support Hub for feedback, as they have been unable to contribute so far.

**Inclusion Charter**

Finalised copies of the Inclusion Charter were passed out to members. Some members highlighted that they have been displaying the charter

and Deirdre encouraged other organisations to display it in their settings to promote inclusion. Photographs were taken of members with the Inclusion Charter for Twitter and the CYPSP website. Una encouraged members to retweet/share these.

### **Standard of LPG/ Terms of Reference**

The Standard for Locality Planning have been developed from the Family Support Hubs. It was suggested that this item should be deferred to the next meeting to dedicate more time. Members were given a copy of the Terms of Reference and Una pointed out the differences between the various groups and structures within CYPSP. Una explained that she attends the Partnership meeting, and the Belfast Outcomes Group, as well as Locality Planning Groups. This means that she can effectively feed information through the different structures.

### **Feedback from Belfast Area Outcomes Group/ CYPSP meeting**

At the last Belfast Outcomes Group priorities were drafted in preparation for the upcoming 2017-2020 action plan. There was a presentation given on structures and emerging needs of Locality Groups. Themes which were raised in the meeting include pressure on services, pressure on collaborative working (relying on good will), resilience, attendance and challenging 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. Deirdre commented that she found the meeting interesting and beneficial as Chair of the Locality Planning Group.

Una gave the group an overview of the CYPSP meeting, which took place on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May. At the meeting Una presented a summary paper around the issues and priorities from the Locality Planning Groups across the region, which was well received and there was positivity about the work of the LPGs. There was also a presentation about the development of a model to tackle holiday hunger from CiNI highlighting how a regional working group are working on a model. Kieran Downey gave a presentation about ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and there will be a regional working group on this. Helen Dunn presented an update about the work of Family Support Hubs and highlighted that Space in the South Outcomes Group area have produced a great infographics video about the work of a hub. The new CYPSP Plan will be developed over the next few months with the hope of it being drafted for the October meeting and then out for consultation.

## **E-zine articles**

The e-zine is an update of the latest news and events in CYPSP which goes out bi-monthly to all members. The next e-zine will be circulated at the end of June and will include an article on the West Belfast Inclusion Charter. Una encouraged members to send information about any events being run and they can be included in the e-zine and the CYPSP website, twitter and facebook.

## **Any Other Business**

- Autism NI have employed a Resources Officer, her role is to visit families after receiving a diagnosis and provide information about what services they can avail of.
- Libraries NI are hosting their 'Big Summer Read'; each library is running two events each. If organisations are running summer schemes, libraries can come out and do events with children and young people. There are also 'Megabites' girls clubs being run in Falls and Shankill libraries on Thursdays from 3.30-5pm. Nikki to send details to Laura for circulation.
- Future meetings of the West Belfast Locality Planning Group will take place on the first Wednesday of the month, to enable all members to attend.

**Action: Nikki to send Libraries NI information to Una/ Laura to be circulated**

## **Dates of Future Meetings:**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 2 August 2017 at 10am   | Falls Community Council, 277 Falls Rd, BT12 6FD |
| Wednesday 4 October 2017 at 10am  | Spectrum Centre, 331 Shankill Road, BT13 3AA    |
| Wednesday 6 December 2017 at 10am | TBC   |