

BELFAST OUTCOMES GROUP MEETING
Via MS Teams
Wednesday 9th September 2020 at 9.30 a.m.

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Ms. Carol Diffin (Chair)	Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
Statutory Sector			
Mr. Paul O'Neill	Early Years, Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
Dr Michael Murray	Safeguarding, Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
Mr. Gerry Largey	Hub Lead, Belfast HSC Trust		✓
Mr. Brian O'Kane	NIHE, Belfast Area	✓	
Ms. Caroline Karayiannis	Education Authority		✓
Ms. Barbara Porter	PHA	✓	
Ms. Cate Taggart	Belfast City Council		✓
Ms. Patricia Muldoon	Youth Justice Agency		✓
Mr. Danny Power	HSCB Belfast Local Commissioning Group		✓
Ms. Natalie Killough	Parenting Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Community Sector			
Ms. Nicola Verner	West Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
Ms. Natasha Brennan	South Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
Ms. Julie Jamison	North Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
Ms. Tracey Wilson	East Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
LPG Chairs			
VACANT	East Belfast LPG		✓
Ms. Deirdre Walsh	West Belfast LPG	✓	
VACANT	South Belfast LPG		✓
Ms. Katrina Newell	North Belfast LPG		✓
Voluntary Sector			
Mr. Peter Bryson	Save the Children		✓
Ms. Caroline Rutherford	Extern	✓	
Mr. Martin Walls	Guide Dogs	✓	
Avery Bowser	AFC	✓	
Partnership Sector			
Mr. Jackie Redpath	Belfast Strategic Partnership	✓	
In Attendance			
Ms. Una Casey	CYPSP Support		✓
Mr. Martin Sloane	Locality Planning Group Coordinator	✓	
Ms. Maxine Gibson	CYPSP		✓
Ms. Mary Murphy	Obo Gerry Largey / EIST	✓	
Mr. Declan Davey	Obo Patricia Muldoon YJA	✓	
Mr. Jim Girvan	Community Representative		✓

Summary of Actions:

Topic	Action	Responsibility
Interpreting Service for FSH	Maxine Gibson to update at next meeting.	Maxine Gibson
Living Here Board	Carol Diffin to follow up with Cate Taggart re: date of next meeting and how to share Una Casey's paper with the Living Here Board.	Carol Diffin / Cate Taggart
Education	Carol Diffin to liaise with Caroline Karayiannis re: how best to report back any education issues.	Carol Diffin
Belfast Trust Resources for Staff Wellbeing	Carol Diffin to clarify if these wellbeing resources can be shared with this group, to amend as appropriate for their own organisations.	Carol Diffin
Community Planning / Building Resilience / Plan going forward	Carol Diffin to liaise with Cate Taggart re: issues raised today and explore setting up a sub-group to include members from BCC, such as: Nigel Grimshaw, Cate Taggart, Susanne Wylie along with Carol Diffin and some Belfast Outcomes Group members.	Carol Diffin
Locality Planning Group Update Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Sloane to forward his update report to Trisha for sharing with the group. • Carol Diffin to feedback issues raised by LPG to Caroline Karayiannis and ask for an update to share with the group. 	<p>Martin Sloane</p> <p>Carol Diffin</p>
Family Support Hub information	Carol Diffin to review the Annual FSH data along with Una's paper prior to meeting with Cate Taggart.	Carol Diffin
ASD/Additional needs/CwD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Diffin to liaise with Kris McKeever re: ASD and request an update re: the resetting of those services, e.g. waiting lists etc. 	Carol Diffin

<u>Action by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>Ms. Diffin welcomed everyone to the meeting, a round of introductions were made and apologies were noted, as above.</p>
	<p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting of 24th July 2020</p> <p>1. Ongoing – Interpreting Service – Ms. Diffin has written to Maxine Gibson and HSCB highlighting the challenges re: accessing services. The position is unchanged – there is a Regional Interpreting Service and this can only be accessed via Trusts and G.P.s. Ms. Gibson will update at next meeting.</p> <p><i>Action: Interpreting Service for FSH – Maxine Gibson to update at next meeting.</i></p> <p>2. Ongoing – Ms. Karayiannis was to feedback issues re: schools reopening / communication to parents/carers – the previous conversation and issues raised were recapped. All schools have now returned – some queries re: CwD which has been slower to start and with reduced hours. Particular issues re: transport.</p> <p>3. Completed – Education Authority documents were shared with the group.</p> <p>4. Ongoing – Living Here Board – Ms. Taggart has shared Ms. Casey’s report with Nigel Grimshaw, no update received as yet and Ms. Diffin is not aware of any meeting dates. Ms. Verner advised last meeting was on 26th June 2020 and no new date has been arranged.</p> <p><i>Action: Carol Diffin to follow up with Cate Taggart re: date of next meeting and how to share Una Casey’s paper with the Living Here Board.</i></p> <p>5. Completed – Covid-19 Feedback Report – Ms. Casey has made all required amendments and additions and shared with the group.</p> <p>6. Completed – Elephant in the Room report circulated.</p> <p>7. Completed – Ms. Diffin sought clarity from Contracts Department – there were challenges during the first quarter, the aim is to work to have local delivery of full contract, no claw back this year. There is some flexibility around this. Ms Diffin advised it is expected that organisations try to deliver as best as they can albeit maybe in a different way.</p> <p>8. Completed – Venues feedback email re-circulated.</p> <p>9. Completed – NICVA Webinar – Information shared.</p> <p>10. Completed - New Community and Voluntary Sector Advisory Panel – Ms. Feeney has made contact and shared the Covid-19 Feedback report with this group.</p>

