

CYPSP VOLUNTARY/COMMUNITY/BAME MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

UPDATE REPORT – JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2021

ORGANISATION	CYPSP REP	ACHIEVEMENTS / ACTIVITIES	ISSUES / CHALLENGES
Children in Northern Ireland	Pauline Leeson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Launch of an evaluation of our Holiday Hunger projects. Event attended by and opened by the Minister for Education. 2. We were successful in lobbying the Minister for Education to continue with direct payments to those on Free School Meals. The direct payments will continue to Easter 2022. 3. Our Regional Parenting Helpline, Parentline NI continues to receive calls from parents who are struggling with educating their children as well as working from home. 4. Pauline Leeson, was asked by the Department for Communities to sit on the Anti-Poverty Strategy Expert Panel. 5. Ellen Finlay is sitting on the Co-Design group for both the Anti-Poverty Strategy and the Disability Strategy. 	

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Action for Children	Lorna Ballard	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing response to consultation on draft special educational needs regs -highlighting need for consideration of holistic approach and inclusion of need areas addressed outside school setting. Also noting over representation of children with SEN in LAC. 2. Scheduled briefing with Education Committee re; MH needs of CYP. 3. Developing response to MH strategy consultation. 4. Continuing to roll out AfC emergency fund monies to vulnerable families and participating with Barnardos NI/DfC annual appeal. Capacity to address digital poverty needs. 5. Working towards building capacity to maintain Blues service addressing YP with MH symptoms in schools. 6. We are delivering Blues digitally in SE and Western Trust areas including a mixture of digital delivery to pupils at home and 1:1 support to YP. 7. Focus on Young Carers rights. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of lockdown and reduced face to face contact/reduction in referral rates. 2. Staff illness and fatigue – seeing an increase in sickness absence use not only for COVID but fatigue and wellbeing. 3. Availability of COVID funds to be spent by end of January. We recognise the increased need in the community but don't have staff capacity to roll out the funding.

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Include Youth	Paddy Mooney	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daily tie in with young people to break down isolation. 2. Food and essential goods delivered to young people. 3. Laptops sourced and supplied to young people for connectivity and the continuation of education online. 4. An' Ideas Voice Action' (Young People's Forum) virtual event held on Mental Health with Interim Mental Health Champion, Siobhan O'Neill, and others. 5. Working closely with Govt departments and core funders to ensure continued provision of services to vulnerable young people. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital poverty. 2. Lack of face-to-face contact. 3. Isolation for young people and cancellation of external services. <p>See supplementary paper from Include Youth - Paper 6.1</p>
Action Mental Health	Amanda Jones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AMH Menssana teams continued to deliver face to face Healthy Me and Provoking Thought mental and emotional wellbeing programmes for primary and post primary school children and young people across NI until schools closed in January. 2. Many planned programmes have been cancelled and rescheduled, programmes are available online at present, however uptake of children and young people's programmes is low. 3. Programmes for teachers and school staff continue to be delivered online. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Many programmes have been rescheduled as schools are now closed. 2. Although programmes are available online, not all are suitable for online delivery due to age of participants. 3. Teams are reporting 'Zoom' apathy amongst young people.

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		<p>4. The Our Generation team have completed a pilot programme of Healthy Me for children aged 5-7, currently making revisions before roll out across the Our Generation project areas.</p> <p>5. Online parents and carers wellbeing programmes have been offered across projects and advertised on social media. A number of programmes are running across Childrens Mental Health Week 2nd -9th February.</p> <p>6. AMH Menssana have worked with the Carrickfergus and Larne locality planning group to make Healthy Me online sessions focused on the 5 ways to wellbeing available for 22 primary schools in Carrick and Larne late February/early March.</p> <p>7. The PHA funded Mindset programme for 14-17 years in youth/community settings is available for online delivery due to current restrictions – uptake of this has declined, our community contacts advise that this is due to ‘Zoom’ fatigue amongst young people.</p> <p>8. The CK5 project in Hydebank College continues to provide emotional wellbeing support for young men in Hydebank College through telephone calls and group zoom programme delivery.</p> <p>9. AMH provided a wellbeing programme for young people with type 1 diabetes through the Diabetes UK</p>	

