



## MINUTES OF NEWTOWNABBEY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP MEETING

TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2021 @3PM VIA ZOOM

<b>Attending:</b> Adelyn Carr	Ballyclare Family Focus
Jude Murphy	Network Personnel
Claire Larkin	Action for Children
Alix Jackson	Glengormley High School
Noreen McClelland	Councillor Antrim and Newtownabbey BC
Alison McDaid	EA
Claire Humphrey	Barnardos
Suzanne Kelly	Triangle Housing
John Lyster	Loughshore Education Centre
Michelle Purdy	Ballyclare Presbyterian Church
Elaine Roden	Women's Aid
Andrea Graham	NHSCT
Leah Glass	NHSCT
Kate McDermott	NHSCT
Bernie McGarry	NHSCT
Una Casey	HSCB
Stephanie Hamilton	Hillcroft Special School
Gerard Hughes	CRIS NI
Wendy Burgess	Start360
Grace McCann	NIACRO
Maria Annett	Disability Action/Counsellor

Audrey Mullan	Autism NI
John Hunter	Community Sports Network
Peter Shaw	Community Sports Network
Sinead McDonagh	EA, Intercultural Education Service
Kathy Wolff	Community Relations Forum, Barron Hall

**Apologies:**

Laura Forte	NIACRO
Emma Spence	PSNI
Ricky Mehaffey	Greater Ballyclare Youth for Christ
Roz McFeeters	Hillcroft Special School
Nigel Arnold	Glengormley Integrated PS
Eileen Russell	WayMaker Child Therapy
Tracey Sproule	NHSCT
Brenda Doherty	Abbey Sure Start
Tracey Robinson	Fresh Minds Education
Nuala McStravick	Bryson Future Skills
Pamela Sweeney	Action for Children
Rachel Horner	Action Mental Health

### **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Acting Chair, Kate McDermott, welcomed all to meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Apologies were noted.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday 10 November 2020.

### **COMMUNITY SPORTS NETWORK**

Kate introduced John Hunter and Peter Shaw from the Community Sports Network. The NHSCT secured funding to be able to offer a range of sport/physical activity

programmes through Community Sports Network NI to locality planning group member organisations. Sports/physical activity was identified as one of the top priorities/gaps in the recent Children and Young People/Parents survey. It is hoped that this will go in some way to address the responses from both CYP and Parents. A brochure has been shared with all via email and an expression of interest form will follow soon.

John Hunter, Operations Manager of Community Sports Network, delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the group. CSN programmes cover not only sports but education, learning, mentoring, being active, leadership development under the main headings of:

- Educate and Activate (5-11years)
- Participate and Lead (12-18years)
- Active Life (18+)

Councillor Noreen McClelland asked if the programmes are suitable for those with disabilities. John replied that they are able to work with all groups and link with Disability Sport.

John is happy to be contacted with any further questions.

Kate thanked John for his presentation. The deadline for expressions of interest is Wednesday 27 January @5pm. An email will be circulated to all members.

### **FAMILY SUPPORT HUB UPDATE, CLAIRE LARKIN**

Family Support Hubs are finding it is very busy with restrictions and lockdown. Families are finding it difficult with schools closed, home schooling. There is an increase in requests for financial help – essentials such as food, oil, and electric.

They are in the early stages of working with Save the Children regarding funding – Kate has been involved in these discussions. They are currently looking at hub partners to help with referrals for families with child/children 0 – 6 years. Claire will update the group when they know more.

Families are frustrated with online services and they are finding that some are reluctant to engage. Waiting lists are increasing and some services are closed to referrals. They expect to see an increase in the level of unmet need.

Funded counselling is available through Family Support Hubs for those aged 8 years plus. They can refer 6 per hub to each provider - the Vineyard and Breakthrough NI.

Alix Jackson highlighted a query in relation to a referral to the Family Support Hub. The matter was discussed and it was advised that it should be fed back to the outcomes group – there is a gap in services for those living/attending schools outside the THRiVE area.

