

Antrim/Ballymena Children's & Young People's Strategic Partnership Locality Planning Group

Thursday 16th September 2021 at 10am via Zoom

MINUTES

Attending

Mervyn Rea	Chair
Gerry McVeigh	Co-Chair, Assistant Manager, YES Start 360
Lynsey McVitty	Health and Wellbeing Officer (Antrim/Ballymena) NHSCT
Sabrina Lynn	Health and Wellbeing Manager (Antrim/Ballymena) NHSCT
Linda Wylie	Health and Wellbeing Programme Support Officer NHSCT
Hannah Bowyer	Community Development Officer, Ballymena South Community Cluster
Grace McCann	Project Worker, FAMILY LINKS, NIACRO
Alison McDaid	Senior Youth Worker Team Leader, Education Authority
Stefanie Buchanan	Community Development Officer, Antrim & Newtownabbey Council
Siobhan Davies	Youth Diversion Officer – Ballymena, PSNI
Sinead McDonagh	Education Co-ordinator, Intercultural Education Service – Education Authority
Andrew Woodside	NRC
Rosemary McKee	Intercultural Education Service Officer, Education Authority
Colette Slevin	Action Mental Health
Denise McVeigh	Play Development Office, Mid & East Antrim Council
Dionne McCaig	Network Personnel
Valerie Maxwell	CYPSP
Leona Christie	Toybox Project Worker, Early Years
Chris Lindsay	Education Authority
Nigel Montgomery	Senior Youth Worker, Ballymena, Education Authority
Philip McAllister	Antrim & Newtownabbey Council
Melanie Maxwell-McIlroy	CFSP Network Personnel

1. Welcome & Apologies

Gerry welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced with a round of introductions.

Apologies:-

Clare Larkin, Family Support Hub
Veronica McKinley, NACN
Claire Kelly, Family Support Hub
Jennifer Todd, Oasis Antrim
Natalie Bell, Network Personnel
James O’Kane, Antrim & Newtownabbey Council
Rachel Horner, Action Mental Health
Stephen Warwick, PHA
Karen Sykes, Princes Trust

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

Lynsey informed members she is partially redeployed so may take longer to response to emails.

4. Valerie Maxwell - CYPSP Translation Hub - CYPSP

Valerie brought us a very informative overview of the Translation Hub.

The hub was established in order to provide a central point repository to access information regarding housing, public health, education, policing etc. in order to help signpost the ethnic minority community.

Browsealoud application is available. Click to receive a choice of 110 languages including Tetum. You have an option to play out information by clicking on play button to help facilitate those with literacy issues.

Various leaflet resources are also available in pdf format.

A health section includes information on how to register for a GP, Hospital Services and Dental Services etc.

Public Health section has lots of information on Covid 19, flu etc.

Education Information section contains advice and guidance for families and is also linked to Education Authority website.

A Covid 19 section provides information on vaccinations, support and resources including leaflets and posters.

Government Services section gives direct link to NI Direct website.

A further section deals with Sign Language.

Information is also provided regarding the EU Settlement Scheme which has been extended to the end of October and updated information is available in this regard.

A link is also available to Youth Wellness Web Central Platform to signpost young people to child friendly, accessible information.

All partners were impressed by the information given regarding this very important resource for those working within communities where English is not the first language.

5. Family Support Hub Update

The Family Support Hubs referrals are still busy since our last meeting. The referrals were quieter in August, however these are continuing to increase going into September. There is currently a recruitment drive for additional staff members for the Hubs.

The Hubs are back to networking and have been out and about at various events/shopping centres over the past weeks to promote the Family Support HUBS to the local areas. We had leaflets and posters to hand out alongside lovely Action for Children merchandise. Leaflets and posters can be posted out to anyone who wishes to display these within their organisation. If there are any upcoming local events, fairs, fun days etc. we would love to attend for further networking opportunities.

Our emergency fund is still available for essentials: food, oil and electric. Counselling remains in place funded through the hubs however spaces are very limited.

Ongoing theme – summer saw difficulties with a lack of summer schemes and face to face activities for children and young people and befriending remains a high request but with limited services. Also ASD face to face services are continually requested however we only have the telephone support available. Under 5 services remain very low outside of Sure Start and Home Start services.

Still a number of services are running virtually – parents are not as willing to engage virtually and requesting face to face support.

