

Minutes of the North Belfast Locality Planning Group

Held on Tuesday 29 May 2018 at 10am

in NOW Group The Hive, 15-17 Grosvenor Road, Belfast BT12 4GN

Present:

Jenny Potter	NOW Group (Co-Chair)
Una Casey	HSCB – CYPSP
Jan-Marie Reid	Holy Cross Boys PS
Maria Macdonald	Reach Programme
Claire Allen	Supporting Families North Belfast
Edith McManus	Lower North Family Support Hub
Karen McLean	Upper North Family Support Hub
Alison Templeton	New Life Counselling

Apologies:

Gabi Mornhinweg	BHSCT Community Development
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Lisa McManus	BHSCT HV
Stephen Reid	Vine Centre
Ashleigh Galway	Currie PS
Christine McKeown	Ashton Centre

Welcome and Introductions

Jenny welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members thanked her for hosting in the Hive.

Apologies

Apologies were noted as above

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting 30 January 2018 and 27 March 2018

Minutes were agreed as an accurate recording of the January meeting.

Jenny noted that as the March meeting was a screening of the Resilience Documentary that Una had provided some links to further reading and resources. A discussion took place about Adverse Childhood Experiences

and some of the issues that the documentary raised, for example home visiting and building relationships with service users.

Matters Arising

Jenny explained that herself and Una had a series of meetings with the MLA's who represent North Belfast, they met with Nichola Mallon (SDLP) in March which was a very positive meeting, Nichola was very interested in the action plan of the group and issues affecting families in the area was discussed. She also attended the networking event in April. A meeting with Paula Bradley (DUP) took place on 19 April; a discussion about issues affecting parenting and the interface with North Belfast and Glengromley was discussed; Glengromley is in the Northern HSC Trust area but many residents use services, schools etc. in North Belfast. The hub coordinators noted that they often get queries about hub referrals from Glengromley. Una noted that there are discussions on how to address this issue with the Northern Outcomes Group and the Locality Planner for that area. A meeting with Cárál Ní Chuilín (Sinn Féin) in April, again this was a positive meeting. At each meeting Jenny and Una highlighted the LPGs priorities and noted the priority on Education in particular.

Action Plan

Right to Succeed - Steering Group/ LPG Education Subgroup

Maria Macdonald gave some background to the Right to Succeed REACH project that is Big Lottery Funded for the next 3 years in 2 towns in England and also in North Belfast. The project will work with ten schools to support young people identified as at risk of suspension and expulsion. She noted that the worker for the area has been appointed and will be based in Loughshore. She advised that there is currently an expression of interest out for anyone who would be interested in being on a steering group for the project. Una noted that the LPG were thinking of having a Subgroup to look at advancing the Education priority and in order to avoid putting pressure on members already busy time that there might be some possibility to dovetail these.

Presentation - Barnardo's Five to Thrive

Roisin O'Neill wasn't available to present today so this will be deferred to the July meeting

Presentation - Family Support Hubs

Karen and Edith gave a very informative and interesting presentation (please see attached); some of the key points were: 507 individual families were referred to the hub between April 2017 and March 2018. The agegroups of referrals were

Parents 522

0-4 year olds 175 (increasing)

5-10 year olds 393

11-15 years 205

16-17 years 44 (has been increasing)

Self-referrals (128) are the main source of referrals, followed by schools (97).

Wide range of reasons for referrals, the highest were for

Emotional/Behavioural Support for primary school aged children (128)

Emotional/Behavioural Support for parents (98)

Youth Activities (89)

In total there were 856 requests for services. It was noted that the age of children who are refusing to go to school has been getting younger and younger, including children at nursery on reduced timetables. There was a discussion about the intergenerational issues and balance of power in the home. There is also poverty of aspiration in the area. It was noted that there was a limited number of organisations delivering mentoring for older young people.

Unmet need includes;

Children with Social Emotional & Behavioural difficulties- requiring a local programme to cater to their needs

Growing need for disability support groups for children – ASD/ADHD; a discussion took place about schools in Poleglass that have ASD units in them and also the need for structured small groups for children with mixed ability who feel bullied at school, who are anxious, or have low self-esteem

Heavily demanded support includes;

Home visiting family support

1-1 mentoring for Primary School children

Local programmes for children

Claire noted that SFNB are offering 1-1 mentoring for 5 year olds through the summer.

Edith and Karen noted that there are 60 member organisations in the hubs and thanked them all for their work with the referred families. They noted that the Family Support Hub was a fantastic model of work and has made such a difference in North Belfast.

Feedback from North Belfast Resource and Partnership Event

Una shared the report card for the Resource and Partnership event, the feedback on the day and through the survey monkey was very positive; members agreed that it went really well and gave them an opportunity to engage with schools. It was suggested that this should be an annual event.

Any Other Business

Claire shared a poster for SFNB arts and crafts group which is held in the Duncairn Centre, she will send an electronic version for circulation

Dates of Future Meetings

Tuesday 31 July	TBC
Tuesday 25 September	TBC
Tuesday 27 November	Currie PS