

**Minutes of North Belfast Locality Planning Group
Tuesday 26 March 2019
Vine Centre Crumlin Road**

Attending:

Katrina Newell	Ashton Community Trust (Chair)
Martin Sloane	Locality Planning Co-ordinator EIST
Karen Mc Lean	Upper North FSH
Eidith Mc Manus	Lower North FSH
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Laura Fenney	Save the Children
Gabi Mornhiweg	Community Development BHSCT
Roisin O Neill	Barnados
Chris Donnelly	Holy Cross Boys Primary School
Caroline Milligan	Glenbrook Surestart
Mervyn Bell	Smile Surestart
Christine Mc Keown	Ashton Community Trust

Apologies:

B Maguire, Laura Forte, Lisa McManus, Jan-Marie Reel, Jenny Potter, Claire Allen, Liz Brogan, Ashleigh Galway

1. Apologies and Welcome

Katrina Newell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Apologies received recorded above.

2. Minutes

Minute of the previous meeting require amending to include apologies from Edith Mc Manus, Lower North FHS and Christine Mc Keown, Ashton Community Trust.

3. Presentation

Save the Children, The Home Learning Environment

The Home Learning Environment service is delivered to families in need through Families Connect and Building blocks programmes. Save the children can work in partnership with Surestart to better support families.

The Building Blocks programme offers practical support and resources to families alongside the Early Learning packs. To date 92 families, 195 children, have been participated with the programmes. The service is available to families from with children from birth to six.

The Families Connect service is a school based programme that focuses on three key areas:

- Social and emotional development
- Language development and literacy
- Numeracy and mathematics

The programme runs for 8 week to a group of 10/12 parents and children aged 4 – 6 years old. One teacher per school is trained to deliver the programmes, once the programme is developed each school takes ownership of the programme. To date 80 schools regionally have delivered the service, 16 within North Belfast.

The next round of training will be offer regionally in September for 10 schools. Dates will be circulated once they become available.

4. Action Plan

Discussion arose around the NLP Action Plan 2017 -2020.

Within North Belfast it was agreed that Improving Resilience and investing in Early Intervention had been achieved.

The Resilience video has been shown in 10 schools, a mix of primary and secondary schools, and community events across North Belfast. Surestart staff have completed Solihull training and have shown the Impact of Trauma to families.

Parenting NI have also delievered training on Resilience and Trauma. 150 Organisations have attended training through the Trauma Network . Follow up on all training is important.

There is an advantage for children and young people if all staff within a childcare setting have Solihull training.

Natalie Killough

is involved with a Stratgic Group promoting the message of infant mental health, training is available for practitioners

Action: Invite Natalie to a LPG meeting to discuss

5 to Thrive programme is availble to new parents to avail of free training.

Nurturing Schools

Solihull training should be available to all staff, or seek to look if other models of training are available.

Under point 5 it was noted that Autism NI is not in Partnership with Surestart.

Glenbrook Surestart have won an award at National Level, National Autistic Society's Autism Professionals Awards for their Little Learners Programme. The programme, in its third year, is offered to children who have been identified as displaying social communication issues. Caroline Milligan informed member that Surestart are working with Trust leads to develop the programme with a view to rolling it out across all Surestarts.

Under point 6 of the Action Plan the need for further investment for services for girls with autism was identified. It was agreed that the Building Block programme would fit under this point.

Save the Childrens, Family Connection programme could be listed under point 2 of the Action Plan.

Action: Martin to link with Save the Children for further information

5. Hub Updates

During the period April to December across both Family Support Hubs 436 referrals have been submitted.

The largest demand for services is among for the 5 - 10 year age group. Self Referral to the hubs continues to be the greatest source of referrals. There has been an increase in the number of referrals from CAMHs, there is concern that member organisation may not be equipped to provide an adequate family support service for families and young people. Referrals requesting counselling have also increased.

Womens Aid Belfast have now signed as a member of the Upper North FSH.

The Chair and members wished to offer their thanks and appreciation to Edith and Karen, FSH Co-ordinators, for their continued hard work and efforts made to support families in the area. They were congratulated on receiving The Lord Mayors award for Family Support Hubs in the Belfast area.

Unmet Need

- Children aged 5-10 yrs with Social Emotional & Behavioural difficulties-requiring a local programme
- Growing need for disability support groups for children – ASD/ADHD

Heavily Demanded Need:

- Home visiting family support
- 1-1 mentoring for Primary School children
- Programmes for children/yp- self esteem, anxiety, body image

6. Feedback from BAOG

The following update was provided from the BHSC Early Intervention Support Team in relation to commissioning arrangements for Belfast Area Outcomes Group Family Support services.

It was explained that a procurement process will commence and conclude within the next financial year to commission BAOG funded Family Support services. It was confirmed that the procurement process will be open to all Family Support service providers and will be concluded in advance of the 19/20 financial year end, facilitating commencement of newly commissioned services by April 1st 2020. In this context, the BAOG have agreed, for business continuity purposes, to proceed with an extension of existing contracts for BAOG funded family support services for a further year (1st April '19 – 31st March '20).

Outcomes Star as an evaluation tool is to be taken forward and costing for groups looked at. This model is currently used by Surestart and will be rolled out regionally.

Discuss around obtaining information data from Education Authority and Childcare Partnership in relation to gaps in services for 5 – 10 years old. Education Welfare Officers within North Belfast were unable to provide an information when requested.

7. Members update/ AOB

Congratulations to Glenbrook Surestart on winning a prestigious accolade at the National Autistic Society's [Autism Professionals Awards](#) on 7 March.

They were given the award for Inspirational Education Provision – Primary Schools & Early Years at a special ceremony at Birmingham Town Hall, in recognition of their Little Learners Programme.

Next Meeting:

28 May 2019, venue to be confirmed.