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		<p>'Our Lives Our Voices' project, delivery of next programme has been delayed due to current restrictions.</p>	
Barnardo's	Michele Janes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of new See Hear Respond service to help children, young people and families cope with the Covid-19 crisis. 2. Ongoing delivery of face to face counselling in Special Schools and online/ telephone counselling for children at home. 3. One of our Family Centres has adapted group work to support children with anxiety and emotional wellbeing remotely- this has been in response to the ongoing level of referrals of this nature. 4. Delivery of DFC grant to address poverty in partnership with voluntary, community and education sector. 5. SE Trust Poverty Fund – we have fulfilled 130 referrals from the SE Trust since 4th Jan, including white goods, food vouchers and IT equipment for families. 6. Early Help Co-Ordinator pilot with SE Trust went live in Jan– co-located within SPOE and CAFT teams to help identify early help support for families on waiting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase in referrals for EI for children with ASD. 2. Concerns re plans for 2021/22 re funding of services. 3. Vaccination for staff in special schools.

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		<p>lists.</p> <p>7. Facilitating practical support to families of children in Special Education.</p>	
Youth Work Alliance	Stephen Dallas	<p>1. Engaged the expert panel for educational underachievement. Highlighted the potential of voluntary youth providers to widen the support young people can access in regards mental health and emotional wellbeing. The burden of responsibility does not lie solely with formal education and voluntary youth providers have a role to play, if utilised.</p> <p>2. Met the Education Committee in regards organising voluntary youth providers into 12 geographical clusters. Focused on how this will increase the quality of provision and will offer cost effective alternatives to statutory delivery of services that support wellbeing for children and young people. Also at Education Committee YWA highlighted the power of our members as they responded to Covid-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monkstown Boxing Club: https://youtu.be/PSEZdl3ylAA • Glen Parent Youth: https://youtu.be/7_Q-byPcT9k <p>3. Met the Minister for Education regarding the potential of voluntary managed youth providers to offer</p>	<p>1. Changing the strategic viewpoint of key statutory providers in regards the valuable network of voluntary youth providers in NI (currently 80 FT voluntary youth providers and YWA have 65 in our membership).</p> <p>2. Post-Covid-19 YWA are seeking a fundamental reassessment of how we invest in the network of voluntary youth providers.</p>

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		<p>significant improvements in the delivery and impact of youth services. This includes mental health support through youth centres that actively support children and young people. Furthermore, argued that Youth Centres could be utilised as a community facility through which mental health services could be offered.</p>	
ASCERT	Gary McMichael	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drug and Alcohol Intervention Service for Young people, (DAISY) providing support to 11-25 year olds with drug or alcohol issues remotely. 2. Developed an 8 week virtual parents support programme. 3. Have developed a Trauma informed Practice Toolkit for practitioners as part of CAWT MACES Project. Practitioner training being piloted in February and rolled out across cross border counties thereafter. 4. Submitted response to DoH Making Life Better – Preventing Harm & Empowering Recovery: A Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use. Our response included recommendations for regional prevention approach to substance use through planet youth model; widening remit of tier 2 drug and alcohol services to include hidden harm; a service pathway for hidden harm across tiers; training to support a trauma informed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeted prevention services for young people reduced due to COVID restrictions and lockdown. 2. DAISY service experiencing reduction in referrals to youth intervention services from usual sources, e.g. social service, GP, education. 3. Young people are more difficult to engage in support during covid restrictions (reasons include confidentiality issues communicating when they are at home with family members, and low motivation to seek support). Engagement less regular and more often in short bursts, often to stabilize crisis situations.

