

**Antrim/Ballymena Children's & Young People's Strategic Partnership locality
planning group**

Tuesday 23rd March, 2021 2pm via Zoom

MINUTES

Attending

Mervyn Rea	Co-Chair
Lynsey McVitty	NHSCT
Linda Wylie	NHSCT
Unique Vaughan	Family Support Hub
Stephen Taylor	PSNI
Janine Gaston	Impact Network NI
Jennifer Campbell	Sure Start, Action for Children
Natasha McDonagh	Start 360
Veronica McKinley	Northern Antrim Community Network
Emma Spence	PSNI
Gerry McVeigh	Co-Chair, YES Start 360
Hannah Bowyer	Ballymena South Community Cluster
Denise McVeigh	Mid & East Antrim Council
James O'Kane	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Jude Murphy	Network Personnel
Melissa McNamee	Network Personnel
Jude McNeill	Mid & East Antrim Council
Gillian McAtackney	NI Development Manager, GamCare

1. Welcome & Apologies

Mervyn welcomed everyone including the guest speaker Gillian McAtackney.

Apologies

Chris Lindsay, EA
Amanda McNeilly, Impact Network
Alison McDaid, EA
Siobhan McCaig, PSNI
Nigel Montgomery, EA

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The previous meeting's Minutes accuracy were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

None raised.

4. Gillian McAtackney, GamCare

Gillian from GamCare brought us a presentation on the Young People's Gambling Harm Prevention Programme.

GamCare is the leading national provider of information, advice and support for anyone affected by gambling related harms which can affect mental health, subsequently bringing about possible financial problems and family breakdown. For young people specifically, this can manifest itself in poor performance at school, truancy, alcohol or substance misuse and disruption of peer or family relationships.

GamCare provide free interactive workshops for young people to help them gain awareness, knowledge and skills to make safe choices around gambling, understand more about problem gambling and ensure they know where to access support should they or someone they know need it.

Raising Awareness – Professionals: GamCare provides Free Gambling Awareness one hour workshop for professionals who work with young people to learn more about the hidden harms associated with problem gambling. Or a three hour CPD accredited Gambling Awareness and Brief Intervention Training.

Lynsey offered to organise zoom training for those partners interested. She will liaise with Gillan to organise dates during May. The three hour training was recommended by Gillian although it was thought that this may be best organised when face to face training is permitted.

Gerry mentioned that he had undertaken the training and he found same to be very informative and engaging.

Mervyn thanked Gillian for her very interesting and useful presentation.

5. Family Support Hub Update – Unique Vaughan

Save the Children Fund has now ended. It ran from February to March. We are presently collecting evaluations to illustrate impact from same. Applicants could receive funding of up to £340.00 and many people

received funding. There is still a demand for financial assistance although there has been a decline in referrals due to children being back to school.

6. Member Updates

Stephen Taylor - PSNI

Provided an update on the roll out of the Children's Diversion Forum. The Children's Diversion Forum (CDF) is chaired by the Youth Justice Agency and includes representation from PSNI (Youth Diversion Officers and Neighbourhood Teams), Education Authority and Social Services. The CDF has replaced the Prevent and Deter Scheme.

The aim of Children's Diversion Forum is to contribute to the reduction in first time entrants to the formal criminal justice system by:

- Diverting children from the formal criminal justice system at an early stage.
- Sharing available information about children who are referred by any of the partner organisations.
- Assessing if additional intervention is needed (and by whom) and supporting children to link to those services in order to promote desistance from (re)offending.

A young person may be referred to the forum (with consent of the parents / young person) by any of the forum members if they are coming to attention through ASB, low level offending (shoplifting etc.), drugs, repeatedly going missing, truancy or assaults in school etc.

The forum will identify and agree what interventions are required and by whom (this may include follow up action by forum members or referrals to external partners).

There will be two CDF forums running in the NHSCT area –

1. Causeway Coast and Glens
2. Mid and East Antrim + Ballyclare

Janine Gaston – Impact Network NI

SPDO hosted number of mental health and suicide prevention related training sessions since the last meeting which targeted youth practitioners across all sectors, all were well attended and the general consensus from practitioners is that they need more awareness and training on these topics. Hosted sessions included The Cycle of Change, The Person Behind the Behaviour, The Impact of Social Media on Mental Health, Crisis Intervention in Suicide Prevention,

The Cost of Caring, Understanding Self Harm, Big Deal Youth Problem Gambling Awareness (GamCare), The Person Centred Approach to Self-Harm and Suicide Behaviour.

