

Minutes of the Waterside Locality Planning Group Meeting held on 9 March 2021 at 10am, on Zoom

Present:

Erin McFeely	Developing Health Communities (LPG Chair)
Anne Ross	Strength to Strength Programme in Extern
Claire McLaughlin	Hillcrest Trust
Linda Watson	Caw & Nelson Drive Action Group
Claire Russell	Irish Street Community Association
Una Casey	CYPSP
Catriona Irwin	Newpin
Niamh McKinney	Social Work Manager, FIS, Rosstown House
Paula Kee	Administration (minute taker)

Apologies:

Allison Wallace	Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership
Carmel Burns	Start 360
Roisin Hamill	Foyle Women's Aid

Welcome and Introductions

Erin welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced Paula Kee and advised that she would be taking notes of today's meeting. A round of introductions took place.

Erin thanked Una for her comprehensive minutes from the meeting held on 19/01/21. There were no amendments noted.

Apologies

Noted above

CYPSP- Purpose, Linkages and Shared Learning

Una gave a presentation on the purpose, structure, linkages and examples of work taking place in other LPG areas. The presentation highlight the importance LPGs work together first to look at the gaps or issues and what can be done locally as a group, and raise this through to the Outcomes Group.

Linda queried if there should be somebody on the group from Support Hubs Una advised that they have been invited and confirmed that Hubs should be coming to the LPG meetings. She will follow up with the coordinator.

Una noted that there appears to be different approaches in different areas with Family Support Hubs which are being looked at.

Erin spoke on membership and the different stakeholders on the model for Locality Planning and queried if there anyone the group felt was important to try and engage with. Una advised that she highlighted at the recent Regional CYPSP meeting the need for organisations to delegate their staff to the LPGs including EA and PSNI reps. Una noted that a PSNI representative gave his apologies for the last meeting.

Action: Una to follow up at next Regional CYPSP meeting.

Catriona queried if Elected Representatives were invited. Una advised they weren't on the mailing list she received and noted that Elected Representatives do attend in some areas and there was an MLA who chaired a Locality Planning Group and agreed that it would be useful to have Elected Representatives and asked members if they had anyone in mind to advise her so she could issue an invite or speak to them and advise them what the LPG was about.

Catriona suggested inviting Housing Executive.

Claire suggested at the next meeting looking at each of the identified groups and work out who needs contacted and do a formal invite through the Chair of Partnership.

It was noted that Health can be hard to get engaged in the Groups. Niamh noted that they also found it difficult with Case Conferences trying to get GP's to attend but stated that GP's now have Social Workers attached to each Practice and they are attending meetings and feeding back to the GP's anything they need to know and suggested inviting Social Workers from GP Practices. Una advised in other Locality Groups they have good relationships with Social Workers in GP Practices and the feedback is that they have found this very useful and beneficial.

It was suggested that an invite should also be extended to the Mental Health Practitioners attached to the GP Federations.

Linda spoke on the Council and advised that they were currently doing work around Children and Young People and suggested inviting Claire Lynch who attends the Western Outcomes Group to do a presentation

and update group on the different things going on. Una advised that she has spoken with Oonagh McGillion who's involved in Community Planning in the Council and is doing a bit of work behind the scenes around Elevate.

Linda suggested if people didn't want to attend meetings regularly they should just attend whenever there's an update to keep the group up to date.

Anne advised that Claire Sinton from the Hope Centre attended a Hub meeting and done a presentation and stated that the hope was they were going to bring in Counselling mainly around Pregnancy and Pregnancy Laws in conjunction with Life NI. Una advised that she hoped to schedule Claire or a representative from Cornerstone to attend to give a presentation as they also do food and clothing banks, look at debt and budgeting and are hoping to launch a Social Supermarket. They also do hospital packs for expecting mums and are linking in with Link NI regarding Counselling for Mums and Dads for any pregnancy related issues.

Una stated there were some good suggestions to work on and asked the group if they think on anybody from the Voluntary or Community Sector they feel needs to be invited to send through names and a formal invitation can be sent.

Action: Una to invite Claire Sinton to give a presentation on the service Life NI can offer.

Action: Members to invite colleagues from the Community and Voluntary Sector.

Action: Members to contact Una with suggestions of local representatives to invite to the LPG.

Action: Claire Lynch to be invited to present on the UNICEF work that is ongoing.

Erin spoke on Una's presentation and asked the group to look at the objectives and if anyone had any thoughts on how well the Group was doing or if there was anything they could do differently they would revisit this at the next meeting.

Action: Una to circulate presentation

Western Area Outcomes Group Update

Erin spoke on a Western Area Outcome Group workshop that took place which she couldn't attend and asked Linda and Allison if they could update the meeting.

Linda advised that this was a Planning Day and they were split into three groups and given the same three questions below and had to come up with ideas to inform the new Western Outcomes Group plan.

- 1) All Children and Young People have the best start in life and are emotionally and physically healthy
- 2) That all Children and Young People are safe and their welfare is promoted within their homes, school and communities
- 3) All Children and Young People are supported to thrive and achieve their potential

Linda advised that she hoped to have copy of the report at the next meeting which can be shared as this was the Western Outcome Group plan going forward.

Una advised that she had received a draft copy before this meeting and noted that a lot of the discussion was around gaps that Covid has highlighted and also highlighted the great work that is going on. Una noted that it was agreed to set up Task and Finish Groups from the membership of the Outcome Groups. Progress will shared with LPGs.

Una advised the group that it would be good to have a Locality Planning Action Plan for the next three years. Erin questioned timescale for an Action Plan and Una advised that with trying to build the group up it would need to be later on in September or October to let the membership build up.

