

**Minutes of North Belfast Locality Planning Group  
24<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019  
Vine Centre Crumlin Road**

**Attending**

Katrina Newell	Ashton Community Trust (NLPG Chair)
Martin Sloane	Belfast Locality Planning Co-ordinator
Karen McLean	Upper North FSH
Edith McManus	Lower North FSH
Julie Jamison	NLDCHP
Laura Feeney	Save the Children
Laura Forte	NIACRO
Lorna Fennell	Ascertainment
Martin Sloane	BHSST
Mary Murphy	BHSST
Patricia O Lynn	'Right to Succeed'
Jan Marie Reel	Holy Cross Boys School
Marie Smith	LPG Administrator

**Apologies**

Gabi Mornhinweg	Community Development Team, BHSC
Collette Deery	Edmund Rice College Glengormley
Mervyn Bell	Smile Surestart

**1. Welcome**

Katrina Newell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and commenced with a round of introductions. Katrina thanked the Vine Centre (Stephen) for hosting the meeting.

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of the previous minutes require amendment to:-  
No. 9 AOB amend second paragraph to read Safefood  
Accepted and true and accurate with one amendment.

**3. Matters Arising**

ASD/ADHD: The Child's Journey through Assessment and Diagnosis – An Education and Health Perspective”

This event will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 in the Balmoral Hotel Blacks Road Belfast BT10 and has been pitched at Outcomes Group, LPG and FSHs Level.

**School Exclusion/Reduced Timetables**

A robust discussion took place in relation to the issue of school exclusions, reduced timetables for children and the associated impact on the child/young person, families and local community. It was reported that there aren't any

records kept regarding this and they are not available through the statutory agencies.

Edith advised that the CEO of NICCY had visited the Lower North FSH and part of their discussion centred around reduced timetables/reduced hours for children at school. They discussed how this practice has a negative impact on children and families in terms of safety and how it can place children, families and communities at risk. Some children attend school for as little as 45mins per day. It was reported that schools informally record the figures of children on reduced hours but they are reluctant to share these.

Jan Marie reported that Holy Cross Boys School has 42 children diagnosed with ASD and a significant number awaiting a diagnosis. In Blessed Trinity Secondary school 60 children have been diagnosed with ASD and 32 are on the waiting list to be assessed.

Members discussed methods of how to gather information about reduced timetables and it was suggested that Hub/local organisations who engage with parents could keep records and collate these figures

It was proposed that in the first instance we should feed into the Outcomes Group to obtain statistics. It was also suggested that contact be made with Mairead Mc Cafferty (Children's Commissioners Office) to obtain legal advice from her department on the way forward.

During the course of the discussion, there was a recognition that education is under significant pressure with rising need and reduced budgets ("real spending" in education has reduced by 18% in recent years).

**ACTION: Martin to raise LPG members concerns with the Outcomes Group to ensure a more joined up and strategic approach is applied in terms of support.**

### **Children's Services Cooperation Act**

The Co-ordinator advised LPG members that as this is an element for delivery within the outcomes group action plan, Martin has met with BCC and is planning to meet with EA. It is anticipated that BHSCT, EA and BCC will collaborate to deliver a joint initiative to deliver a project in the Belfast area. It has been agreed that that this initiative will come to fruition in 2020. All parties have agreed to invest into this project.

### **EA Representation**

Martin advised the members that he has met with representatives from EA to encourage them to become more involved in the Locality Planning process within the Belfast area. He reported that this was a positive meeting and that there was a clear commitment to attend/participate in the work of the LPG across Belfast.

Michael Hogg EA is confirmed as the designated EA represented for North Belfast

#### **4. Right to Succeed.**

Patricia O' Lynn from Right to Succeed explained that she has been working on a research proposal as a follow on from her doctoral research that seeks to understand the issue of reduced timetables as a form of informal exclusion used by schools. She provided an example of a policy used to govern the use of reduced time -tables in an education authority in England where in some instances reduced time tables were introduced to facilitate hospital illness. Patricia explained that accessing data on reduced timetables would be a necessary step before advocating for any type of change. She offered to contribute to a working group on the matter as a lead researcher.