Protect Life 2 Consultations are coming out.

Making Life Better Short Term Funding potentially being commissioned by Public Health Agency again for 21-22.

Planning and development of suicide prevention specific actions for 21-22.

Jennifer Campbell-Surestart Antrim/ Ballymena

Ballymena & Little Steps (Antrim) Sure Start are currently offering a blended range of services for children and families from pregnancy up to 4 years old in the areas of child & parent health, play & child development and family functioning & wellbeing.

The service is open to all families from pregnancy up until their child is 4 years old, who live in the following ward areas: Ballee, Ballykeel, Harryville, Moat, Castle Demesne, Summerfield, Fairgreen and Dunclug in Ballymena. Ballycraigy, Farranshane and Steeple in Antrim.

As of the 12th April we will be welcoming back children on site within the Developmental Programme for 2-3 year olds, and in addition respite crèche for families in need.

Services also currently include garden gate visits, online services, one to one site visits (most vulnerable/critical), telephone/video one to one emotional & practical support. Online services include: family nutrition, budgeting & cooking, speech & language programmes, Family Men Dads service, International ethnic minority supports, baby massage & reflexology, antenatal yoga, hypnobirthing & education, breastfeeding & health visiting support, Little Acorns additional needs services and a wide range of Lets Play Child Development Programmes.

Additionally the Project is providing resource packs which include play items, food, electricity, clothing, health promotion, oral health, information & guidance and home safety.

Happy to answer any queries/ take referrals at:-
Ballymena.LittleStepsSS@actionforchildren.org.uk or call us on any of our site numbers.

Gerry McVeigh – Start 360

Youth Engagement Service (YES) based at 2-6 Wellington Street Ballymena

- Providing a social and learning space to 4 groups from Castle Tower School Mon-Thursday each week.
- Returning to delivery in Our Lady of Lourdes School and Ballymoney High (both in Ballymoney) after Easter.
- Returning to delivery in St. Patrick's College after Easter - providing targeted groupwork and 1-1 support
- Young Men's Football (16-25) resuming training on Thursday evenings at Ballymena Showgrounds after Easter
- Continuing to provide 1-1 support to young people remotely as needed
- Planning for future delivery.

Hannah Bowyer – Ballymena South Community Cluster

Ballykeel 1 Moving Forward Community Group are in the process of setting up a Ballykeel Youth Forum and have organised a 6 week Zoom programme with a focus group to ascertain what the needs for children and young people are in Ballykeel and what they feel are the possible solutions.

There has been a spate of ASB in Ballymena South, most recently in Harryville, which Carson Project are responding to, and working in partnership with YMCA and the EA Youth Services to engage younger people in community projects and activities. This, unfortunately, is unable to start until approval has been given for Harryville Community Centre to be utilised for this work to commence.

Denise McVeigh - Mid & East Antrim Council

The Council's Play Strategy and Play Investment Framework has been progressing:

The People's Park Play area has been completed and the new design focuses on access and inclusion.

A sensory play pod and a changing place unit are to be installed very soon and will complement the new play park, both funded by DfC. The park will hopefully see a new Nature Ranger Centre as an after school's club where children will be outdoors.

Ballykeel Play Park is also being refurbished along with a new sensory garden at Broughshane Community Centre.

School's Forest school and growing clubs will continue this term

The first Little Free Toy Box installed in the Borough at The People's Park, this will encourage toy swapping and play.

Hoping to develop “Summer of Play” activities and events in our parks and open spaces including Love Parks Week and National Play Day, guidelines permitting

Jude Murphy – Network Personnel

Our Community Family Support Programme is still working to help families and individuals (16-65 years old) who need it, on a remote basis. This is either helping with family or personal issues, as well as providing specialist support to access courses / further education and or employment. Other areas we support in, are: Mental or Physical Health; Anxiety and Stress; Routines and Boundaries; Home schooling or even sharing fun activities families can do together; Finances – budgeting, better off calculations, benefits; Housing issues; Self-care; Confidence / Motivation / Self-esteem; Social Isolation; Providing resources in general; Sign-posting to other opportunities that are relevant, and much more.