Linda advised that she believed there was no point going off in a tangent and suggested looking at the Western Area Outcomes Group priorities and see what comes out of their overall plan as all groups have to feed into each other so when everybody gets sight of the plan that would give the group a chance come September / October to use that plan to make our plan.

Una advised Linda and Allison that she would keep them updated on the plan and what the next stage is and noted that it was really good that

there were a lot of people volunteering for each of the Task and Finish Groups which was a really good way of building momentum from the Outcome Groups and taking forward and driving the actions. Erin queried the date of the next Western Area Outcomes Group and Una confirmed the last Wednesday in April (28/04/21).

Family Support Hub Updates and Linkages

Discussed above

Members Updates

Caw & Nelson Drive Action Group - Linda advised that they were still in the same position with Covid and were still referring people and families for food parcels.

Linda noted that the different groups in Waterside are doing a Slow Cooker Programme where families can apply for a free slow cooker and they get online recipes for four weeks and they can collect the ingredients from the local shop. There are five groups involved in the Waterside and five local shops, there are eight families from each group. The programme is currently looking for participants and is starting next week.

Erin spoke about discussion at the last meeting around the demand for the DFC Food and Fuel Programme and difficulties of not being able to get people what they needed and asked for an update. Claire advised that she believed there was an application submitted for additional funding and noted that the issue was possibly around just one person manning the phone and given the level of call volumes and the amount of referrals coming in from local families and older people.

Newpin - Catriona advised that families are still continuing to struggle particularly with fuel and food and noted that their service has never closed since the pandemic started which has been a real life line for some of the families being able to come in, obviously with strict restriction in place and thankfully to date there has been no outbreaks of Covid.

Catriona stated that families are really struggling and hopefully with Primary 1,2 and 3 children going back to school this will offer some respite but older children are really struggling and they're not due back

to school until after Easter (12/04/21) so it's still having a huge impact on people particularly in terms of Mental Health. Catriona advised that they are working closely with Mental Health Practitioners and colleagues in Social Services in terms of supporting families through really difficult times.

Catriona advised that Christmas was really difficult, particularly with parents who were off on furlough and are struggling financially. Catriona noted that she believes there could be a tsunami of mental health issues because people are really struggling.

Catriona that some of the parents haven't had any academic input for the last 20/30 years and the expectation on them trying to complete some of the homework is very difficult for them. Members gave examples of some of the struggles families have been facing due to juggling home-schooling.

Strength to Strength Programme in Extern - Anne agreed with Catriona and advised that they are doing garden visits and where needed are taking young people out for walks in their own community because they can't transport at the moment. A lot of families and even families you thought would be stronger are struggling. Some families have a number of young people in the house and are trying to do home schooling and have to work from home or have lost their jobs. Their whole lives have been turned upside down and they are struggling.

Anne noted concerns that young people are gathering they want to see their friends and they are gathering and advised that she is noticing with some young people are not keeping to one bubble, and are using social media to create meetings and creating fights in different communities.

A discussion took place about potential bonfires.

Social Services - Niamh gave an example of new mothers struggling for clothes. Catriona advised Niamh that they should have a discussion outside of this meeting.

Hillcrest Trust - Claire advised on an issue coming to light particularly with teenagers and older children being off school and stated that they are seeing increasing groups gathering now coming into the lighter evenings and noted that there are issues of anti-community behaviour now that would not usually be expected until the summer.

Claire noted that regardless of restrictions young people are out gathering and mixing so there is also the health aspect of that and also the risk to themselves.

Erin spoke on planning and what we need to do in terms of helping people to recover from this and tackling some of the residual things in terms of family, mental health or young people's behaviour.

Claire advised that being able to get face to face youth work back would be a priority to engage young people to address risk taking behaviour. She noted that it was a matter of waiting to hear what the review says next week and hoping that there is some progression because the children are fed up with Zoom.

Claire recapped on a point mentioned earlier about the need to rebuild social relationships and advised that is key. In Hillcrest, educational support for both Primary School and Secondary School ages, providing support in an informal setting is key. She noted that Hillcrest have also applied for some funding for Counselling and Mindfulness workshops for children of all ages and building up that social connection and giving them skills to do that is going to be absolutely key.

Claire advised that they were worried about people not engaging once they are allowed to open again; people have become very isolated so they are looking at a project that will reach out to both older people and families. There could be people who will be very hesitant and are still frightened.

Erin spoke on earlier discussions regarding getting new people to the group like elected representatives and queried again if they should be invited around a group or did the group want to have a discussion about what they need to have in place in the Community to support families and young people in Covid recovery, what the key needs are going to be and the planning going forward.

Claire advised that she thinks this would be good for the group if these meetings moved to have a particular focus rather than having 4 or 5 items on an agenda and you could invite people accordingly. It was noted that themed meetings work really well and it was suggested maybe having a themed meeting on social connections and relationships. Erin advised that if people were in favour, this could be explored further at next meeting.

Any other Business

Period Poverty

Una advised that there was some funding left from small grants from the Western Area Outcomes Group and they have agreed approx. £2,500 which is going to be given to each Locality Planning Group through the Chairs if they are in agreement and then distribute out to the Locality Planning members and asked group on their thoughts.

Members suggested that the Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership would be best placed to lead in this.

E-zine articles, FYIs

Una advised members that if they would like anything included in the E-zine or FYI, please send through to her.

Una highlighted the Trauma Informed School Training which is taking place on 25th March 2021 via Zoom if anyone was interested in signing up.

Future Meetings

Tuesday 18th May 2021

Tuesday 20 July 2021

Tuesday 21st September 2021

Tuesday 16 November 2021