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		<p>approach; Integrated model of care between drug and alcohol and mental health services and focus on transition between young people and adult services.</p>	<p>4. Increase in demand from parents struggling with issues in the family related to young people substance use or behaviours.</p> <p>5. We are concerned that reduction in referral to young people's support services in environment of increased drinking, mental health issues, family conflict and domestic violence is resulting in increased hidden harms to children.</p>
<p>Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group</p>	<p>Marie Cavanagh</p>	<p>April – August 2020</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100 x dream a little dream parent and child programme packs – focusing on anxious feelings and worries with children aged 5-11. 2. 400 family activity packs focused on physical activity and children and parents playing together to 200 families. 3. 639 food parcel support for those struggling through the pandemic. 4. 12 parent and toddler online sessions delivered with 12 parents and their babies aged 0-3 focused on improving emotional wellbeing and reducing isolation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Along with the issues highlighted above LORAG has also been circulating information to parents around home schooling, and information about the vaccination programme to address the pandemic. 2. Throughout the year we also supported the provision of Childcare provision for essential workers and worked in partnership with the Trust on delivery to key health workers.

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		<p>through covid.</p> <p>September 2020 – January 2021</p> <p>5. Wellbeing and play support programmes Sept – December supporting 60 children aged 5-11.</p> <p>6. Child development programmes supporting 32 children and parents.</p> <p>7. 8 parent and toddler face to face group sessions focused on reducing isolation with 12 parents.</p> <p>8. 1220 themed activity packs – Diwali, day of the dead, Halloween, harvest, Christmas and winter family activity packs to give families fun play ideas to do at home – delivered to 220 families</p> <p>9. 150 food parcel Christmas support.</p> <p>10. Family support - Total number of SB1 family support hub this year to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 154 for a wide range of services. • 32 families accessing individual family support programmes delivered by LORAG. • 31 children accessing play therapy. • 14 young people accessing 1-1 mentoring. • 80 families supported with practical items / vouchers to relieve financial hardship. 	<p>3. LORAG has faced similar challenges to many in the Community and Voluntary Sector in maintaining the delivery of services while coping with the furloughing of some staff and ensuring that the centre is kept as COVID free as possible. During the high level lockdowns we have had to address the issue of home working and furloughing where it is appropriate while still maintaining some presence within the Healthy Living Centre/Recreation and Community Centre to ensure the provision of first response with the delivery of food parcels and support with the relief of financial hardship. Throughout the pandemic we have been working in partnership with the HSCB, Belfast Trust, Belfast City Council and the Department for Communities.</p>

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Bolster Community	Jacinta Linden	<p>Nov 2020 – Jan 2021</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Significant ask and uptake of services through seasonal #Eat, #Heat #Thrive campaign from families impacted by Covid, redundancy/furlough etc. Resources targeting seasonal gifts, food, electric, Oil telephone top ups, hygiene goods and white goods most needed. 2. Staff continue to meet high demand for Friends resilience training courses for children aged 5-12 through extended working hours. 3. Through funding from PHA small grants we have extended available facilitator pool to extend evidence-based training offer delivering online parenting courses in the evenings/weekends around behaviour management/handling anxiety- waiting lists. 4. In response to learning from a five year Family Support lottery project we have just launched an online fun activity club” The Best Club”, for children with a disability & their sibling (funded by the National Lottery for 2 years)– hugely popular and over subscribed and able to take a wider geographical cohort as online. 5. In partnership with SHSCT disability SW lead, Bolster are piloting a practical Family support service in Armagh and Dungannon to support parents with a 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuous need to keep doing funding applications/tenders to secure funding for necessary & ongoing work. 2. Rising number of families and parents in difficulty who were just about managing pre- covid. 3. Increase in referrals to Family support hub through November/December January around impact of covid on material poverty. 4. Continuous risk assessment’s and need to prioritise staff’s wellbeing and mental health as well as our beneficiaries.