Adelyn Carr said that Family Focus provides counselling for those aged 8+ but capacity is limited. Adelyn said perhaps an action for the group should be to address the capacity of counselling in the area.

John Lyster and Alix Jackson provided some feedback from schools on blended learning and those attending school. They feel blended learning has improved. They are finding some are engaging and some are not. Adelyn asked if they needed volunteers to help in schools. John and Adelyn are to link up after the meeting to discuss.

## **CYPSP UPDATE, UNA CASEY**

A Parents Reference Group is being set up to look at the impact of Covid-19 on children with disabilities. If there are any members who are working with families who may be keen to get involved please let Una know. Una will share the details with Bernie to send out to members. Stephanie Hamilton will link in with Una after the meeting to discuss.

**ACTION:** Bernie to share Una's email with the group

Una updated that the Outcomes Group are setting up a subgroup to discuss the Configuration of Locality Planning Groups. They would like at least two members from the Newtownabbey group to attend a meeting in February/March. The aim of the group is to consider the most effective configuration of Northern Trust groups, i.e. what geographical area each locality planning group should cover, should the groups and meetings remain in the same geographical basis as they are, should the groups cover a different geographical area, should groups merge or split. An options paper will be shared with those taking part in the subgroup and any decisions will be fed back to all LPG groups for final consultation. Claire Humphrey volunteered to attend. Una suggested if anyone else was keen to contact Bernie.

The Regional Priorities for 2021-2024 are:

- Children's mental health and emotional wellbeing, in particular but not exclusively children in the 5 - 10 age groups.
- Early intervention support for children with disabilities and their families.
- Support to children whose wellbeing is being affected by disruption to their schooling.
- Contribution to strategic cross departmental actions in response to food and fuel poverty, as well as locality based service responses.

## **BREAKOUT ROOMS**

Kate updated the group on the discussion at the last meeting regarding setting priorities for the group. All had agreed on two priorities - Resilience and Emotional Health & Wellbeing and Parental Support/Family Support. Attendees were split into 4 breakout rooms to discuss what our other priority/priorities for 2021-2024 should be. Bernie informed the group of other priorities that came up last time in some of the groups: ADHD/ASD, Parental Literacy, Ethnic Minorities, and Poverty.

**Group 1:**

- Poverty is the overarching priority including digital and other. Michelle said families with hidden poverty are not coming forward – it's not always those on benefits that need the support.

**Group 2:**

- Poverty key priority – Uniform exchange suggested as a potential action
- Reluctance and stigma associated with accessing poverty support services/schemes

**Group 3:**

- Additional needs – support for parents and children. Support for siblings who can be forgotten.

**Group 4:**

- ADHD and ASD - pre and post diagnosis, length of process an issue.
- Require a greater knowledge of what is available for families on waiting lists
- Poverty – information on universal credit for those applying for the first time/how to navigate the system.

Kathy Wolff updated the group that as part of their response to rising levels of poverty they have vouchers for Tesco in Glengormley. They are a hub partner for the Department of Communities Pallet Scheme. It is not means tested and is for families in difficulties. It is time limited until 31 March, anyone interested get in touch. Alix and Kathy will link in after the meeting.

Michelle Purdy said she has some vouchers for butchers and veg shops for families in the Greater Ballyclare Area. Get in touch with Michelle if interested.

The group agreed the Newtownabbey Locality Planning Groups priorities for 2021-2024:

- Children's Resilience and Emotional Health & Wellbeing
- Parental and family support
- Children with additional needs
- Poverty

Our next meeting will be a workshop to discuss actions for the priorities.

**INFORMATION SHARING**

Sinead McDonagh from the EA works with Roma/Irish Travellers. Primary School applications are now all online and need to be completed by end of January. If aware of any family that needs assistance please contact Sinead.

## **AOB**

Kate reminded members to complete membership and GDPR forms and send back to Bernie. Anyone interested in becoming Chair of the group please get in touch with Bernie, Kate or Una for info.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 3pm via Zoom.