



**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING
MINUTES OF MID ULSTER LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP**

**FRIDAY 10th September 2021 AT 10.00AM
VIA ZOOM**

Attending:	Ursula Marshall	<i>Chairperson</i>
	Mairead Kane	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Sarah Morrison	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Josie McGuckin	<i>Empower Project</i>
	Mary Tennyson	<i>GOLD Surestart</i>
	Claire Kelly	<i>AFC FSH</i>
	Tara Gilkinson	<i>SOFT</i>
	Grainne Scullion	<i>NICMA</i>
	Rhiannon Jones	<i>SUSE+</i>
	Rosie Sleator	<i>SLT NHSCT</i>
	Charlotte Turner	<i>BCM</i>
	Siobhan Lyttle	<i>SW Family Support- NHSCT</i>
	Lee-Ann Wilson	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Denise Doherty	<i>CSWAN</i>
	Leona Christie	<i>Early Years</i>
	Anita Kelly	<i>NICHI</i>
	Rosalind Mc Guckin	<i>SW Assistant Disability team M'felt</i>
	Colette Slevin	<i>AMH</i>
	Chris Magee	<i>PSNI</i>
	Adele Fulton	<i>EA</i>
	Annette McGahan	<i>MUDC PCSP</i>
	Steven Crabbe	<i>SOFT</i>
	Helen O'Neill(Guest Speaker)	<i>Family Support NI</i>

Apologies:	Helen Currie-Simpson	<i>BCM</i>
	Teresa O’Kane	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Helen Mc Causland	<i>SUSE+</i>
	Julie Emo-Haines	<i>Fresh Minds Education</i>
	Emma O’Hagan	<i>MUDC</i>
	Clare Jordan	<i>Network Personnel</i>
	Vanessa Haddon	<i>MU Child Contact Centre</i>
	Claire Larkin	<i>FSH</i>
	Chris Lindsey	<i>EA</i>
	Joanne Dougan	<i>STEP</i>

Introductions / Apologies

Ursula welcomed all attendees to the meeting and a round of introductions were made and apologies noted.

Guest Speaker-Helen O’Neill-Family Support NI

Helen O Neill joined the meeting to give a short overview of the Family Support NI website. This holds a directory of all registered childminders in NI, along with all family support services. It was developed from the recommendation in the families matter strategy to provide a central database. The database also contains useful articles and supports the browsealoud functionality, along with other translations. The site is regularly updated and so Helen asked all members to check their details and make contact if anything is incorrect. Planners use this resource to assess need and can help to map services across NI. There is an information box on the website that can be used to ensure information is up to date. Helen asked could all those groups who work alongside mothers to check if childminders they use are registered by using this resource.

Ursula advised organisations to register if not already, and to update records if required.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising and the previous minutes were agreed and accepted to be true.

Family Support Hub Update- Claire Kelly

Claire Kelly gave an update on the family support hub. The family support HUBs referrals are still busy since our last meeting, the referrals were quieter in August however 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 & electric. Counselling remains in place funded through hubs however, spaces are very limited

Ongoing theme - summer saw difficulties with a lack of summer schemes and face-to-face activities for children, young people, and befriending remains a high request but with limited services. In addition, ASD face-to-face services are continually requested however, we only have the telephone support available. Under five services remain very low outside of SureStart and Homestart.

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

Members Update

Charlotte Turner- BCM

BCM Housing Support for Young People (HSYP)

- *Homelessness Prevention Funding*

Secured funding to facilitate the following for young people engaging with HSYP

1. Mindfulness & Stress Management Workshops
2. Gardening Workshops
3. Home Safety & Security
4. Decorating
5. Storage or Skip hire
6. Walking groups
7. Rent payment to secure private rent
8. Electricity & Heating

Held a service user forum via zoom on 25/08/2021 for feedback on what to include in a Personal Development Programme for our young people. Highlighted areas

1. Sleep
 2. Nutrition
 3. Gambling / online gaming
 4. Sexual Health
 5. Drug & Alcohol Awareness
 6. Exercise
 7. Pet Care
 8. Energy Awareness in the home
 9. Recycling in the home
 10. Money Management
 11. Stress Management
- BCM Parent Support are recruiting for Incredible Years Programme always offered out to young parents engaging with HSYP. Parents Connect has been running via Zoom weekly on a Tuesday morning 10am – 1pm and are young parents have been linking with our Parent Support Worker via Parent Connect. Child mental health is an issue for parent support: particularly second years a lot of anxiety and a lot of first years who have not been prepared at all for starting big school
 - Linked in with Mid Ulster Council Recycling to help with indoor recycling bags and food caddies to promote recycling in the home with our young people.
 - All our staff are tested weekly for COVID. Home visits are increasing with young people. Travel with young people is only being carried out in essential circumstances.
 - We have capacity for 92 but also we have 29 on the waiting list.
 - Rent is extortionate particularly in Mid Ulster - the price of 1 bed in Dungannon which have went as high as £175 per week, landlords not generally accepting young people.
 - Severe shortage of social housing with Mid Ulster Council area very under pressure to meet the needs of an increasing homeless list.

