

**Minutes of West Belfast Locality Planning Group
Wednesday 6 February 2019
Whiterock Childrens Centre, 91 Whiterock Road BT12 7PG**

Attending:

Deborah Burnett	Greater Falls FSH
Leontia Mc Kenna	Outer West FSH
Ihintz Oliden	Upper Springfield/ Whiterock FSH
Dympna Johnston	Greater Shankill Partnership
Joanne Menabney	Greater Shankill FSH
Nicola Verner	Greater Shankill Partnership
Martin Sloane	Locality Planning Co-ordinator EIST
Mary Murphy	EIST BHSCT

Apologies:

Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Andrea Barr	Health Visitor
Nikki Terlik	NI Libraries
Penny Amborse	Beechmount SureStart

1. Introductions and Welcome

Deirdre welcomed members to the meeting and especially Martin Sloane who is the newly appointed Locality Planning Co-Ordinator for Belfast. Each individual introduced himself or herself and referenced the organisation they represent.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate account.

3. Matters arising

No matters arising

4. Family Support Hub Updates

Greater Fall FSH

67 families referred

Issues varied, the main referral types were Behaviour Management, Mental Health/ Anxiety in kids, Disability Support (by way of respite, youth activities, family support), BME support also

Unmet need Gap

ASD youth support for 11 – 16 year olds

Greater Shankill FSH

42 families referred

- 127 people
- 60 children (requiring service)
- 49 adults
- 18 children (in home not requesting direct service)

Referral sources were self- referral, GP and Community Organisation. The age profile was 5 -11 years and 12 – 15 years.

There were 16 disability referrals

- 10 physical disability/ mental health condition
- 6 ASD

Issues varied but the main referral types were Family support and Home visiting, One to One mentoring, Counselling (child/ adult), Holistic Therapies and ASD specific supports

Unmet need Gap

- ASD specific services at capacity
- 7 – 10 year olds Mentoring one to one PD work (not counselling)

Outer West FSH

93 referrals

The largest referral source was from Self - Referral
Male and female children numbers nearly the same

Issues varied but the main referral types were practical support over the Christmas period - food bank, turkey's, toys, money, St Vincent de Paul support, Family support - Home-visiting and Behaviour management/mentoring

ASD/ADHD features in referrals

Unmet need Gap

- self-care alternative therapies
- 5-11 yr olds a mentoring service- re social isolation, anxiety, peer pressure, issues with social media etc

Starting to see families being Re-referred for same issues requesting the same services.

Upper Springfield/ Whiterock

94 Families referred

Number of parents: 160

We had more boys (193) referred in this quarter than girls (139)

The majority of referrals are for Primary school children: 133

20% of the families referred are from the BME community.

Most referrals were around poverty issues and families asking for help over the Christmas period. With Universal Credit coming in many families have found themselves in trouble and with payment suspended. We also have had a significant amount of families with recent bereavements or serious illnesses which made Christmas very difficult. Emotional and behaviour issues for children and young people continue to be the main reason for referrals.

Unmet Need Gap

- Support services for children with EBD / ASD. Social outlets. The current provision available is limited to so many weeks per child. However, we are starting to see some children being referred back into the hub to access the same support (ASD Saturday programme, mentoring)
- Support services for 11-16 year old with ASD. Very little available at the minute.
- Self-care services: Currently, the hub has been accessing services thanks to the good will of providers. Providers very often are bound by their own criteria (victims money) and hub referrals do not fit in or families have to pay to access service.

Emerging Themes from FSH reports:

A continuing and accelerating issue regarding appropriate supports for children with ASD and / or their families remains a real concern. It was recognised that a number of individuals that may have been provided with a service through the FSH often return to the FSH for repeat services.

Members shared that schools and youth services are also facing difficulties regarding behaviour management, and ASD supports. Statutory supports, funding and responsibility was raised regarding prioritising funding that practically supports families.

Following a wide-ranging discussion, the following actions were agreed:

- A common theme across WBLP area is the lack of service to meet the needs of families where a child is undergoing assessment or have a diagnosis of ADHD / ASD. It was agreed that the concerns discussed are to be fed up to the Belfast Area Outcomes Group.

Action: Martin Sloane and Locality Reps on BOAG

- Specific discussion to be focused to EA (In School, after school and Youth Service provision).and BHSCT re practical investment for the practical support to families (at a tier two level)where ASD is a feature.

Action: Martin Sloane and Locality Reps on BOAG

- Potentially progress a conversation with representatives from Big Lottery NI and Children in Need to consider the possibility of supporting community initiatives that may in some way go towards supporting services to children, young people and their families who have a diagnosis or are undergoing assessment for ASD / ADHD (Social supports and behaviour management).

Action: Deirdre Walsh on behalf of WBLP to initiate contact and conversation.

- Throughout the discussion, it was acknowledged that data trends supporting need and demand for the above services is developing from the FSH's in West Belfast. However, it was generally agreed that schools at both Primary and second levels are data rich in statistics regarding the above concerns. It was agreed that this matter will be raised at BAOG meeting on behalf of the locality.

Action: Martin Sloane and Locality Reps on BOAG

- It was further discussed the link between EWO's workloads and Belfast schoolchildren on managed inclusion / reduced timetables

Action: Martin to arrange to meet with West Belfast EWO's and to seek membership for WBLPG

5. Lord Mayor Award

Members were advised that Belfast Lord Mayor Councillor Deirdre Hargey, has extended an invitation to the Belfast Family Support Hub Infrastructure to attend a reception in City Hall. This is in acknowledgement of the fantastic work that has been undertaken by the FSH's and the impact that it is making to the lives of children, young people and their families. This event is due to take place on the 1st of March and the Family Support Hub Network will be presented with a certificate of achievement from Belfast's Lord Mayor. LPG members were delighted that the fantastic work of the FSH's is to be further recognised.

6. Belfast Family Support Hub Celebration

Discussion regarding the FSH celebration event held in City Hall on January 18 was acknowledged as a tremendous success and tribute was paid to the FSH co-ordination staff for all their hard work.

7. Co - Chairing Arrangements:

The current Chair for WLPG, Deirdre Walsh confirmed that MS Nicola Verner has kindly agreed to support the LPG in a co-chairing capacity. Deirdre thanked Nicola for volunteering and welcomed her to her new role.

8. AOB

A member raised a query regarding services or training available that supports Gaming addictions with young people. The focus of this query was regarding supports for families where social media and gaming addictions for children and young people is a presenting problem. Members referenced research from National papers citing research on social media addictions that has been conducted by Princess Trust. It was agreed that contact would be made directly with Princess Trust representatives to possibly obtain a copy of the full report.

Action: Martin to scope the availability of research re gaming addiction from Princess Trust. Martin to scope potential training and information for supporting families where gaming addiction is an issue.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday 3 April 2019, venue to be confirmed.