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		CWD and their siblings.	
Mae Murray Foundation	Alix Crawford	<p>1. Supporting the mental health and emotional well-being of children and young people (C&YP) of all ages who have disabilities, sensory challenges or who are socially isolated by facilitating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schedule of online weekly sessions / 200 C&YP supported since November • posting of 250 Christmas Sensory Packs • 6 week emotional resilience programme / 10 YP / monthly sessions will continue for next 6 mths • 1to1 support for 6 YP identified as needing further support / funding in place to escalate • Youth panel meetings to; develop immersive theatre project in partnership with Replay; and to meet our Phd student regarding becoming co-researchers • Outdoor socially distanced Christmas event for 62 children and 63 parents/carers – all funded so cost was not a barrier <p>Parent quote: <i>“We would never have ventured out without the support of the MMF community and volunteers. It was great to get fresh air, exercise and feel safe to do so thanks to all the measures you put in place. You’ve given us a sense of belonging, improved our</i></p>	<p>1. Staffing – still only 1 staff member and 1 volunteer co-ordinating all events, administration and governance. Two part-time staff continue to be flexibly furloughed due to childcare commitments.</p> <p>2. Poor communication and untimely clarification as to whether parents and carers caring for CEV children would be vaccinated under Phase 2, Group 6, has caused a lot of stress and anxiety to families.</p>

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		<p><i>mental health and enabled our children to have fun!”</i></p> <p>2. Early intervention support has included: handing over miniature wheelchairs to 6 very young children, for long term free loan, since October – enabling them to move independently for the first time, play, learn cause and effect whilst developing essential skills.</p>	
HERe NI	Cara McCann	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have distributed money for heat/electric and/or food vouchers to those most in need. 2. A range of activities online that are age appropriate for different groups of children. 3. A range of online activities each day to support parents. 4. One to one support via video and telephone. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lots of competition for online events. 2. Posting arts and crafts material out and chasing up clients to ensure they attend online events. 3. No physical meet ups from March 2020. 4. Keeping online events interesting and different to attract clients. 5. Lack of funding – clients contacting us for example for support with food and heating- we got BCC funding but recipients had to live in Belfast. Due to our office having a Belfast address many other council funding may not be available to us- even though we work across NI.

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Wah Hep Chinese Community Association	Paul Yam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are continuing to work through the lock down supporting the Community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translations placed on social media platforms and issued to members (WhatsApp, WeChat, Facebook) enable Chinese Community to access COVID 19 information, information on Universal Credit, Business Grants Scheme, Job Retention Scheme and Self Employment Scheme. • Partnership with Craigavon & Banbridge Volunteer Bureau & Chinese Consulate Belfast and Health Centre. During the first lock down in April we provided 600 face masks to Brownlow Health Centre, Portadown Health Centre and Banbridge Health Centre, visited 66 Chinese Takeaway/restaurants, ABC council area & Newry City. Provided Face Masks, Chinese medicine and COVID-19 supporting information. • Advocacy work: Book Doctor and Hospital appointments through telephone and email, order repeat prescriptions, collection and delivery of essential items ie. Grocery, Prescription, providing support to the most isolated and vulnerable members of the community with telephone contact services for families (weekly contact). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up Face to face learning with COVID-19 safety Guidelines but because the Students are from different Schools & Family, this could be quite challenging. With distant learning some children are reluctant to sign in for the homework club. 2. Children and families are finding that lock down is quite isolating and parents are concerned about their education, well being and mental health. 3. Increase update of vaccination for the ethnic majority. 4. Admissions criteria for the Transfer 2021 which disadvantages BAME Community. 5. Education lock down is challenging given that dates are continually changing.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face support to commence 29th June 2020. We have successfully moved to larger premises from Brownlow to Portadown High Street which is a more central location for the community. Larger classrooms and better for socially distancing. <p>2. After School Club - Set up Face to face learning with COVID-19 safety guidelines, distance learning, Google classroom and Zoom. Sharing files between Teachers and Students, tutors help the pupils to improve their literacy and numeracy skills, games & fun learning tool. Age 8-11, and 12-16 students.</p> <p>3. Chinese Language Classes - Zoom on line training lessons, classroom live lesson, sharing files between Teachers and students. Tutors help the pupils to improve their reading and writing language skills. Age 6-11 and Age 12-16 6 students.</p>	