#### **5. BAOG Update**

Issues raised by LPGs in relation to ADHD/ ASD as well as reduced timetabling within schools, were the key issues that were raised on behalf of LPG's to the membership of the BAOG. BAOG members were advised that plans are currently underway to facilitate an ASD/ADHD related Belfast wide event in the autumn period. It was felt by members of BAOG that this is a significant issue that has been identified at locality planning level but is also to the fore at a regional level.

There was some discussion around the future procurement of BAOG funded services and community / voluntary sector organisations' anxieties in relation to this process. These concerns were acknowledged and members were advised that they are being dealt with as far as possible within the bounds of the procurement process

A discussion about Community Planning with Belfast City Council took place and a paper from Kevin Heaney on this subject was circulated to the Outcomes Group. BAOG representation on the 'Living Here' Board facilitated by BCC was discussed and a number of BAOG members said they would like to be considered.

#### **6. Review of Action Plan**

North Belfast Locality Action Plan has been updated and amended accordingly - see attached.

## 7. Family Support Hub updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	<b>Lower North Belfast</b>
<b>Timeframe:</b>	August-September 2019
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	32
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	857
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Self, CAMHS, G.P., Health Visitor, Community organisations
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
Small groups for children with social, emotional & behavioural needs	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
Met with CEO of NICCY re reduced timetabling Met with Extern staff re service availability	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	
Attended Signs of Safety training	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	<b>Upper North FSH</b>
<b>Timeframe:</b>	August & September
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	August: 22 September: 18
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	1110
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	H.V, CAMHS, Self, Gateway, Health professionals, GPS, Community and Voluntary Organisations,

	Schools.
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
<p>August's hub meeting again identified the need for local autism support for primary school children and support for parents.</p> <p>We also seen a high level of referrals in relation to anxiety and confidence. There was a discussion around Befriending groups in the area as this may be more helpful to referrals around anxiety rather than sending them straight to counselling. Members were updated that PIPS now offers a befriending service for 12 upwards.</p>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<p>Completed standards in Augusts Hub meeting</p> <p>LIFE NI are now associate members</p>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	
<p>Attended LIFE NI event at Girdwood for the launch of their Pregnancy Matters service. They provide support for women who are pregnant and at risk of homelessness- this is the criteria for their hostel. But they also offer community support to families in North Belfast- expectant mums- preparing for baby, budgeting, cooking and dealing with professionals.</p>	

## 8. Members Update

It was advised that New Life are supporting G.Ps to do referrals to CAMHS. Referrals rates are very high.

Extern Crisis Prevention Team gave a presentation on suicide in October at the Hub Meeting at Ashton Centre.

Edith advised that the Ashton Centre had received funding for 1 year for two Family Support workers (part-time).Referrals for home visiting service can only be received from FSH.

New Life advised that they have been successful in a recent lottery funding application.

## 9. AOB

Co-ordinator advised on training: 58 organisations in North Belfast have benefitted from continuous professional and upskilling training that has been rolled out via FSH's and LPG's between Sept 2018 to March 2019. 86 individuals have undertaken the training offered.

Lorna advised members to register on line for Ascertain Development training as demand was high.

## Solihull Training

The co-ordinator advised that an expression of interest for Solihull training had been sought on behalf of Natalie Killough. One hundred individuals indicated an interest in this training and have submitted their contact details. It is anticipated that some funding may be made available via PHA to support this initiative, however it is unclear as to how many individuals will benefit. All parties involved in this process were surprised by the level of interest and overall demand for this programme. Information has been forwarded to Natalie Killough.

Coordinator reported that he had spoken with Natalie Killough about the Five to Thrive training programme. Natalie has advised there will be 40 places available, which will include representation from Social Services, Health Visiting, Midwifery and the Community sector.

Katrina updated members on the Breakthrough Programme – a Youth Work approach to engage young people from North Belfast, Shankill and Newtownabbey districts, who are not on an employability programme. This is a wraparound project with an objective to build capacity within young people, building confidence, self-esteem and offering volunteering opportunities. It is also about reconnecting young people with their families, communities and peers. It is being delivered by Streetbeat and YEHA and is targeted at young people aged between 14 – 24yrs.

**Next Meeting**

<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b>	<b>Currie P.S. Limestone Rd, Belfast BT15 3AB</b>
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