3. Meeting Emerging Need / New Pressures – Update

Ms. Diffin commenced with an update from BHSCT. Ms. Diffin provided some background information and explained the current status re: the Trust's Resetting Services Agenda, both from a general Trust perspective and from a Children's Services perspective and provided information re: challenges, impacts, current working arrangements from some of the services including Children's Home, Early Years, Child Health, Gateway, Family Centres and Contact Centres etc.

Members continued with updates from their organisations with regards, pressures, challenges, impacts etc., e.g. education issues / uncertainties / closures; virtual services / home-working; interactions with families / lack of home-visiting; self-isolation; re-opening of some services; feedback from CYP and families; mixed messages re: school communication – clear guidance would be helpful; particular issues for BAME children; digital poverty; practical support issues; financial difficulties; ASD assessments suspended; considerable stress on parents/carers; EWO not taking referrals – more pressure on FSHs and Community Organisations; alternative education; Risk Assessments completed; PPE – Comm/Vol Sector – no assistance / resource for this provision – huge costing; considerable demand for respite and emergency respite; additional pressures re: unaccompanied minors.

Action: Carol Diffin to liaise with Caroline Karayiannis re: how best to report back any education issues.

Considerable discussion ensued – situation fluctuating daily; very confusing at times; issue re: venue availability; referral rates; huge amount of stress and anxiety on Managers and Staff; Covid Relief Group set up in East Belfast; resource for staff in-Trust re: management of stress – Ms. Diffin will clarify re: sharing of same; BCC on next phase of Recovery Plan; opportunity to add to recovery plan re: anticipated issues for CYP & families over winter period; Ms. Diffin will raise with the Director of Planning and Performance to ensure what the Trust is doing is joined up in the community; Covid-19 Feedback Paper has been shared with Trust Exec Team, Trust Board and CYPSP with positive feedback – needs to link in with Community Planning through a conversation with Cate Taggart re: key messages that need to be highlighted regarding children and families.

Ms. Diffin advised, that within the Belfast Trust, they are looking at how to move forward re: Hubs and Service Delivery and she has asked the Early Intervention Support Team to scope this out, and try to reconfigure some of the contracts to meet emerging need. Ms Diffin advised that discussions have taken place with the Providers. Some money has been carried over from last year to bridge gaps in the contracts and there is £90k still available – this could be reconfigured for additional work for key priorities. This was followed by some considerable discussions re: priorities, scoping work, developing something, remaining flexible/agile; any other additional monies available; difficulty in predicting future need; need to input and include more re: CYP in the Belfast Recovery Plan, via Cate Taggart.

Ms. Diffin recapped the main points for raising with the BCC for inclusion in the Recovery Plan as follows:

- Challenges around school – supporting families / families continuing to work etc.;
- Uncertainty re: Guidance;
- Digital Poverty / BME Children / Foodbanks;
- Families on Edge of Care / at breakdown;
- Transition Phases – into Nursery / into Primary / Post Primary.

Mr. Redpath acknowledged the main points and that he can raise via Belfast Community Plan. Ms. Diffin advised that she prepared a brief summary for CYPSP and that Ms. Casey was in attendance at that meeting also. Ms. Diffin will also take the report to CSIB and get an update from the other Chairs of Outcomes Groups regarding the challenges regionally. She noted that not all Outcomes Groups have been meeting as regularly as we have and that the feedback was positive for Belfast Outcomes Group. Ms. Diffin suggested that a couple of people from this group meet with Ms. Taggart to begin to discuss some further joined up working.

Ms. Walsh suggested that we need to prepare re: resilience and further discussions continued re: the issues – need to start preparing people, no furlough scheme after October, potential for massive unemployment, we have some short-term money – what happens next year to meet increasing levels of need, there has been a significant impact on vulnerable sections of community, impacts re: school closures/self-isolation – no funding/pay for certain workers to stay at home, massive implications on household budgets, increased poverty, no Dept. bid for Childcare sector. Mr. O’Neill advised that Early Years SW teams remain as flexible as possible with providers – will be enforcing Minimum Standards but will be flexible, issues re: some schools providing wraparound care but no need for registration – impact on childcare sector, older cohort disadvantaged – no access to IT, agreement re: raising Ms. Casey’s report with Belfast City Council and small group being set up including Ms. Taggart, Mr. Grimshaw, Ms. Wylie and members of Belfast Outcomes Group.

