

**Minutes of East Belfast Locality Planning Group  
Tuesday 16 January 2019  
Eastside Partnership, Avalon House, Newtownards Road**

**Attending:**

Maggie Andrews	Eastside Partnership (Chair)
Martin Sloane	Locality Planning Co-ordinator EIST
Tracey Wilson	East Belfast Surestart
Rachel Howe	Victoria Park Primary School
Lorraine Brennan	EIST BHSCT
James Scott	Belfast Connect
Nicola Hannigan	Outer South & East Family Support Hub
Rosy Mc Lean	Inner East Family Support Hub
Clare Humphries	Barnados

**Apologies:**

James Rea	Ascertainment
Julie Clark	Life N.I.
Linda Armitage	EBCDA
Annette Mc Cann	Save The Children

**1. Apologies and Welcome**

Maggie Andrews opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. Apologies received recorded above.

**2. Minutes**

Minute of previous meeting accepted as a true and accurate record. Matters arising for discussion included in Agenda.

**3. Matter Arising**

*i. 'Take 5 Programme'*

Rachel Howe provided an update in relation to some school activity linked to the 'Take 5' programme. Clare Humphrey also advised the group of some associated work that she has done with EBCDA and suggested that EBCDA may be interested in a wider discussion about a strategic approach to support improved emotional health & wellbeing for parents. Members present agreed that this would be a positive next step, with a view to promoting a more joined-up approach to this area of work in East Belfast. The possibility of producing a brief for local schools/community organisations and others was identified as a possible suggestion. This could include information on how organisations can get involved, what is involved in different 'offers' i.e. no/ of sessions/cost if any. etc.

It was also reported that the Education Authority are in the process of developing 'Take 5' to support Year 7 children in their transition to Post-Primary school. Chris Lyndsay was referenced as the Education Authority representative leading this initiative.

ii. *Local Youth services – provision for children and young people with ASD / ADHD*

It was agreed that it would be useful to seek a meeting with Jonny Currie and Amy Gillen at EDCDA to facilitate development of LPG linkages with the local Youth Practitioners Forum and discuss the possibility of representation from this forum on the LPG. This meeting will also provide an opportunity to discuss progression of capacity building / training for local youth practitioners in relation to supporting children / young people with ASD / ADHD i.e. Awareness training and practical strategies to support inclusion. The potential for a Youth Practitioner's Forum LPG representative to 'champion' this area of work was noted i.e. advocate for upskilling youth work staff in the area to facilitate inclusion of children and young people with ASD in their services and feedback training opportunities and best practice support available

James Scott referenced training that 'Streetbeat' can deliver and agreed to forward contact details for associated trainer.

**Action**

**Meeting to be convened with relevant staff in EBCDA to discuss the issues outlined above.**

**James Scott to forward contact details for specialist training available through Streetbeat.**

#### **4. Family Support Hub Update**

*Inner East Family Support Hub*

Rosy Mc Lean, Co-ordinator, reported that in Quarter 3 Inner East FS Hub received 67 referrals. Health Visiting services are the most frequent referrer, with 19 referrals. The main reasons for referral are behavioural support, ASD support, funded childcare and play therapy. There appears to be long waiting lists for all these areas. It was highlighted that 'Pathways' funding has finished but the application process for a new round of funding is currently underway.

The potential for using Pathways funded childcare provision to enable parents to avail of other family support / personal development and wellbeing opportunities was discussed. It was agreed that it would be useful to contact the Early Years Organisation to establish what settings have been successful in securing the new Pathway funding. When this information is available, the LPG will try to ensure that these groups are aware of other Family Support opportunities in the area that parents might benefit from connecting to. This will require production of a 'list' of local family support services available and possibly arranging an information event. It was suggested that this event could be led by the local Early Years Network and could also provide an opportunity for profiling the work of the LPG.

**Action**

**Contact 'Early Years' Organisation to confirm list of local organisations that have been successful in securing Pathways funding (2019/20)**

**Discussion re; potential event etc. to be included as agenda item at future meeting.**

*Outer South and East Belfast Family Support Hub*

Nicola Hannigan, Co-ordinator, reported that in Quarter 3, the Outer South & East FS Hub received 32 referrals from East and 7 from South. 12 were self-referrals, 11 referrals from Health Visiting and 9 referrals from CAMHS. Referrals relating to 5 – 11 years olds featured anxiety and behavioural issues. Other referrals featured issues in relation to parenting support / home visiting support, and 11-15 year olds requiring mentoring support. There was also an increase in fathers looking for support during this period.

It was noted that there is high demand for Home Visiting family support services across all LPG areas.

*Unmet Need*

Childcare provision; Emotional and behavioural difficulties support for post-primary age children; long waiting lists for ASD services; self-care support, including complimentary therapies. Both Family Support Hubs also reported that there was increased financial pressures on families due to the Christmas period and this has been evident in referrals.

*Family Support Hub Network celebration event*

The group were reminded about the Belfast Family Support Hub Network celebration event which will take place in Belfast City Hall on Friday 18 January 2019.

**5. Action Plan**

Tracey Wilson reported that East Belfast Surestart have engaged 12 people in Solihull Training and 12 people in Parenting courses. Tracey also advised that she has completed "Training for Trainers".

The Scaffolding Project are planning a Poverty conference in March.

**6. Outcomes Group**

Tracey Wilson has been nominated as a new community representative for East Belfast on the Outcomes Group.

Lorraine Brennan, EIST, appraised the group on developments in relation to interim arrangements for Belfast Area Outcomes Group funded family support services for 18/19, pending a new procurement process which will commence and be concluded within the next financial year.

**7. Member Update**

James informed the meeting about the PHA funded "Icelandic Model" which is aimed at 15 – 17 year olds . The associated programme includes a focus on issues linked to drug and alcohol, mental health, sexual health and wellbeing. Associated research is a significant component of this model. The regional implementation of

this initiative is due to begin in 2019. **Members expressed an interest in hearing more about this development.**

James also highlighted the availability of a new PHA funded programme for parents entitled 'You, your child and drugs'.

## **8. A.O.B**

### Locality Planning Group Survey

It was agreed by the group that we would look at the LPG survey for the next meeting.

### Membership list / Attendance at LPG meetings

It was agreed that it would be timely to review the East Belfast LPG membership list / mailing list with a view to identifying gaps in membership and promoting increased attendance at LPG meetings. In this context, it was suggested that it may be useful to produce a low-cost leaflet, designed in-house, that explains the role of the LPG and the role of Family Support Hubs to assist organisations in deciding about membership.

### Action

**Martin Sloane to review East LPG membership list and associated contact details and liaise with Maggie Andrews in relation to identified gaps.**

### English classes

The need for English classes for both children and adults was raised as an issue that needs to be highlighted.

### Action

**Discuss with Jonny Currie (EBCDA) - suggest that this issue could be included in 'agenda' for newly appointed BME worker.**