

Minutes

Derry Locality Planning Group held on 29 April 2021 on Zoom

Present:

Aileen McGuinness	BBHF
Peter McLaughlin	WDACT
Dee McLaughlin	Family First FSH OLT
Laura Feeney	Save the Children
Ciara Ferguson	Greater Shantallow Partnership
Claire Maguire	NW Youth Service
Sinead Murphy	BBHF
Michael Cunningham	EA – EWS
Claire Sinton	Hope Centre – Cornerstone Church
Jackie Connolly	Rainbow Children's Centre
Roisin Hamill	Foyle Women's Aid
Rose McCrossan	ETHOS FSH
Claire Lynch	DCSDC
Sam Lloyd	Life Charity
Teresa Sweidan	RISE NI
Carrie Tracey	Rainbow Children's Centre
Nicky Fallon	Shantallow Sure Start
Mairead McGilloway	WHSCCT
Frances Breslin	Outer West

Apologies:

Lynne Duffy	SureStart
Catherine McKnight	Early Years Organisation
Jennie Boyle	ASCERT

Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Aileen welcomed everyone to the meeting, a round of introductions took place and apologies were noted as above.

Presentation: CYPSP – Purpose, Linkages and Shared Learning

Una gave a presentation on background to the role and purpose and priorities for the regional CYPSP and how the different parts of the structure fits together, the linkages between the LPG and Family Support Hubs. The purpose of LPGs, TOR and examples of achievements of LPGs in other areas. (See attached presentation). 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 then highlighting this through to the Outcomes Group. The presentation showcased some of the achievements of LPGs in other areas.

Aileen suggested that the group holds a workshop on the collaboration in the group, gaps, membership and to produce an action plan. This plan will be informed and inform the Western Area Outcomes Group.

A discussion took place about how LPGs in other areas funded the examples given. Una noted that some of the examples were no cost and some were pooling for some pots of funding that members had, others were funded through the Outcomes Groups etc. Discussion took place about how the gaps identified by LPGs could influence WAOG funding.

Una noted that the regional priorities have been influenced by the issues highlighted by the LPGs.

Laura Feeney noted how Save the Children's emergency response programme over the last year was able to connect through LPGs to the FSHs, to identify families to avail of the support. They reached over 600 families and over 1000 children in a very short space of time. Good example of how these forums work and the relationships with families on the group is key.

Ciara noted the phenomenal amount of work over the last few years. One of the weaknesses of the groups is showcasing the work that is carried out in partnership and sharing the collaboration over the last number of years. Members really need to look at this going forward.

Ciara also suggested having a trends report circulated in advance of the workshop.

Action: Aileen and Una to organise a date for the workshop
Action: Any members interested in helping to plan workshop to contact Una or Aileen.

Western Area Outcomes Group Update

Una explained that the WAOG had some funding left after the small grants scheme and explained that period poverty has been an issue highlighted by LPGs over the last few years. It was agreed to use the funding to for sanitary products for C/V LPG members. £2,500 of funding has been distributed to the organisations that chair the LPGs to purchase the products to share out to LPG members.

Aileen explained that BBFH bought products from the local Eurospar for cost price, and plan to divide out through 3 areas, Outer North, Outer West and Triax area. Need a lead partner in the other 2 areas to take the products in to share to any organisations who might need them.

Action: Sinead to contact Ciara and Frances
Action: need to do PR on this. Aileen/Sinead to organise.

Family Support Updates

Dee McLaughlin – Family First FSH

Over the last year 576 families supported. Last quarter there was 135 referrals. Reasons for referrals included: Financial support, parenting support/programmes, isolation, anxiety, ASD support, 1-1 mentoring, behaviour support; including boundaries and routines, mental health of both parents and children; and housing issues.

Counselling and mentoring were considered essential services so were able to get extra funding for this. Save the Children funding benefitted 134 families through this hub too. WAOG small grants was used for peer mentoring focusing on 1-1 work on anxiety, isolation, behavioural needs, included work on food and nutrition, exercise, developmental work. Have these young people integrated into other services now. Received Barnardos funding in January to help support 80 families with essentials.