Action: Carol Diffin to clarify if the Belfast Trust Wellbeing Resources can be shared with this group, to amend as appropriate for their own organisations.

Action: Carol Diffin to liaise with Cate Taggart re: issues raised today and explore setting up a sub-group to include members from BCC, such as: Nigel Grimshaw, Cate Taggart, Susanne Wylie along with Carol Diffin and some Belfast Outcomes Group members.

4. Locality Planning Group – Update

Mr. Sloane provided an update. The Locality Planning Groups have continued to meet virtually every 6 weeks, over the last number of months and have been very successful. Similar issues have been raised across all 4 groups – childcare, education, disability services / respite, staff care. Scoping exercises have been completed re: how to assist EA colleagues, e.g. Engaging Children and Young People. They have committed to continue to meet to share experiences and map the way forward. Mr. Sloane shared that school uniforms have been distributed via various forums, e.g. hostels, BME Groups. Ms. Walsh fed back from their meeting – Angela Mervyn was in

attendance re: Alternative Education, it was made clear that they are very willing to step in and support but will not take over schools, they do not have sufficient resources or funding and do not have the opportunity to close and be backed by DE. Mr. Sloane noted that this has been included within the scoping exercise. Ms. Diffin added that education is a critical theme throughout all of the issues raised.

Action: Martin Sloane to forward his update report to Trisha for sharing with the group.

Action: Carol Diffin to feedback issues raised by LPG to Caroline Karayiannis and ask for an update to share with the group.

5. Family Support Hub – Update

Ms. Murphy provided an update. The Annual Report Card has been disseminated. This is up to 1st April, therefore little impact from Covid at this point. The figures are not yet available from the first quarter of this year to identify any gaps/differences from last year. It is anticipated that there will be significant changes re: service delivery.

The monthly meetings with the FSH Coordinators are continuing to take place. Anyone under contract reports monthly into BHSCT.

A number of emerging issues have arisen, e.g. behavioural issues being magnified during lockdown, anxiety issues correlating with school attendance, resurgence in behavioural and anxiety re: return to school – coping with school/establishing routine/bullying, support for children with ASD/awaiting diagnosis – waiting list is not reducing, difficulties re: lack of face to face supports, Disability support – lack of respite/lack of all services/some providers have been able to provide some solutions, good response from providers overall – delivered but slightly different.

The main demands and pressures are Disability (Respite), children's anxiety re: return to school, practical support (uniforms etc.), childcare in event of school closures, high levels of referrals re: children's and young people's mental health.

The three main themes are:

- Disability Services and Family Support
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing
- Financial and Economic Pressures

With regards referral rates, during the first part of lockdown, rates of self-referral dropped and rates of referrals from statutory bodies increased, e.g. Gateway and CAMHS. The number of referrals has continued to rise steadily, a considerable amount in relation to practical support e.g. school devices, food parcels etc.

Ms. Diffin noted that this information combined with Ms. Casey's paper provides a full picture of impacts during this time and the nature of services being requested.

Action: Carol Diffin to review the Annual FSH data along with Una's paper prior to meeting with Cate Taggart.

	<p>Ms. Wilson added that they had undertaken a survey with parents after lockdown period and provided some feedback to the group, particularly re: some benefits e.g. potty training easier, being with children joyful, better speech and language skills etc. With regards ASD/CWD, some parents found it easier to be at home as some children's behaviours calmed down and it is a struggle for some now being back to more normal situation. This is very complex. Mr. Bowser noted that the information we now have is very interesting as we are moving beyond anecdotal information now and we need to get a grip on all of these complexities. With regards to complex children in care cases, taking contact out of the equation has been positive. Ms. Diffin added that there has been competing complex responses with regards the Contact situation.</p> <p><i>Action: Carol Diffin to liaise with Kris McKeever re: ASD and request an update re: the resetting of those services, e.g. waiting lists etc.</i></p>
	<p>6. Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting on 24th July 2020 was Mr. Girvan's final meeting with the group as he is no longer a community rep. with CYPSP. Ms. Diffin has corresponded with Mr. Girvan last night and will send another email on behalf of the whole group. • Regional Partnership Membership – Ms. Diffin encouraged people to cascade the email out to eligible candidates within their organisations and anyone else who would meet the criteria • Ms. Diffin wished to thank the group for their ongoing commitment during these challenging times and for everything both themselves and their organisations are doing.

7. Dates of Future Meetings

Date:	Time:	Venue:
Tuesday 10.11.20	10.00 a.m.	MS Teams meeting