

**Minutes of the East Belfast Locality Planning Group meeting held
on Wednesday 9 May 2018 in Victoria Primary School,
182 Connsbrook Ave, BT4 1JY**

Present:

Maggie Andrews	EastSide Partnership (LPG)Chair
Una Casey	CYPSP
Rachel Howe	Victoria Park PS
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Jenny Potter	NOW Group
Julie Clark	Pregnancy Matters
Mary McManus	EBIAC
Yvonne Cowan	BHSCT Community Development
Amy Gillen	Inner East Family Support Hub (EB Alternatives)
Claire Humphrey	Barnardos
Nicola Hannigan	Outer South and East Family Support Hub (Barnardos)
Barbara Smith	Scaffolding Project
Tony Kearns	Springboard

Apologies

Lorraine Brennan	BHSCT Early Intervention Team
Tracey Wilson	EB Sure Start
Linda Armitage	EBCDA
Barbara Wallace	Eastside Learning

Welcome and Introductions

Maggie welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Rachel for hosting. A round of introductions took place.

Apologies

Apologies were noted as above

Minutes of Meeting held on 10 January 2018

Were agreed as accurate

Matters Arising

Maggie noted that the screening of the Resilience documentary had been put on hold as the Irish Attachment in Action had recently screened this in the Skainos Centre. Since it appeared that this hadn't involved many local service providers it had been agreed that there still needed to be a local screening. Eastside Learning and EastSide Early Years Network in partnership with the Childcare Partnership will be hosting a screening in the Strand Cinema in June and all LPG members will be invited.

Maggie also noted that Inner East Hub is a referral agent to the Save the Children's Eat, Sleep, Learn, Play grants.

Action: Maggie to invite Annette to discuss this in more detail.

Mary McManus – Universal Credit

Mary gave a very informative presentation about Universal Credit (UC). She highlighted that it will be coming to East Belfast in September 2018. EBIAC offer a drop in advice service in the Network Centre. Mary also discussed welfare reform and PIPs. Mary noted that UC payments will be made fortnightly in NI. A discussion took place about the issues created as UC is all online, and members queried if enough is happening in the community to help upskill people to be online ready. There were also discussions about the difficulties created if a claimant has literacy or language issues. Mary noted that 58% of people in east Belfast have no qualifications. Members agreed that there needed to be a partnership approach to raise awareness within organisations working with families who may be affected by UC. Mary highlighted that child benefit will be kept separate from UC and will be paid to the mother.

Action: Mary to send presentation to Una for circulation

Barbara Smith – Scaffolding Project

Barbara gave an outline to the background to the project which works with people in need of food, fuel, and life necessities and brings together organisations who offer anti-poverty services to pool resources. They

also oversee a project that recycles school uniforms. Una noted that the CYPSP has developed a tool-kit to help services do this; which had previously been shared with Madeleine. There are currently 13 member organisations, covering issues such as crisis response, family support, advice and guidance. The outcome of the project is to help families move beyond the hardship that they are facing so that eventually they won't need support. Taking a holistic approach, the project has 3 strategic aims. 1. Map services to create a pathway to sign post. 2. Not to create new groups. 3. Campaign and events to raise funds and awareness.

There was a discussion about holiday hunger and how the group would like to work to address this. The project is keen to work collaboratively and is currently working on a proposal to Belfast City Council for their summer schemes building on what is already happening.

Access can be made through the Eastside Partnership website.

Kelly Maxwell highlighted the recent research carried out by NICCY which is available on <https://www.niccy.org/about-us/our-current-work/high-level-corporate-objectives/children-s-right-to-a-high-quality-education/cost-of-education/niccy-cost-of-education-infographics/>

Action Planning 2017-2020

Members had sent feedback on the last draft to Una which has now been included. Una noted that the actions should identify things that members can do together, are additional and not a showcase of what services are already doing. Members agreed to sign off on the plan.

Family Support Hubs Update

Outer South and East Family Support Hub – Nicola Hannigan

Between January and March there were 44 referrals into the Family Support Hub. Many of these were from Carryduff where there are pockets of no services but high need. The unmet need presenting to the hub were Housing issues, such as infestation and overcrowding. The Housing Executive was already aware of these issues and the Hub couldn't do anything more; need for Home-start services in Cregagh area; Youth Mentoring particularly for young people with ASD. Baby Massage in the Knock area was also a gap and Nicola noted that Sólás has had to stop taking referrals for home visiting as they are at capacity.

Behaviour support for 6/7 year olds and also 11 year olds is a gap, school refusals that's affecting all of family life. There have been 215 families signposted and 188 families processed through this hub in 2017/18. From a LPG point of view Carryduff really needs an EISS type service to meet the needs of the area as there is weak community infrastructure. Kelly Maxwell highlighted the importance of the Family Support Hubs in recording unmet need.

Emotional and Behaviour Difficulties (EBD) were discussed and how this is the main focus for referrals to hubs both in Belfast and regionally.

Una advised that there was a CYPSP regional EBD group. It was suggested that someone from the EBD group be invited to speak to the LPG.

Inner East Family Support Hub – Amy Gillen

There were 68 referrals processed from January to March, 18 in April and 12 so far in May. The main source of referral were self-referrals and from Health Visitors. Amy noted that there had been a change in age groups with an increase in referrals for 0-4 years. Between January and March 16% of referrals were for ethnic minority families. The main reasons for referrals were; parenting support, parental mental health, children's mental health, emotional and behavioural difficulties, 1-1 mentoring, financial difficulties, social isolation and crèche places. Unmet need arising in this FSH were; early years support outside the SureStart area, baby massage, baby swim, crèche placements, 1-1 family home visits for ASD especially as Sólás are currently not taking on any more referrals. Amy noted that Autism NI were a good support to for this referrals.

Main areas for referrals are Ballymacarret, Woodstock and Bloomfield. New members on the Hub are Connswater Homes and Orchardville. Amy mentioned that she received "invites"/vouchers from Compassion Belfast for food hampers, and that the Ulster Temple have a good system for clothes and food parcels, through a "living room" system. Amy noted that the main reasons for referrals for ethnic minority families are social isolation, the need for more knowledge about services, financial support. The main languages were Arabic, French, Italian and Polish.

It was noted that NIACRO have APAC drop in for ethnic minority families and that EBCDA have appointed a race relations worker.

Information Sharing

Maggie – Early Years Network - Solihull Early Years training and parenting training is being rolled out. Nuala Symington and Tracey Wilson are undertaking Solihull train the trainer training and once established can be rolled out to other services in the area.

Kelly – Autism NI – Parents making visuals will be held on 5 June in Knockbracken.

Action: Kelly to forward information for circulation.

There are free sessions of the Ulster Orchestra for children with ASD being held in the Spectrum Centre, Shankill Road on 9 June and for adults with ASD on 8 June.

Kelly thanked everyone who had an information stand at the Autism NI Family Fun day in City Hall on Saturday 14 April, there were over 1,000 people at the event and was a great success.

Yvonne – BHSCCT Community Development – new train the trainer training is available for targeted physical training for young people and parents.

Action: Yvonne to send prospectus for circulation.

Dates of Future Meetings

Wednesday 4 July at 10am	Extern - FACES
Wednesday 12 September at 10am	TBC
Wednesday 14 November at 10am	TBC