

**Minutes of the North Belfast Locality  
Planning Group held on Tuesday 27 November  
2018 at 10am in Currie PS**

**Present:**

Name	Organisation
Jenny Potter	NOW Group (Deputy Chair)
Katrina Newell	Ashton Community Trust (Chair)
Una Casey	CYPSP
Edith McManus	Lower North Family Support Hub (Ashton Community Trust)
Karen McLean	Upper North Family Support Hub (Vine Centre)
Lesley McMaster	NIACRO/EISS
William McGowan	Youth Justice Agency
Jamie Compton-Rea	ASCERT
Julie Jamieson	New Lodge Duncairn Community Health Partnership
Jan-Marie Reel	Holy Cross Boys PS
Claire Allen	Supporting Families North Belfast
Róisín O'Neill	Barnardos

**In Attendance:**

Séamus McCann	Big Lottery Fund
Tracey Denniss	Big Lottery Fund

**Apologies:**

Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Mervyn Bell	Smile SureStart
Caroline Milligan	Glenbrook SureStart
Laura Feeney	Save the Children
Christine McKeown	Ashton Community Trust
Stephen Reid	Vine Centre
Ashleigh Galway	Currie PS

**Welcome and introductions**

Jenny chaired today's meeting and welcomed Katrina back to the group. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Ashleigh for hosting the meeting.

**Apologies**

Apologies were noted as above.

## **Minutes of previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September were agreed as accurate.

## **Matters Arising**

Jenny raised the issue with capacity of members of Family Support Hubs who had to close to hub referrals in September, at the recent Belfast Area Outcomes Group and noted that there had been a presentation from Maurice Meehan and Amanda McLean at the meeting about EISS and that there had been a discussion about funding and evaluation of impact and outcomes.

James or Diane from Belfast Connect to be invited to the next LPG meeting.

Una to follow up Save the Children Families Connect programme information for circulation with Laura Feeney

## **Big Lottery discussion**

Séamus outlined the current funding in NI available through Big Lottery; these are Awards for All (for £300-£10K), People and Communities (£10K-£500K) and Empowering Young People (£10K to £500K). Big Lottery wants applicants to be more connection with what is happening on the group and with other services in the area. Big Lottery has allocated staff to cover specific areas; Séamus and Tracey cover Belfast. They are keen to run information clinics in communities if any members could host them. They are also attending Locality Planning Group meetings and Family Support Hub Meetings. They outlined that Awards for All has usually got about a 4-6 week turn around on applications and is currently over-subscribed. Empowering Young People and People and Communities applications need to be led by beneficiaries and connected to organisations on the ground and also connected with strategic groups such as the LPG. He is keen to invite anyone interested in applying to talk to them at the start and talk with them throughout the process. Members asked if there was any way of finding out who currently is in receipt of the funding in the area. A discussion took place about the current Right to Succeed Reach project in the North Belfast Area which is working with 10 schools with young people at risk of exclusion from school. Members asked how do organisations identify an area for funding, Séamus highlighted that this needs to be done through research and engagement.

Séamus also noted that the Empowering Young People fund cannot be used to deliver a service as part of the curriculum but can engage with schools and through school time. He also noted that Big Lottery are currently funding Healthy Living centres in some areas. He reiterated the importance of taking cognisance of what is already happening in an area, the importance of being connected, to look at the bigger picture and sustainability.

A discussion took place about sustainability and retaining staff. Also competition versus partnership was discussed and the need for organisations to be outward looking and open to embrace and share knowledge.

Members agreed that the LPG provided a great opportunity for organisations to build relationships and trust, and events such as the speed-networking helped to reach out to organisations who are not currently involved at the minute.

A discussion also took place about evaluation of funded projects, Séamus noted that whilst Big Lottery are not prescriptive about what tool services should use they do ask that one is used.

### **Locality Planning Standards**

Members discussed the standards that were scored low. A discussion took place about social inclusion and the lack of access many services have to interpreters.

### **Family Support Hub update**

It was noted that some BAOG funding has been allocated which has improved the capacity of services.

Karen noted that there have been 250 referrals this year to the Upper North Hub and Edith noted that there were 200 to Lower North Family Support Hub. They noted that there has been an uplift in finances for the lead body for all Family Support Hubs in NI, through the transformation fund.

The main reasons or referral remain challenging behaviours, 1-1 home visiting and mentoring. A discussion took place about the need to build confidence in children and young people and parents before they are able to become part of a group. Social anxiety is also an issue for a lot of young people, with many spending most of their time in their rooms and not interacting with anyone else, this often includes excessive use of screens. Edith highlighted some work that is happening to prepare for

Christmas hampers and also the impact of the roll out of Universal Credit, and how some families have no money for 5 weeks, this is leading to social isolation, rent arrears, concerns over coercive control and addictions. Members gave examples of the levels of poverty in North Belfast. The links in home visiting highlights issues such as poverty that many families wouldn't be comfortable flagging up otherwise.

Edith noted that NBAP are taking requests for food hampers and toys. Ashton is holding a coffee morning to raise funds for this too.

A discussion took place about the Peace IV Breakthrough-Street beat young mum's project. This provides childcare alongside the project. It works with mums who haven't been out of the house in helps them to link into other services too, it aims to help their children socialise with other young children, helps with separation anxiety, lack of stimulation, and help develop play skills.

Jan Marie highlighted the high numbers of boys in her school awaiting on or going through the diagnosis process for ASD and the impact of the stress of the process.

### **BAOG Feedback**

Jenny noted that there was a presentation about EISS at the last BAOG meeting, which demonstrated good outcomes for the families; she noted that there was also a discussion about evaluation tools. Una explained that there had been a call out for community, voluntary and BME representatives on the OG. She noted that Julie Jamieson is now the community representative for North Belfast. It was also highlighted that the LPG chairs are all now members of the OG too.

There will be a Belfast Family Support Hub celebration event on 18 January in Belfast City Hall.

### **Any Other Business**

There will be a subgroup meeting taking place tomorrow with PCSP and Belfast Connected to discuss the issue of parental drug misuse.

Jamie highlighted the Anti-social behaviour training that is planned and is free, information has been circulated. He noted that there is also free workforce and medicine misuse training available through ASCERT.

Katrina thanked Jenny for chairing the group during her maternity leave.

Una noted that Belfast Trust have recruited a Locality Planner who should be in post soon, and therefore this will probably be her last LPG meeting but will still be involved with the Belfast Area Outcomes.

### **Future Dates**

All meetings will take place at 10am

<b>Day and Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Tuesday 29 January	Vine Centre
Tuesday 26 March	TBC
Tuesday 28 May	TBC
Tuesday 30 July	TBC
Tuesday 24 September	TBC
Tuesday 26 November	TBC