6. Member Updates

Gerry McVeigh – Start360 Youth Engagement Service (YES)

Schools

- Castle Tower - Facilitating x 5 morning sessions for post 16 classes
- St Patricks College - facilitating group & individual sessions Mon-Thurs mornings
- Ballymoney High School - facilitating RSE sessions, facilitated Peer Mentoring to Peer Mentors & Prefects, delivered ACEs Level 1 to staff and have Level 2 booked to deliver in October
- Our Lady of Lourdes (Ballymoney) – facilitated Peer Mentoring and delivering RSE sessions

YES

- Facilitating open access Drop-In sessions Tue/Thurs/Sat
- Facilitating Young Women’s Group Thurs evenings (17–25 year olds)
- Facilitating Young Men’s Football Thurs evenings
- Facilitating Cara Friend LGBTQI+ Group fortnightly (Wed afternoons)

Connections - available for awareness sessions on drugs and/or alcohol (for young people and adults)

Targeted Life Skills – available for Life Skills sessions for young people (Health & Wellbeing, Decision Making, Risk Taking, Communication Skills, Dealing with Emotions, Relationships and Harm Reduction with drugs/alcohol)

DAISY – supporting young people aged 11-25 with substance use through Northern Trust

VOICES – supporting young people who have been affected by others substance use ‘hidden harm’

Lynsey McVitty – NHSCT

- The Paediatric Autism Service have an “Exploring ASD” podcast series aimed at parents and carers of autistic young people.
- Text a Nurse: Is someone is aged 11-19 they can text a School Nurse in confidence about their health and wellbeing issues such as self- harm, sex, alcohol, drugs, bullying and stress. Mob – 07480 635982
- Nutrition Awareness workshops ongoing, details on NHSCT Facebook page
- STI Home Testing Kits available 16+
- HSC Adoption and Foster Care Service are calling out for people to provide supported lodgings accommodation for young people aged 16-21 who are not quite ready to live on their own.

Hannah Bowyer – Ballymena South Community Cluster

Ballykeel 1 Moving Forward Community Group are hosting a Family Fun Day on Saturday 25th September from Ballykeel Community Centre. Two of our Ballymena South Cluster groups were successful in their Making Life Better applications, including Ballykeel Together Development Association with their Bright Stars Youth Club for young people with Autism and/or additional needs and their Illusion Dance Class, and Ballykeel 2 & District Community Association with their boxing programme for young people. Sure Start Ballymena will be holding some activities at Ballee Community Centre in December and January, including *Let's Play* and *Musical Movers* sessions. The EA Ballymena South Youth Outreach Worker R. McKenzie will be starting a Youth Programme from Ballee for young people aged 11+. Ballee has had a lack of services for children and young people for some time now so both of these projects will be hugely beneficial to families in the area.

Alison McDaid – Education Authority Antrim and Newtownabbey Youth Services

Youth Centres in Antrim have opened and range from 2 nights (Ballycraigy and Crumlin) to 5 nights a week clubs (Parkhall). Summer schemes ran in the 3 centres (Parkhall, Crumlin and Ballycraigy) and staff are now planning the September – December programme.

Area Youth Workers worked across Antrim, Crumlin and Randalstown in the summer months and will continue to do so in this new term – programmes include Go Create – linking with young people from the Republic of Ireland around mental health, and anti-social behaviour. Full time staff are working within St Benedict's and Parkhall College during the day engaging young people in accredited and non-accredited programmes.

We will be advertising a new Trainee leadership programme for young people 18-25 interested in youth work and they will complete training one night a week and work within a Youth centre or with an Area Youth Worker two nights a week for up to 16 weeks. Details to follow.

Stefanie Buchanan – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

- **Slow Cooker Scheme** running in partnership with Northern Trust - 16 people signed up starting 20th September
- **Christmas Toy Scheme:** The Community Toy Scheme will initially run as a pilot in 2021. The areas of focus will be closely linked with the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas in Rathcoole (Newtownabbey) and Grange (Ballyclare) with additional schemes in Crumlin and Glengormley. Four community organisations out of the eleven who participated in the School Uniform Scheme have expressed an interest in delivering a Christmas Toy Scheme in 2021 with council support:

- Listening Ear (Macedon);
- St Johns, Church of Ireland (Ballyclare);
- Fit moms and kids (Glengormley);
- A safe space to be me (Airport).

School Uniform 2021 Scheme Outcomes

- 7000+ items of good quality school uniform items donated to the schemes
- 70 + schools represented across Primary, Secondary and SEN Schools
- 630+ families were supported by the schemes
- Some schemes are continuing to operate beyond the initial timeframes

Sinead McDonagh – Intercultural Education Service

Work continues in supporting Roma and Traveller families to access education. Anyone working alongside Irish Travellers or Roma people that may need support regarding any aspect of their education, please reach out: Sinead.mcdonagh@eani.org.uk I work from Antrim to Newtownabbey with Roma and Traveller families.

A Roma book resource is currently in the early stages of development. It is designed to be a celebration of Roma culture and to highlight experiences as described by our Roma young people here in Northern Ireland. This should be available to schools and educational settings next year.