Gaps in services includes ASD support.

Hoping to use funding to employ a peer mentor in the Hub to meet the demand. Delivering a Transitions programme for P7s.

Referrals from Gateway, Health Visitors, self-referrals, schools, Education Psychologists, Paediatrics, and MDTs.

Referral organisations include EISS, young service, SureStart, etc.

Overwhelming workload including linking in with families, listening ear, linking with referrers and following up with them and reporting to funders.

Claire noted that the Transitions Programme is linked into all the primary schools in the Triax area. This is delivered in partnership with EA Youth Service and NW Youth Service. This is a 6 week programme in class 1 day per week to get the children ready for moving onto their new school. This is really important this year as they've missed so much of the school year. This is also delivered in Outer West schools too.

Teresa noted that RISE NI has a new regional Page Tiger link that has been included in the LPG FYIs. There are training sessions. Many of the issues raised with her team are anxiety, behaviour and sleep, which are interconnected. There are presentations for parents on the Page Tiger. Parents can email any queries. Online Solihull training for parents is also free for the rest of this year.

Action: Una to include the RISE NI link in the next FYI

Rose - ETHOS FSH

Referrals have doubled in the last year, the main need has been financial support, especially food and fuel. Families becoming dependent on this support, so there is a need to rebuild them back into the community and make sure they able to budget etc. Save the Children funding support 244 children with essentials. Also extra funding from Red Cross and Barnardo's. Extra support really helped what could be offered to families.

Gaps are the usual age range. Only EISS and Extern, but this is or over 8's; especially with ASD waiting lists increasing. Referrals for young children is an issue. Working with GP Social Workers with their slippage

funding to offer Mencap's E-PAT programme, to support families waiting for diagnosis. Also anxiety in relation to returning to school.

Teresa noted the WHSCT have started new Early Intervention service as part of their ASD work to work with children awaiting diagnosis.

A discussion took place about the E-PATs programme including cost and the delivery. Also discussion of Fresh Little Minds programme for anxiety etc. Need to keep this on agenda.

Discussion about the high waiting lists for diagnosis. Claire Lynch noted a discussion that has taken place at a recent WAOG meeting about funding allocations for children with diagnosis and children on waiting lists.

Frances Breslin – Outer West FSH

Referrals for 2020-21 there were 672. Previous year had 253, referrals have increased massively. Services requested are parental counselling, child counselling, mentoring; can provide 3 female and 3 male mentors; 1-1 holistic treatments. Long waiting list for CAMHS has increased referrals to the FSH. Normally the monthly target for referrals in the FSH is 15, in January it was 70. Funding from Save the Children 135 families benefitted. Was able to employ a child counsellor through WAOG funding. Also received funding that was used for mentoring. Applied to Children in Need to keep the mentoring going, as it is very beneficial. High volume of referrals for one coordinator.

Aileen need that having the LPG meeting again will provide a sounding board and support for members, and also help to highlight the gaps more.

Dee noted that there is obviously a massive need for the FSHs and there is a need to look at how they are supported in the future. Rose noted how the FSHs adapt to changes and demand and thinks going into the future there will be a high demand for mental health services and additional funding will be needed.

Member Updates

Laura Feeney – Save the Children.

Over 600 families and over 1000 children supported over the last year with the additional funding through DfC. This winter hardship funding was received very late in the year so worked with the FSHs to get this out to families. Currently taking stock and planning for the future. Looking at the Family Connect project and reconnection with schools. Have been trialling an online version. Having to be as responsive to the emerging needs of families. Laura and Dee acknowledged the good partnership working that developed between Save the Children and the FSHs. Laura noted that she has a great data set of the families that they have worked with, which might be helpful for the planning workshop.

