

**Minutes of the West Belfast Locality Planning Meeting Held on
Wednesday 5 December 2018 at 10am in the Spectrum Centre,
Shankill Road**

Present:

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| Deirdre Walsh | Whiterock Children's Centre (Chair) |
| Una Casey | CYPSP |
| Ihintz Olliden | Upper Springfield and Whiterock Family Support Hub |
| Kelly Maxwell | Autism NI |
| Deborah Burnett | Greater Falls Family Support Hub |
| Penny Ambrose | Beechmount Surestart |
| Jenny Potter | NOW Group |
| Nicola Verner | Greater Shankill Partnership |
| Pamela Hughes | Kids Together Belfast |
| Karen Burns | BHSCT |
| Martin Sloane | BHSCT |

Apologies:

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| Liz Gracey | Action Ability Belfast |
| Ciára Fusco | Youth Justice Agency |
| Natalie Killough | BHSCT |
| Andrea Barr | BHSCT |
| Dympna Johnston | Greater Shankill Partnership |
| Jackie Redpath | Greater Shankill Partnership |

Welcome and Introductions

Deirdre welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Jackie Redpath for providing the meeting room. A round of introductions took place.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate recording of the meeting held on 3 October.

Matters Arising

There were no matter arising

Action Plan 2017- 2020

Una updated that through Community Restorative Justice Ireland she had been invited to deliver the CEOP Think You Know online safety training to groups of young people attending People First and Coláiste Feirste, there was approximately 50 young people taking part. This linked to priority 2 on the action plan “Healthy Relationships from a Young Age” a discussion took place about how best to deliver similar training to parents. It was agreed that it might be useful to incorporate it into other parenting projects. Discussion about the impact social media has on young people’s self-esteem and self-worth. A discussion also took place about how young people with learning disabilities may take times very literal too and the importance of online safety.

Nicola gave an outline of the recent “Leave the Light on Shankill” campaign in relation to mental health awareness, which included an information event. Greater Shankill partnership have been hosting thematic events on ASD and have another one planned for benefits including Universal Credit and PIPS.

Members outlined the impact of Universal Credit, for examples the need to have computer skills and access to the internet or people risk not logging in and getting sanctioned. There was also a discussion about the impact of UC on nursery places. A discussion took place about poverty and how it can impact on everyone, Deidre highlighted that the Whiterock Children’s Centre has had 200 requests for Christmas help. There was also a discussion about how many people are “working poor”. Members discussed the impact of UC and tax credit changes on children being entitled to free schools meals as well as rent arrears and to worry of homelessness. It was noted that the Law Centre have advice workers and can come out to groups. Members expressed concerns of the issues facing families already and what might happen when the mitigating factors for NI are removed in 2020. Members reported examples of service users who have had massive issues with the move from DLA to PIPs and noted that individuals should have someone to support them during their assessments.

Action: member organisations to correlate what is coming through their organisations to show the impact of the benefit changes.

Department for Communities and Capita have offered to meet with stakeholders – this could be something the LPG could facilitate and to help get information about to families. Members recommended Advice NI, CAB, Employers for Childcare and independent Advice centres as the best place to get benefit advice help. Members discussed the

broader issues that may be caused by benefit changes such as stress on families, mental ill-health and homelessness.

Feedback from Belfast Area Outcomes Group

It was noted that the new members for the Community, Voluntary and BME places on the BAOG have now all been filled. Nicola Verner is the new representative for the community sector in West Belfast. Deirdre will remain on the BAOG as the LPG chairs are all now members. Karen noted that there has been several bereavements in the Early Intervention team that leads on the procurement process for the BAOG funding as well as Tommy Boyle's impending retirement. A discussion took place about the impact of funding delays on Family Support Hubs. A discussion took place about the Syrian refugee resettlement scheme and how the new groups of families are being housed in towns outside Belfast, such as Newtownabbey, Magherafelt and Enniskillen, but that OG members felt that there may be movement back into Belfast eventually. LPG members noted that some of the families, they have been in contact with, are living in very poor accommodation.

Family Support Hub Updates

Karen noted that there has been additional funding allocated to the Family Support Hubs through the Confidence and Supply allocation to NI. Hub coordinators noted that there will be a Belfast Family Support Hub celebration event in Belfast City Hall on 18 January, further details will be shared with members soon.

Greater Falls Family Support Hub – Deborah Burnett

Deborah highlighted that there has been 802 referrals to the Greater Falls FSH since it started; 168 since April 2018 and so far 20 in December. Reasons for referrals are: disability support, ASD, mental health of children not meeting CAMHS thresholds, peer mentoring, counselling, although many parents report that their children are refusing to go for counselling; mentoring. Deborah noted that the OG funded mentoring service has been very successful especially with young people with ASD as groups often don't work well for them. She noted that the Roden Street mentoring project has helped to lead into group work has worked well and that there is a need for more of this.

Kelly noted that Autism NI have a Girls with Autism Project (GAP) for girls experiencing difficulties at home, in schools or in their communities. The project aims to lead in and help girls set up their own girls groups and works with 20-25 girls across Belfast. The project encourages

different experiences. The Outcomes Star evaluations has shown that 100% of the girls have reported positive change.

Shankill Family Support Hub – Nicola Verner

Nicola reported that the hub has been extremely busy with biggest need for children aged around 10 years with managing behaviours. There is also a massive lack of provision for afterschools for 5-10 year olds, personal and emotional development and lack of social skills which are leading to behavioural issues.

Members Updates

Jenny Potter – NOW Group – the Loaf café are making up meals and hot food on Christmas eve, if any members know of anyone or any organisations that needs food to get in contact with Jenny, they may also be able to do deliveries. NOW group have been working closely with many of their suppliers to support this.

Una noted that this will be her last West Belfast LPG meeting as Martin Sloane has been appointed to support the LPG development and work, it is hoped that he will be starting in January.

Dates of Future Meetings

If any members can provide a meeting room please let Martin know asap.

All meetings will take place at 10am

| Day and Date | Venue |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Wednesday 6 February | TBC |
| Wednesday 3 April | TBC |
| Wednesday 5 June | TBC |
| Wednesday 7 August | TBC |
| Wednesday 2 October | TBC |
| Wednesday 4 December | TBC |