- Money and poverty: back to school, uniforms costing much more than the grant offered, many of our parents availed of the various pop-up uniform swap shops with some being able to fully kit out their clothes and supported by staff to access grants towards shoes etc.
- For our parents and young people the £20 per week additional money on UC has now been cut and the mitigations on the extra bedroom ending have now left many of our service users in significant poverty so we are very reliant on both local foodbanks and the donations from Church of Ireland.

Josie McGuckin –Empower Project

The Empower Project continues to deliver training online. The Autumn Webinars are now finalised and are due to start Monday 20th September. (List available)

We are currently offering CACHE Level 2 Understanding Autism to a 3rd group. This course is very popular with parents/carers, teachers, LSA's, social workers and other health and educational professionals.

The Empower Project has been supporting a local family and their son who has been diagnosed with Tourette's 3 years. This boy wanted to start a support group for children like himself who could find no support. He was very keen to raise awareness, promote acceptance in the community of his behaviour caused involuntarily and that he was just not a badly behaved child. Deaglan and members of Tourette Support NI met Deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill early July who had no knowledge of Tourette's but is willing to help the group in whatever way she can. The group is planning to meet the Health Minister, Education Minister, Children's Commissioner to highlight the lack of support and Tourette's specialists within Northern Ireland. They are hopeful that a Tourette's Forum can be set up with professionals to investigate why there is so little support for Tourette's. It is alarming that Tourette's affects one school child in 100 and that more than 300,000 children and adults in the UK live with this condition, and indeed this condition is more prevalent in boys. When the Health Service in NI was approached for statistics there was none. So why is there so little support for these children?

Tourette's Support NI and the Empower Project have been invited to give a presentation to the Council on Thursday 21st October.

Tourette's Support NI had a meeting with ASDA Cookstown to discuss ways of raising awareness for members of staff and customers around Tourette's. Plans are underway to have a Tourette's friendly hour in store on a Tuesday night starting Tuesday 26th October.

For further information about Empower and Tourette's Support NI contact 02879301606 or email: info@empowernetwork.co.uk

Rosalind Mc Guckin – Social Work Assistant (Disability Team)

Rosalind advised this is her new role supporting families with children who have disabilities. Rosalind was wished good luck in her new role by the group.

Tara Gilkinson – SOFT

Between April-August, our two family workers have continued to provide 156 family one to one support sessions.

We have now registered 1390 families.

16 P7 Amazing Brains Clever Cloggers Transition programmes

Provided 156 books for Nursery transition children starting Sept 2021

Provided 20 targeted Wellbeing support packs for Year 8s starting Sept 2021 in partnership with CWSAN

21/07/21 Carfunnock Family Bonding Day-21 Adults, 31 Children

11/08/21 Belfast Zoo Family Bonding Day-22 Adults, 33 Children

Inspire mental health provided a mental health video reminder for our schools who attended previous sessions with practical coping strategies (shared with all participating schools)

Social media regularly updated with community supports, low cost play and learning ideas as well as free parent information sessions within our community partners.

After a very intense year we understood through conversations with our families that they were hopeful for a little normality and social interaction this summer. During August we provided 4 weeks of summer schemes in Partnership with Speedwell trust, fully funded by The National Lottery Community Fund & Awards for All and the Halifax Foundation NI as follows:

3 weeks of summer scheme activities for 98 young people aged 4-12 years

1 week of small group summer scheme for 10 young people with ASD needs

Stephen Crabbe - SOFT

Stephen advised there is a current transitional period with staff, however looking toward upcoming plans. The summer scheme went well. Stephen advised that shared education is very difficult due to covid barriers and difficulties, however is looking at progressing this.

Leona Christie – Early Years

Leona advised that Toybox is working with Traveller families in Mid Ulster with children aged 0-4, and with the Roma community in Ballymena. They are resuming garden gate visits weather dependent and telephone support.

Grainne Scullion –NICMA

Over the summer months NICMA ran their childminding month in August, where we had various activities within NICMA, zoom storytelling, zoom mindfulness and a raffle for the childminder's teddy bears picnic photographs.

Our development officers were also out and about meeting support group members outdoors, for a catch up and providing them with goodie bags, with goodies from various local shops.

The staff at NICMA attended the NSPCC PANTS campaign workshop and since that we have booked several sessions for the registered childminders to attend, these have been filled up very quickly and we are thinking of rolling out a few more before Christmas.

Mary Tennyson –GOLD SURESTART

Gold Community Partnership Surestart is rolling out more programmes on face to face basis to offer parents and children much needed support. All Developmental Programmes for 2-3 Year Old's have also commenced in September.

Exciting news -Additional funding has been provided by Department of Education to enable Gold to expand service delivery into a new ward area ie Town Parks East in Magherafelt. Over the coming months, programmes will be available for children and parents. Referrals/ requests for registration can be made by telephone to 02886769994 or by email to info@goldsurestart.org.uk

Rhiannon Jones –SUSE+

Running in house classes in October for young people following GCSE results. Facilitating an OCN in money management and an introduction session for holistic therapies to equip young people with mindfulness tools.

