

Locality Planning Report

February 2021

Outcomes Group Update	
Achievements / Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fermanagh and Omagh LPGs working closely with FODC and MACE project on ACEs • Strabane LPG having a refresh and renew meeting on 25 February • Northern Area LPGs completed Parent and Children/Young People survey report • Progress for Emotional Wellbeing Network to share work and information across all relevant agencies (Southern Area) • 375 Children received Christmas craft packs (Northern) • On back of survey, secured funding for a range of Community Sports Network programmes, Relax and Regulate package and other EHWP programmes through AWARE and AMH (Northern) • Changing Lives Initiatives ADHD Workshops (Northern) • Migration Awareness Training (Northern) • LGBT Training (Northern) • 4 Belfast LPGs Antipoverty subgroups received funding from BCC (96K), West Belfast GP Federation (40K) and BAOG (62K). Rolling out baby packs, wifi support, food related activities and flexible fund for families
Issues / Challenges	<p>Issues re: LPG support/delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to strengthen the relevant links between LPG and the CYPSP infrastructure and accountability process. • Blurring of purpose between LPGs and FSHs in some areas • Capacity of Coordinators • Coordinator on secondment in NW • Difficulty engaging with some chairs to restart groups in NW

- Redeployment of coordinator to vaccine centre (part-time)

Issues reported by members

- Down LPG :The Principals of the 8 Post Primary Schools in the area have reported a 25% drop in free school meal applications – concerned there is a log jam in the system
- Decrease in free school meal uptake in several other LPG areas (no specific percentage given)
- Community sector staff burn out
- Families struggling with access to digital equipment/broadband/mobile data for home-learning
- Poverty including need for support for new claimants of Universal Credit.
- Increase in referrals to food banks
- Rural families struggling to access supports e.g. food banks
- Greater difficulty obtaining contact with young people and families due to restricted home visits.
- Disengagement from education/home-learning
- Anxiety about returning to school
- Sense of insecurity about their future: living in the 'here and now', day to day, with their daily/weekly routines ever changing
- Too much screen time due to online learning and lack of physical activity throughout the day making it more difficult for young people to 'switch off' which can affect sleeping patterns, mood and their overall sense of well- being.
- Lack of counselling especially for 4-11 year olds
- Lack of activities/projects for older young people)
- Home learning highlighting low levels of parental literacy and numeracy – leading to increased levels of tension/anxiety/stress in the home
- Special Education Needs- lack of services for pre-diagnosis and need for more parental support to help them manage.