

**West Belfast Locality Planning Group  
Wednesday 5 June 2019  
Whiterock Children's Centre 91 Whiterock Road BT12**

**Attending:**

Deborah Burnett	Greater Falls FSH
Ihintz Oleden	Upper Springfield/ Whiterock FSH
Joanne Menabney	Greater Shankill Partnership FSH
Mairead Gilmartin	Outer West SureStart
Nicola Terlik	NI Libraries
Penny Ambrose	Beechmount SureStart
Andrea Barr	Health Visiting Team Lead BHSCT
Deirdre Walsh	Whiterock Children's Centre, Chair LPG
Paul O'Neill	Acting Team Lead, EIST BHSCT
Martin Sloane	Locality Planning Co-ordinator EIST
Karen Burns	EIST BHSCT

**Apologies:**

Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Leontia Mc Kenna	Outer West FSH
Nicola Verner	Greater Shankill Partnership

**1. Welcome**

Deirdre Walsh, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and commenced with a round of introductions.

**2. Minutes**

Minute of previous meeting accepted as a true and accurate record.

**3. Presentation – Parenting NI**

Elaine Hanna from parenting NI provided a presentation outlining the findings from the 'Parental Participation Project – Regional Parenting Survey 2018/2019.

Good, robust and informative discussion followed this presentation across the membership. A copy of the presentation and the web link to access the full report is to be circulated across the membership. The chair thanked Elaine for attending and for providing this interesting and thought provoking information.

**ACTION:** Belfast LPG Co-ordinator to circulate presentation and web link for above presentation.

[www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Regional-Survey-Report-2019.pdf](http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Regional-Survey-Report-2019.pdf)

#### **4. Matters Arising**

Martin thanked all the participants of the recently held Speed Event. Feedback from the event was very positive, participants and Principals found it a great networking opportunity and insightful with regards to services within the area.

#### **5. Family Support Hub updates:**

A report was presented to members on behalf of the four Family Support Hubs; Greater Falls, Greater Shankill, Outer West and Upper Springfield Whiterock, in the West LPG area.

During the period March - April 2019 the FS Hubs handled 1088 telephone queries with advice given. Referrals were processed for 860 families with 1205 children benefiting directly from services. The hubs also provided support/services to 368 other children within the families referred, whilst supporting 746 parents. A large number of referrals, 517, came from households with a lone parent.

The highest demand for services was for children in the following age groups:

Children aged 5-11 years: 538

Children aged 0-4 years: 309

Children/YP aged 11-15 years: 258

There were 303 referrals for children presenting with a disability. Which breaks down as follows:

- Autism/ Asperger: 134 children
- ADHD: 48 children
- Physical disability, including other disability: 72 children
- Learning Disability: 34 children

Within this group the highest demand for services was for children with ASD/Aspergers.

Referral Sources:

- Family self-referrals across the four FS Hubs have increased.
- A high number of re-referrals were noted.
- Remaining referrals were from a variety of sources including community organisations, Schools, GP's and CAMHS.

Reasons for referral in order of demand for service:

- Primary school-aged children displaying emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Parenting support
- Financial advice/support.

- Supports for Young People

Ethnic Background of Service Requests:

- White, followed by Black African, ethnicity not stated or mixed ethnic group.

Unmet Need:

The following issues were identified:

- Support for children with a disability continues to be the greatest demand, with some families waiting more than 8 weeks.
- Continuing demand for 1:1 support for young people age 12 – 17 years, counselling services and self-care programmes.
- Lack of childcare support to enable families to attend services.

Emerging Gaps and Trends:

Disability Support;

- Home Visiting support in respect of strategies around behaviour and routines for children aged over 4 years
- One-to-one mentoring support for Young People aged 12-17 years.

ASD Supports following diagnosis:

- A gap exists in the period between the receipt of a formal diagnosis and the delivery of follow-up support from the ASD Intervention Team. In the interim families are frequently referred into Family Support Hubs for support services.

Mentoring one to one support:

- Referrals for children aged 7-11 years, with issues of low self-esteem, social isolation, attachment difficulties which sometimes result in school refusal.
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Counselling for Children and Young people:

- The West Belfast Hubs have limited service options for children aged 4-13 years. This has resulted in waiting lists/times for all Hub areas as it is a city-wide service.

Self-care:

- There are increasing requests for this type of service but the Hubs have very few services available to meet demand.

**Action:** Belfast LPG Co-ordinator to circulate Family Support Hub update to members.

## **6. Feedback from Belfast Area Outcomes Group**

The Outcomes Group on May 16<sup>th</sup> incorporated a shorter than usual business meeting and a joint workshop in the pm with a senior team (Director Level) from BCC exploring the interfaces and overlaps between the BAOG action plan, the Belfast Agenda and the emerging Community Planning structures in Belfast.

As part of the business meeting a Presentation on ACE's was delivered jointly by staff from both the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland and the CYPSP.

The scale of the proposed roll out of implementation of further training and strategies already developed by the SBNI for roll out across key Outcomes Group Partner agencies and areas of work, was apparent as the discussion developed.

ACE's may well be an area for further focus at Locality Planning Groups as a broad underpinning approach given the cross sectoral nature of the approach being proposed for roll out.

Contact details and further information on available resources and training dates are available on request.

Other relevant points discussed included confirmation that the Outcomes Group service exercise to procure services to help support the work of the Family Support hubs was currently on track for delivery from April 2020.

This procurement exercise will have a standardised assessment tool embedded across all activity.

Brief updates were provided to the Outcomes Group from both an LPG and FSH network perspective. Pressures and developments in both sectors were noted. Pressures on the broader sector caused by funding changes and uncertainty were flagged. Both updates referenced issues relating to ASD/ADHD related matters.

The afternoon workshop incorporated both large and small group activity with a focus on ensuring effective engagement on matters of shared interest and developing collaborative models of working.

Feedback given by Outcomes Group members was that this had been a worthwhile initial engagement. BCC staff indicated that they found the workshop very useful and will produce both a note of the workshop and next step suggestions to progress the potential shared agenda.

These will be circulated as they become available.

## **7. Members Update**

Deirdre Walsh, Chair, invited Mairead Gilmartin, Outer West Surestart and Penny Ambrose, Blackie Surestart to give a joint presentation to the next Locality Planning Group on the services and supports provided to families through Surestart.

Whiterock Children's Centre will be hosting an event on the topic of FGM, Female Genital Mutilation on Thursday 1st August 2019, to be held in St Mary's College Falls Road as part of the West Belfast Feile.

Members were reminded that Level 1 ACE's training is available on Tuesday 11 June 2019.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th August 2019, venue to be confirmed.