



## CYPSP – Learning from COVID & Next Steps Meeting

**25 August 2020**

### Video Conference

**Attendees:**

Shane Devlin, SHSCT (Chair)  
 Paul Morgan, SHSCT  
 Marie Roulston, HSCB  
 Maura Dargan, NHSCT  
 Pauline Leeson, CiNI  
 Brenda Macqueen, Dry Arch  
 Sheila Gamble, EA (obo Una Turbitt)  
 Helen McKenzie, SBNI  
 Michael Heaney, YJA (obo Declan McGeown)  
 Deirdre Webb, PHA  
 June Wilkinson, DE  
 Paddy Mooney, Include Youth  
 Lorna Ballard, AfC  
 Adele Faulkner, NIHE  
 Aideen McLaughlin, PBNI  
 Jason White, SEHSCT (obo Barbara Campbell)

**Apologies:**

Valerie Watts, HSCB  
 Siobhan McCauley, NIHE  
 Gerry Campbell, CCMS  
 Cheryl Lamont, PBNI  
 Deirdre Mahon, WHSCT  
 Declan McGeown, YJA  
 Barbara Campbell, SEHSCT  
 Anne-Marie McClure, Start 360  
 Geraldine Teague, PHA  
 Maurice Leeson, HSCB  
 Rose McNaughton, Cedar Foundation  
 Una Turbitt, EA  
 Carol Diffin, BHSCT  
 Jo Marley, Bryson  
 Brendan Whittle, HSCB  
 Una Lernihan, HSCB

**In Attendance:**

Maxine Gibson, HSCB  
 Valerie Maxwell, HSCB  
 Una Casey, HSCB  
 Sharon McMinn, HSCB  
 Eilis McDaniel, DoH (observing capacity)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>1. Welcome</b>	<p>The Chair welcomed all and advised that the purpose of the meeting was to give organisations the chance to share experiences and learning from work undertaken during the last 6 months (since the start of the pandemic), with a view to building into the CYPSP workplan.</p> <p>A formal CYPSP Meeting will be arranged for October time.</p>	
<b>2. Update of CYPSP Team</b>	<p>Maxine Gibson provided an update of the work undertaken by the CYPSP Team from the</p>	

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<p><b>Activity During Pandemic</b></p>	<p>period March 2020 – August 2020. The CYPSP Team maintained a presence during the pandemic and responded to emerging needs/early intervention issues.</p> <p><u>CYPSP Online Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locality Planning Groups Members Service Delivery Guide – sign posting service users to early intervention services</li> <li>• Daily Updates</li> <li>• Children &amp; Young People’s Resource Pack</li> </ul> <p><u>MH&amp;EWB Scoping Activities</u> The Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing/Children and Young People’s Sub Cell (MH&amp;EWB/CYP Sub Cell) was established in response to the pandemic and undertook a scoping exercise on agencies and partners responses to Covid, emerging issues and plans for going forward. An Impact Paper was also produced, which provided perspectives from service users. Both papers were disseminated along with the meeting papers and can be shared wider.</p> <p><u>Membership Renewal Activity</u> CYPSP recruitment process for Vol/Com/BME members commenced at the beginning of July, with a closing date of mid-August. Due to limited applications received (likely due to the summer period and the current situation), the closing date has been extended to the end of September 2020.</p> <p>The work of the CYPSP Team was acknowledged by the Partnership.</p> <p>Pauline Leeson advised of a survey of parents undertaken by ParentLine which mirrors the findings of the Impact Paper produced by the MH&amp;EWB/CYP Sub Cell around parent’s anxieties. ParentLine plan to undertake another survey once children are back to school to see if/how parents anxieties have changed.</p> <p>The invaluable work of voluntary and community organisations during the past 6 months was noted.</p>	<p>Consider how the Partnership uses the Scoping and Impact Papers.</p> <p>Explore how learning from all surveys can be connected.</p>

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<p><b>3. Outcomes Groups</b></p>	<p>Since the onset of the pandemic, some Outcomes Groups have met while others remain stood down.</p> <p><u>Southern Area</u> Outcomes Group met in February before the onset of Covid and again at the end of July.</p> <p>Ongoing/Planned work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Young people’s experiences/experiences during Covid</b> – plan to undertake a survey around Autumn time(and roll out regionally) which will enable children and young people to help shape outcomes. Different technology/mediums will be explored for the survey e.g. Snapchat, Facebook etc.</li> <li>• <b>BME needs/Translations Hub</b> – the difficulty in reaching a number of these groups due to cultural and language barriers were noted. As a result of the large population of BME residing in the Southern Trust area, the SAOG have established specific subgroup to look at how these families can be helped.</li> </ul> <p>A Translations Hub is currently under development and will be a central resource linking to all translated information. Plan to launch resource in September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Our Journey Through Disability</b> – co produced with a number of parents who have children with a disability in Southern area. Plan to endorse and launch at CYPSP as a priority area moving forward on recommendations identified in paper.</li> <li>• <b>Venue locator (CYPSP Website)</b> – launched during Covid to help to identify venues which could be used for 1:1/small group work. Started as SAOG priority but now rolled out regionally.</li> </ul> <p>Learning/challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships already built through the Outcomes Group, which resulted in agencies coming together quickly to adapt</li> </ul>	