Our programme is free and voluntary. We have a wealth of Courses and Workshops which are currently running on-line, and we can provide quality support for those who are not confident using technology.

We are in the planning stages for specialised training / information events for 2021/2022 and will definitely keep you informed as to what opportunities emerge.

Nigel Montgomery – Youth Service, EA

At present the Youth Services are not open, being aligned with the closure of schools. It is anticipated through our Youth Restart Programme we may be opening both Ballykeel and Waveney Youth centres after Easter in line with schools re-opening. There are a number of strategies being considered over the next few months. For further information and future updates please check out our Facebook page: Mid and East Antrim Youth Service.

Lynsey McVitty- NHSCT

The NHSCT is working with CSN and other agencies to develop a sports leadership programme for Syrian 14-18 year olds living in the Antrim/Crumlin/Newtownabbey area, max 16 participants and will be delivered online/face to face from 7-9pm starting at the end of April. Flyer is almost finalised, will share when available.

There are Nutrition talks for various ages of children ongoing online. See NHSCT or CYPSP Antrim Ballymena page for more information on these.

The NHSCT will be relaunching a scheme that entitles young people 16-25 to free sexual health advice and condoms using the C-Card. Contact Florence Hand in the Trust for more details.

March is No Smoking Month. The Trust has a large number of No Smoking props that can be borrowed in March or any other time of year; these can be requested from the NHSCT Health and Wellbeing Team.

7. ACTION PLANNING

Past

- LGBT Training – 70 attended the training
- Parenting in a Pandemic training took place on Monday 22nd March. All the parents who attended indicated that they found it very helpful.
- Pre-School Playschool Healthy Mover's packs forwarded to Surestart.
- ADHD Training – 17 attended and proved to be very informative for parents.

Present

- Community Sports Network – all who applied were successful. Programmes to run April-June.
- PANTS Campaign finishes at the end of March, 2021. Lots of Parents Booklets and Posters are available from the NHSCT Health and Wellbeing Team if any organisation wants more. PANTS resources have also been translated into Arabic and Irish as well as many other languages and are all available on NSPCC website.
- Relax & Regulate training – Expression of Interest closes on 24th March
- Trauma Training – Closing date 24th March. 232 signed up so far
- Fit for Fun Physical Activity packs – delayed. To update at next meeting.
- Outdoor Little Free Toybox will be placed at People's Park in May
- Looking After Me transitional journals will be distributed after Easter to help pupils in P7 to transition into Year 8.
- Aware NI Mood Matters Training available.
- Money Management free training by Reid in Partnership. Parent training dates continue to be shared. Practitioner Training (6 hour training) to be organised.
- Members informed NI Children and Young People Online safety strategy came out in December.
- MU Locality Planning Group – Disability came up as a need. Free Webinar will be 17th May that all the other Northern locality group members can attend; more information to follow.

Future

- Lynsey shared the proposed actions from the members under the four priorities identified by CYP survey. Sub Groups will be set up to co-ordinate agreed actions below:

Mental Health

Resilience building with children

BAME: Supporting BAME children and young people's mental health/ emotional wellbeing

Awareness raising of MH/EW issues

Physical Activity

Encouraging outdoor activity

Education

Collaboration: Asking schools and Learning together groups what needs are then coming together as a group to meet those needs

Health

Food/Nutrition: Growing food, knowing what to eat, how to cook it. Practical Healthy cooking classes and training

Breastfeeding: Promoting and growing the Welcome Here scheme, linking in with World breast-feeding week campaign

Other

Poverty/Money management: Financial/budgeting training, education opportunities for money management, alleviating poverty

Online safety: focusing on parents

ASD: ASD training focusing on parents and staff

8. AOB

Members reminded CYPSP Antrim Ballymena LPG is an open group and if they wish to invite others to please do so.

Members reminded to please return any outstanding Consent (GDPR) Forms as soon as possible to remain on the mailing list.

The PHA has developed a new App called "Chat Safe" those young people who feel suicidal or have self-harmed can get good advice. If you wish to be involved in this please contact PHA.

Date of next Meeting Tuesday 18th May 10am, 2021 via zoom.