Andrew Woodside - NRC

We are currently recruiting for new teams for the Prince's Trust Team Programme in Newtownabbey, Coleraine, Ballymena and Antrim.

We offer a 12 week personal development programme that includes:

- Level 1/2 qualification in Teamwork, employability and community skills
- A 2 week work placement
- A youth led community project
- 3 Outdoor activity days spread out through the course.
- Travel and Childcare costs covered.
- A chance to return to a routine and meet new people.

Contact: Andrew.woodside@nrc.ac.uk for Ballymena and Antrim teams.

Rosemary McKee – Intercultural Education Service

Currently 30 newly arrived/ non-registered Roma children have been enrolled in schools since the beginning of term.

If anyone comes across any Roma families with children 3-16 not currently registered in nursery/ pre-school, primary and post-primary in the Ballymena area, please be in contact and I will help them get school places in the most appropriate setting available. Contact details: rosemary.mckee@eani.org.uk 07860527997

Denise McVeigh – Mid & East Antrim Council

- Forest School Development programme funded by Mid and East Antrim Council – new applications opened for Schools, play groups and youth organisations in Mid and East Antrim. A six week outdoor programme with a teacher/leader get trained up in the Level 3 qualification.
- Pop up Play sessions in the town centre's @ the pop up shop in Ballymena tower centre – Wednesday 27 October to Friday 29 October
- Changing Place units now fully operational at People's Park Ballymena and Carnfunnock Park (funding secured from Access & Inclusion)
- A&I funding secured for accessible picnic tables at several destination parks
- Quiet hours ongoing and still popular at People's Park Ballymena
- Progressing the next stage of Mid and East Antrim's Play Investment framework

Dionne McCaig – Network Personnel

The Antrim and Newtownabbey Community Family Support Programme are still taking referrals for anyone in need of health and social care support and needing help to access Education, Training and Employment. We are currently office working 2 days per week and home working the remaining 3 days with all of our training taking place online. We would encourage anyone needing support on the come up to Christmas to get in touch as we will be offering support through food hampers, Cash for kids, Salvation Army Christmas appeals, and workshops on coping with the stress of Christmas, budgeting support and cooking.

Nigel Montgomery – EA Ballymena Youth Service

We have had a good summer programme in both our Youth centres at Waveney and Ballykeel as well as a programme in the rural community of Glenravel in which we have engaged with in excess of 120 young people (9-18 years old).

We have now started our clubs again, with both clubs open, with new members always welcome. Ballykeel is open Monday - Friday with Tuesday/ Thursday open for 14yrs+. The other 3 days are open to those aged 9-13 years old. Waveney Youth

Club is open Monday/ Friday for those aged 14yrs + and is open Tuesday/ Thursday for those aged 9yrs-13yrs.

Starting in October we will be running Trainee Youth Worker programme in the Ballymena area, hopefully for those aged 18-25yrs to gain a youth work qualification.

7. ACTION PLAN UPDATE

- PANTS campaign is finished but still can get support with training sessions, parent's awareness raising sessions, parent's booklets and posters.
- Looking After Me journals to support MHEW went out across schools.
- NHSCT and MayWe created a Family Learning Arts Resource Booklet for children 5-12 years old to use during Children's Art Week 2021– 29/06-19/07/21
- Poverty/money management: Talk, Learn, Do Training complete.
- Physical Activity – Encouraging Outdoor Activity sub group me. Getting Active in the Great Outdoors photo competition during the summer – 80 photos entered from 30 children and young people.
- Survey: 30 children and young people, 46 parents completed. Written report to be shared.

Future Actions

- Gam Care Training (for staff working with young people aged 11-19): –
 - 20th September: Gambling and gaming 1.5 hours.
 - 27th September: 3 hour training.
- 2 day online Solihull Training for LPG members (10-15 members) coming on first come, first served basis. Aims to increase emotional health and wellbeing by support relationships by early Intervention in the early years.
- Incredible Years Cascade Training (0-12 years old) available in October. The programme focuses on strengthening parent-child interactions and attachment, reducing harsh discipline and fostering parents' ability to promote children's social, emotional and language development and school readiness skills.
- Trauma Informed Schools UK webinars planned for November.
- Autism NI Fundamentals of Autism training – Level 1 planned for November

8. Any Other Business

Lynsey queried if partners were happy to continue receiving one e-mail per week as piloted during the summer months. The general consensus was that this was working really well. Lynsey also highlighted that partners should continue to use CYPSP Facebook page so that all could be kept up to date with information for sharing between meetings.

9. Date of next Meeting – Thursday 18th November 2021 at 10am, to be confirmed