Adele Fulton- EA

Working with 13-18 year olds on a one to one basis in peer and group supports. Carrying out home and school visits can fund childcare placements.

Anita Kelly - NICHI

Information on upcoming programmes and training available on social media channels and website, along with the e-zine. The classes are still online. The small grants programme had a good uptake

Colette Slevin - AMH

Delivery has been done through schools and it has been quite busy in the Mid Ulster Area. Currently doing a refresh of mental health courses to ensure a trauma informed practices are being used and promoting this. The courses are being signed off by Siobhan O Neill from Ulster University. Advised that zoom fatigue is an issue and has seen a decline in uptake. Can provide bespoke sessions and running staff sessions in schools.

Denise Doherty- CWSAN

Holding a World Suicide Prevention day fundraiser. Small grants has allowed 38 local groups to receive funding. They will be carrying out a blended approach going forward in their activities. Banardos have sessions in November to help children dealing with grief. Denise will forward this information to be circulated.

Free Online Suicide Prevention Training for Youth Facing practitioners funded by Suicide Prevention Officers Northern Area. To book

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/connections-link-life-mon-11th-oct-am-post-primary-staff-tickets-148212281925>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/connections-link-life-mon-11th-oct-pm-post-primary-staff-tickets-148212512615>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/connections-link-life-121021-eve-students-studying-to-work-with-youth-tickets-148213439387>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/connections-link-life-141021-am-students-studying-to-work-with-youth-tickets-148214791431>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/connections-link-life-thurs-141021-eve-community-youth-sector-staff-or-tickets-148214644993>

Rosie Sleator- Paediatric Community SLT

Community SLT are continuing to deliver a blended service model with a mix of face to face and virtual appointments as part of a child's journey through the service based on need and discussion with parents.

Rosie advised that she is grateful for the information sent through CYPSP, which is utilised to sign post families.

Lee-Ann Wilson – RISE NI

Rise is back up and running. Group therapy over summer was well attended and operated on a face-to-face basis. They are opening up to preschool settings, including offering behavioural therapies and in primary school sectors.

Siobhan Lyttle – SW Family Support NHSCT

Currently supporting families and young people through practical financial help. They are busy at present, carrying out home visits and contacts unless isolating in which case zoom is utilised. They are attempting to keep things as normal as possible.

Chris Magee- PSNI Cookstown NPT

Plans for coming months – Youth engagement program in conjunction with education authority. 12 week program running from Oct through to Dec.

Pizza with a cop – several dates organized with youth organisations in Cookstown. Actively seeking other groups to arrange this activity.

Halloween engagement planned for next month – focus on Cookstown and Moneymore. This will include schools visits etc. Focus on fireworks and general ASB.

Annette McGahan - PCSP

- YEPs (Youth Engagement Programmes) – currently being developed with partners - aiming for a September start.
- Domestic Violence and Internet Safety programmes will be rolling out to schools throughout autumn/winter 2021
- PCSP continues to work with partners in tackling anti-social behaviour as/where it arises.
- SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices) which help to reduce road speed will be installed close to a number of schools throughout the area.

Mairead advised the November meeting will have a Mental Health theme.

Extern offer a service for 18+ plus and Declan Morris from Extern is coming to speak re the 'Feel Better Project'.

Selena Ramsey will attend November meeting to discuss her work in Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Bespoke autism training for LPG members is in early stages of development, more details will be sent when same is organised.

PANTS refresher or new workshops continuing for any group who would like these, contact Mairead if interested. Florence Hand who was lead on this in our team is retiring in the new few weeks. (Workshops organised for NICMA and STEPS)

Mairead will update and send out Action Plan when this is done, Ursula advised this is a living document so will be updated regularly.

Ursula discussed Poverty as one of the areas in the Action Plan and how the loss of Universal Credit and the end of furlough will affect families, along with the increase in food/fuel/heating/living costs. Link with Emma O'Hagan from MUDC re same as she is working on a Poverty Plan for Mid Ulster

Anita said NIRWIN have tablets with preloaded mobile data to help those struggling in rural areas with online accessibility.

Online Safety forum beginning in NHSCT, Selena Ramsey and Kate Mc Dermott is taking the lead on this, will keep you updated on any developments re same.

Intergenerational meeting – Wednesday 22/09/2021 @ 2.15pm – let Mairead know if you would like to attend. (this meeting is along with Mid Ulster's Seniors Network)

Mairead advised there will be a new member of staff Bronagh McCrory taking over for Mid Ulster as Locality Planning Officer, Mairead will hand over to Bronagh.

Moving forward as hopefully restrictions ease – possibility of having one or two face to face meetings per year, but zoom working well at the moment for this group.

Possibility of one meeting a year being a showcase/celebration event (something to consider).

Date of Next Meeting Friday 12th November 2021 @10am via zoom