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	<p>and respond to the situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for better connectivity - look at where there is common ground to connect agencies to prevent silo working. Few opportunities to work better together collectively were missed.</li> </ul> <p><u>Northern Area</u>  Outcomes Group has been stood down since March.  LPG Co-Ordinators were redeployed for a period of time but have recently met and issues emerging include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of lockdown;</li> <li>• Impact of home schooling;</li> <li>• Children with Disabilities – huge issue in the Northern area due to the large amount of support provided through Education being pulled as a result of Covid.</li> </ul> <p>Positives/Learning:  Young people reported across all Northern Trust services that they feel remote working has enabled them to have better quality time with staff.</p> <p><u>South Eastern Area</u>  Outcomes Group stood down.  Locality Worker redeployed but continued to provide weekly updates to LPG members on services available.</p> <p>Emerging issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty/food parcels</li> <li>• Digital poverty</li> <li>• Child protection issues not being picked up due to children being at home.</li> </ul> <p><u>Belfast Area</u>  Outcomes Group met in June and July.</p> <p>Paper on the Impact on COVID-19 Lockdown on Children, Young People and Families was produced and included feedback from a number of local surveys carried out by member organisations as well as scoping and academic research.</p>	<p>Paper to be shared with group – Una Casey</p>

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	<p>Emerging issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulties of school closures on children and young people’s emotional/mental health.</li> <li>• Rising levels of anxiety.</li> <li>• Behavioural challenges.</li> <li>• Inequality of access to internet/computers.</li> <li>• Impact of 3-4 year olds/pre-school age group – missing out on playschool learning/interaction. Concern that this age group will be impacted as they move through primary school.</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Breakdown of relationships between parents and teenagers, resulting in increased levels of homelessness for this aged group</li> <li>• Children with a disability – pressures with lack of school provision for this group of children.</li> </ul> <p>Positives – less pressures on young people.</p> <p><u>Western Area</u>  Outcomes Group meetings stood down.  Issues for Locality Groups in area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty – including digital poverty/uniforms</li> <li>• Increase in online gambling - Fermanagh &amp; Omagh areas.</li> </ul>	<p>OG Chairs to look at learning within own area and develop locality surge plans. Consider what to do differently in preparation for future surges.</p>
<p><b>4. Locality Planning</b></p>	<p>Regional LPG Report circulated – provides learning from other localities.</p> <p>Issues emerging regionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic violence and coercive control.</li> <li>• Child parent / sibling violence.</li> </ul> <p>LPG achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LPG’s ability to carry on during the pandemic even when Locality Planners were redeployed.</li> <li>• Supporting return to school webinar held in Northern area – well attended</li> <li>• Distribution of 500 positive emotional wellbeing mental health boxes to young people in the Northern area.</li> <li>• Some locality group meetings reporting better attendance/engagement at virtual</li> </ul>	

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	<p>meetings</p> <p>The work of the Locality Planners acknowledged and noted.</p>	
<p><b>5. Regional Subgroups / Task &amp; Finish Groups</b></p>	<p>Most Regional Subgroups and Task and Finish Groups have been paused due to Covid.</p> <p>NI ACE Reference Group –met in May with next meeting scheduled for beginning of September.</p> <p>SEN Early Years Joint Working Group – paused and superseded by a Joint Health/Education Oversight Group. Meets weekly with representation from DE/DoH.</p> <p>Children with Disabilities Transitions Group – paused and replaced by Covid-19 Heads of Service Children with Disabilities Group – includes Trusts Head of Services, CAMHS rep, physical and sensory reps.</p>	<p>Important pieces of work – consider how these groups can be un paused.</p>
<p><b>6. CYPSP Priorities Emerging</b></p>	<p>Key issues emerging/learning to consider when moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food security/poverty – over reliance on foodbanks which cannot meet the level of demand.</li> <li>• BME group adversely affected.</li> <li>• Resilience/building resilience</li> <li>• Positives of virtual working – carrying on good parts of virtual working, while acknowledging that it does not suit all situations. Northern Trust CAMHS reported that when relationships exist between clinician and young person often a preference for virtual learning and y/p respond well, but for new presentations, relationships it does not work and young people do not engage.</li> <li>• Improve link between agencies to enable signposting of families in need.</li> <li>• Education/support for home schooling – lack of technology.</li> <li>• How to support children with disabilities/special educational needs and their families.</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>7. Date of Next Meeting</b>	Next meeting will be a full Partnership Meeting and will explore how the Partnership can incorporate all learning into the work moving forward.	Full Partnership meeting to be arranged for October – Maxine Gibson/Sharon McMinn