

**Minutes of the East Belfast Locality Planning Group  
On Wednesday 4 July 2018 in Extern FACES Unit 2B**

**East Belfast Enterprise Park, 308 Albertbridge Road BT5 4AX**

**Present:**

Maggie Andrews	Eastside Partnership (LPG Chair)
Una Casey	CYPSP
James Curtis	Extern – Thirdspace
Laren Bailie	Extern – Thirdspace
Julie Clark	Pregnancy Matters
Glenn Finlay	Extern – FACES
Nicola Hannigan	Outer South and East Family Support Hub
	Springboard
Lisa Brady	Springboard
Clare Cosgrove	Springboard
Roberta Richards	East Belfast Community Counselling
	Extern
Caroline Rutherford	Extern
Kennedy Herron	Save the Children
Annette McCann	East Belfast SureStart
Tracey Wilson	

**Apologies:**

Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Alison Templeton	New Life Counselling
Jamie Compton-Rea	ASCERT
Rosy McClean	Inner East Family Support Hub
Linda Armitage	EBCDA
Rebecca Duncan	NIACRO
Rachel Howe	Victoria Park PS
Mary McManus	EBIAC
Sophie Preston	Extern – Thirdspace
Claire Humphrey	Barnardo's

**Welcome and Introductions**

Maggie welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked Glenn and Extern for hosting the meeting.

**Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above

## **Minutes of Meeting held on 9 May 2018**

Were agreed as an accurate representation of the meeting

### **Matters Arising**

Amy Gillen has moved to a new post in EBCDA as a youth worker for Inner East, Rosy McClean will replace her as the Inner East Family Support Hub Coordinator.

### **Presentation: Save the Children – Annette McCann**

Annette gave a detailed presentation about some of the work of Save the Children, she explained that the Eat, Sleep, Learn, Play grant is changing. Save the Children have developed a new strategy looking at areas with high levels of deprivation and vulnerable families. The Eat, Sleep, Learn, Play grants were awarded to families who were affected by material deprivation and in need of a kitchen table, cots, beds, white goods, and toys that would affect their ability to eat, sleep, learn or play. This grant had been distributed by SureStarts throughout the North.

There have been changes for this to move away from a call centre based service to a digital one. The age has also been increased to 0-6, and discussions are taking place about the best way to do this as SureStarts work with 0-4s only. The changes are also to ensure that there is a home learning environment encouraging parental involvement that are confident and empowered. Save the Children are also keen to work with partners to demonstrate impact and outcomes for families so that they can show benefits to the corporate funders. The play packs will be aimed at age and stages, i.e. transition, toddler, ready for school. Annette also highlighted some of the policy and advocacy and in-depth research work that Save the Children are involved with.

Annette also outlined some of the work that Save the Children are doing with local schools through the Families Connect project. The project works and is designed by parents with children in P1-P3 to build relationships with parents, children and schools. There is train the trainer training planned for East Belfast in the Autumn. Annette also noted that it is hoped to carry out some RCTs (Random Controlled Trails) work on the families connect work. Members queried if the grants

and resources will be available outside SureStart areas and suggested that Family Support Hubs would be a good link for the upto 6 age group. Annette noted that it was a policy issue to use the deprivation index.

Maggie noted the importance of partnership working and building relationships across organisations, to work better together, members should think about what their organisation can do alongside other services to make something happen, this could be sharing time, knowledge without it requiring extra funding. She encouraged services working with families to think about where else they could link them into, to build sustainability.

### **Feedback from Resilience Documentary Screening**

Maggie outlined that the Resilience: the Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope Documentary was screened on 22 June in the Strand Cinema, through a partnership of Childcare Partnership, Early Years Network and Eastside Learning, the primary purpose was for those in the education sector and early years providers to see it. There was good attendance including SENCO teachers, home liaison teachers, the BHSCT Early Intervention team attended also as well as some youth workers, counselling providers, and the fostering network; there was a discussion at the end and an evaluation carried out. Copies of the helpline leaflets were also circulated.

A discussion took place around how useful it is to view the documentary more than once as there are so many important points made in it. Una noted that there was a regional reference group on ACEs and a section on the CYPSP website <http://www.cypsp.org/regional-subgroups/regional-ace-reference-group/> This group also links with a wider 5-nations group. A discussion also took place about the recent Trauma Summit held in Belfast which had the Young Hearts and Minds conference running alongside it. A discussion took place about “what next” and Roberta noted that she would be keen to host another screening for EBCDA based staff and for LPG members who didn’t make it to the previous screening or those who would like to see it again.

## **Action Planning 2017-2020**

Una noted that the action plan has been agreed at the last LPG meeting. She also noted that the priorities were presented at the recent Outcomes Group workshop and highlighted to the OG some of the priorities that might need some funding. She also noted that there are many actions on the plan that requires some members working together to progress and therefore suggested inviting members to smaller task and finish groups to work on specific actions.

**Action: Una to email members to invite them to be involved on small task and finish groups**

## **Belfast Area Outcomes Group Update**

Maggie highlighted to new members that she represents the voice of the community on the Belfast Area Outcomes Group. She explained that the Belfast Area Outcomes Group recently held a commissioning workshop to look at future plans to target the funding that they have. There were presentations at the workshop from Maurice Leeson outlining the CYPSP strategies, from Una highlighting the Locality Planning Group's Action Plans and their priorities and gaps in services/unmet need, and a presentation by Karen Burns outlining information gathered from the Family Support Hubs. A discussion took place about the need for 1-1 home visiting and how this often draws out issues that may not have been on the original referrals of families and helps to get families the wider supports they need.

