

**Minutes of North Belfast Locality Planning Group  
Tuesday 29 January 2019  
Vine Centre Crumlin Road**

**Attending:**

Katrina Newell	Ashton Community Trust (Chair)
Martin Sloane	Locality Planning Co-ordinator EIST
Clare Allen	Supporting Families North Belfast
Brain Maguire	North Belfast Principals
Lorraine Brennan	EIST BHSCT
Janice Smith	Healthy North Belfast
Laura Fenney	Save the Children
Roisin O Neill	Barnados
Diane Mc Mullan	BDACT Connections
Jan-Marie Reel	Holy Cross Primary School
Jenny Potter	NOW Group

**Apologies:**

James Rea	Ascert
Linda Armitage	EBCDA
Annette McCann	Save The Children
Julie Clarke	Life Charity
Glen Thomas	Belfast City Council
Ashley Galway	Currie Primary School

**1. Apologies and Welcome**

Katrina Newell opened the meeting by welcoming Martin Sloane to the meeting as the new Locality Planning Co-ordinator and all attendees. Apologies received recorded above.

**2. Minutes**

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

### **3. Presentations**

#### **Supporting Families North Belfast**

Clare Allen, Supporting Families North Belfast, delivered a presentation on the work of their Big Lottery Funded programme. The SFNB programme provides services across all 3 Tiers. Through the Children's Health programme they offer a transition programme to 24 schools for all Year 7 children. Other elements of the programme are also offered within the Nursery school setting, although this is not the target group, and has been found beneficial. A Parenting Programme is also delivered within schools or a community facility. Referrals for these programmes are received from School, Family Support Hubs or the Community sector.

SFNB offer Family support Services to Tier Two families. This service is on a home visiting bases to help identify the needs of the whole family. 97% of referrals for this service are received from the Family Support Hubs.

In conjunction with Newlife Counselling a 1- 1 service can be provided to 3 children per school. Family Therapy within the community can also be provided.

The programme is currently into its fourth year of funding with another year secured. If funding becomes unavailable the organisation hope to move to a social enterprise model.

#### **Healthy North Belfast**

Janice Smith, Health North Belfast Project is working across all sectors to develop a community plan. The boundary used for North Belfast is set by parliamentary boundaries and now those followed by the HSC Trust. The aim is to encourage participation in completing interviews and surveys by promoting their service throughout the sector by running bespoke events for people. They can also attend small groups. The survey is designed to target young people aged 12 plus with 4 themes:

- Discovery                      finding out
- Dream                            What we want/ need – April
- Design                            collate information for community plan
- Delivery                         aim to deliver Sept/ Oct 2019

It was agreed to circulate Janice Smith's contact details amongst Locality Planning Group members.

Discussion took place in relation to the services offer by BDACT, Diane Mc Mullan, the organisation work alongside other statutory services providing advice and support to families effected by drug and alcohol misuse, working on the ground to promote the service and engage those who can be hard to reach. The service is offered across the city with outreach work in the city centre and surrounding area. BDACT organise community events educating young people and adults on the dangers of substance misuse. There is a greater up-take of youth services than adult.

There are a number of drug bins located around the city and these are advertised locally. These bins are emptied on a regular basis and have proven successful with upwards of 5000 items of drug paraphernalia being recovered and destroyed.

A Family Support service is also available, however this is currently under utilised as participants are weary of involvement of other agencies. Through work with Surestart they hope to breakdown these barriers.

At present services are not offered through the Family Support Hub Network. Group members felt it may be beneficial to link with Hubs with a view to accepting referrals for their services.

**Action:**

It was agreed the Locality Planning Co-ordinator would forward Family Support Hub Network contact information to Diane.

Diane to forward information on disposal bins to Locality Planning Co-ordinator for distribution to members.

**4. Matters Arising**

- Subgroup – Principal SP  
Report of a needle find at a local Primary School.  
Belfast City Council were attend to remove and cleanse the area. There has been an increase in finds across the city. Schools are engaging with parent groups.
- Ashley Galway, Curry PS, will give a presentation to the group in March.
- Una Casey, CYPSP, to follow up on the Families Connect Programme regarding circulation of information.

**5. Hub Updates**

- Family Support Hub Network event at Belfast City Hall 18 January was a success, promoting and thanking members for their ongoing support. As a result Belfast City Council are now offering an award to the BHSCCT Hub Network for the work that is carried out with families.
- There is a shortage of Home Visiting services within the area. All additional services are now fully utilised. Services are currently at capacity City Wide.

There is currently a waiting list for ASD services. This to lead to discussion around the extremely high numbers of children being diagnosed in the North Belfast area. One school reported that 1 in 5 children , 19%, of children attending the school have a formal diagnoses. Children awaiting assessment for ADHD can wait upto three years.

Members asked could this be looked at in Healthy North Belfast survey as services currently do not reflect need. Current services are crucial to families and longevity must be sustainable. North Belfast has fewer resources available to families, although diagnosis in the area are on the increase.

Katrina Newell, Chair, queried whether statistics were available from other schools in the locality around this issue.

The HSCB have planned to for significant investment in 2019/2020 for ASD services. This will help to build capacity of groups and offer training for youth services and afterschool services.

Brain Maguire, North Belfast Principals, advised members about a Parent & Carers of Children with Autism Group who meet a the Gate Lodge in Holy Family PS.

Jigsaw have a new Behaviour Support programme (BRACE) which has been developed in conjunction with schools. 30 Classroom assistants have been trained and are delivering the programme, developing strategies in partnership with Teachers within schools.

Brian, spoke about the Cuckoo Programme on offer across schools in the area providing a variety services around literacy and numeracy, behaviour support and parental engagement programmes which are funded by the Department of Education.

**Action:**

Brian Maguire to give a presentation to members.

## **6. Feedback from BAOG**

Maggie Andrews , East Belfast Partnership, delivered a presentation on SIF

### **Locality Planning Group**

Martin Sloane is now in post as co-ordinator for the Belfast Trust area.

### **Locality Planning Group Survey**

The completed survey was distributed to all members. The survey identified a lack of Autism services in the area.

### **Commissioning**

BAOG funding was extended into 2018/2019. The process will move to a procurement method which can be lengthy. Discussion around this process has begun. Bridging arrangements will be put in place for existing providers. New funding will be for a 3 year period. An event to inform providers of the process will be held.

### **Evaluation Tools**

BAOG are keen for a consistent approach to the evaluation of programmes/services. At present there is no Regional toolkit in place, there have been issues developing this under the current framework. Several organisations use the Outcomes Star evaluation system, however this can be costly.

Surestarts are moving to a Regional approach on a multiagency level.

## **7. Members update/ AOB**

NLDCHP are launching a new app targeting 16 – 25 year olds. The event will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 in Duncairn Centre.

Barnardos are holding a workshop 12 February at Stranmillis College. “Relationships for Resilience”. A show-case of trauma- informed, relationship-based practice in Northern Ireland. A collaboration between Barnardo's NI, Women's Aid Federation NI.

### **Action:**

Information on event to be circulated to members

Newlodge Arts, Ashton Community Trust, are holding a Spring Awakening event 30 March 2019

### **Action:**

Information on event to be circulated to members

### **Next Meeting:**

Tuesday 26 March 2019, venue to be confirmed.