## **Family Support Hubs Update**

*Nicola Hannigan – Outer South and East Family Support Hub*

Nicola noted that for the last quarter there were a total of 38 referrals to this hub in April, 19 of which were from East, for example, Dundonald, Creggagh and Carryduff, she noted the lack of services available to this area. In May there were a total of 30 referrals, 17 were from East and in June there were 31, 22 were from East. Many of the referrals were complex family issues, such as ASD support, home behaviour strategies, help to connect parents to connect with and understand their children's behaviour, counselling, play therapy, family support strategies for behaviour management. Services referred to included, Cedar, EBIAC, Parenting Programmes, Incredible Years, Parenting NI Odyssey

Parenting your teens, mentoring for young people and befriending. There were referrals from CAMHS for self-esteem, anger, isolation for young people not meeting their threshold. The main sources of referral to this hub were; Health Visiting, CAMHS, Schools, self and GPs.

### Inner East Family Support Hub

Rosy provided the following to Una to share with the group. There have been 30 referrals to the Hub in the month of June. Unmet needs seem to be parents in need of childcare (there are a limited amount of placements through Bright Sparks but these cannot be offered long term). There were also a significant amount of referrals this month for children awaiting ASD assessment but unable to access specific ASD services until diagnosed and waiting lists for services are very long.

### **Information Sharing**

Maggie Andrews – Eastside Partnership – are hosting Toe by Toe workshop for practitioners working with children and young people up to 21 with Dyslexia, only available in the SIF areas. She asked that if anyone is aware of families from this area to contact her.

### James Curtis and Lauren Bailie - Extern Thirdspace

This is a new Peace IV funded project for 14-24 year old, in three sites, Belfast, Derry and Fermanagh. Its based in Queen Street in Belfast. The programme is on 4 times per week for 2 hours per day for 6 months, and if young people have an 80% attendance they will gain an OCN in Active Citizenship. The course includes a residential and lots of team building work as well as work on their emotions. The project is for young people who are NEET, socially isolated. One part of the project is working with the Verbal Arts Centre to develop digital story telling with the young people, which will help them work on editing, telling their story, active listening. They will also work with the Reading Rooms. There will be a payment for young people 16+ of £8 per day, this can be received on top of their benefits such as JSA, PIPs etc. The projects can also be delivered in the community with evening groups, especially for young people aged 14-16 who are still in school or for older young people who may work. These groups are well risk assessed and work

on self-esteem, motivation to get them back into training, further education etc. These programmes are also open to young people with additional needs such as ASD, ADHD. Each young person taking part will also be assigned a key-worker and will have 1-1 time each week. There is a cross-community element to the project. The first round of the programmes are just finishing and Thirdspace are recruiting for the next group which will start in August. Currently there is no childcare available.

**Action: James and Lauren to link with Amy Gillen in EBCDA and also the hub coordinators.**

Extern FACES Project – Glenn Finlay

This is the Family and children empowerment service and has been running for 4-5 years. The project works with 8-18 year olds to provide intensive support in the South and East Belfast area who are having difficulty within the education system, are at risk of being received into care placement and takes a whole family approach. Faces also aims to empower parents and carers to manage their children's behaviour in a positive and constructive way. This is done through 1-1 mentoring at least 1 hour per week, and group work, including trips, presentations and monthly parenting groups, parents can gain an OCN in parent-child communication. From September this project will work along with Princes Trust. Family Therapy is delivered in partnership with ASCERT. Referrals come from Social Services, EWOs, Youth Justice Agency.

Maggie agreed that while this project works with a higher tier of young people it's important to be a member of the LPG to link with services available to the families.

Caroline Rutherford – Extern Programme Manager

Caroline noted that Extern also had services such as Pathways, referrals were through EA for 14-16 year olds; the Youth Engagement in the Community (previously the 1 stop shop); moving forward moving on alternative education project and Timeout.

**Action: Caroline to send details for projects to Una for further circulation.**

Springboard – Employability Team – provides OCN level 1 training which can lead on to a youth work qualification. Currently working with Event Sec who offer an interview at the end of the programme. Also delivering level 1 in health and social care to lead onto employment. This project work with 12 or more in each group.

Springboard have moved to new premises in Donegal street where outreach and youth work, CV building and job search are delivered from here. Springboard work in partnership with workforce, extern an job assist. The programme is open to anyone aged 16-24 who are NEET and they have to attend at least 15 hours. They get their travel and lunch paid for.

Springboard – Journey’s Programme

Delivered in partnership with communities. The game changer programme offers intensive support, it can be based in schools and includes performance. This project has 4 year funding and runs in cycles, Springboard is currently recruiting for young people on to this programme. The Catalyst programme is similar to the Extern Thirdspace programme, and offers support in-house and has an employability arm too. Childcare is not available with the Springboard programmes; but if the young people attending to do CV work etc. there isn’t a problem with them bringing their babies with them.

There was a discussion about the experience of services working with young people in East Belfast and how to connect with them. Members suggested advertising Springboard and Extern Thirdspace in the EBCDA newsletter, and the Family Support Hub bi-monthly newsletter.

East Belfast Community Counselling – Roberta Richards

Roberta noted that they are open to receive referrals.

**Dates of Future Meetings**

Wednesday 12 September at 10am	TBC
Wednesday 14 November at 10am	TBC