Action: Laura to share data set with Una

Action: any other members who have data useful for the workshop, to send through to Una

Claire Maguire – NW Youth Service

There has been a restructure of the Voluntary Youth Services in the area. Still within own projects/organisations, but under the umbrella of the NW Youth Services. Has given extra support in regards to safeguarding, governance etc. Role changed, works solely in the city centre, Our Space building. Youth engagement service and outreach teams are based there. Throughout lockdown continued to work face to face with young people. Referrals very high for 1-1 work. Most from mental health practitioners in GP MDTs. Long waiting list for 1-1 service. Drop in has now reopened for face to face work, so hopefully this will help with the waiting lists, as they are able to get support without going through a full referral. Numbers are limited, capped at 10-15 per session but as COVID restrictions change will be able to increase numbers. Claire will represent all of the services under NW Youth Service on this LPG and will give updates from them. This includes Long Tower YC, St. Mary's YC, Matchbox YP, Bishop's Street etc.

Claire Lynch – DCSDC

Has been tying up Youth 19 which was funded by Peace IV. Working with about 3000 young people through the Peace programme and then more through events. Trying to build on this legacy of this work and next steps; e.g. skate park, will be working on the co-design of this. Also involved in the youth zone feasibility in business case, in final stages of this with youth service and c/v sector organisations to identify final proposals. Project in partnership with Cooperation Ireland and EA Youth Service for the Youth Voice for Derry and Strabane. This is now going to be run solely by the EA, with financial and officer support from council and link in with regional Youth Voice structure going forward. Also call for NI Youth Assembly, co-designed with young people, for young people to get involved. Cross border programmes running, to help young people to work together. Unicef child friendly cities, which is to involve children's voices in the decisions that shape their lives. Had a discovery day in February 2020, good understanding of priorities and identified the badges. These are healthy, equal and included and education and learning. Throughout lockdown co-designed key outcomes with the young people on the youth advisory board. At the Action Planning Stage now. Should link this into the LPG action plan.

Action: Claire to forward information on NI Youth Assembly to Una for circulation

Claire Sinton – Hope Centre, Cornerstone City Church

Based in the old channel 9 building. Massive uptake of services offered during Covid lockdowns. Main work was food bank, offer a delivery service for it. also drive through on Wednesday's between 5pm to 6.30pm. Over 100 food parcels per week. also have a clothing bank, CAP debt management centre. Just launched a pregnancy support service. Offering practical support including cots, car seats etc. For anyone who is struggling to prepare for a baby or has a small baby already. Have a counselling service for any pregnancy related issues, e.g. unplanned, perinatal depression. Counselling for any pregnancy related issues for women and men. Currently delivered on the phone due to restrictions. Variation of demographics of clients and rages of issues.

Action: Claire to share information with Una for inclusion in FYI

Carrie Tracey – Rainbow Children’s Centre

Really busy. Delivered lots of lunches and activity packs during Covid. Online services, such as rhyme time, speech and language etc. More families engaging with service.

Sinead BBHF

Supporting young people in lockdown. Linking closely with schools to identify the needs of young people during the lockdowns. Connecting with young people through health champions. Young people helped to design resources to support them. Monthly meetings with the schools. Support for families and young people ever changing and growing. Providing counselling throughout the year for young people and families. Massive increase in demand for this therapy.

Dee noted a project MUSE on Spencer Road for therapies for 18+.

Action: Dee to send details to Sinead

Michael McLaughlin - EA EWS

Checking in with families on regular basis. Recognise difficulties of home schooling. Working with schools to ensure families have access to technology, e.g. laptops for home-schooling. Used the Buttle Trust for this early on. Schools good at sourcing laptops too, and providing packs of work for children who didn’t want to use technology nor had Wi-Fi issues. Most children who weren’t engaging well doing lockdown are now back into school and are engaging better with work. Many of these children wouldn’t have been known to EWS ordinarily, but schools were highlighting. Keeping in touch with partners, FSHs etc. Return to school backs for more vulnerable young people to be sent through to teams. EA restricting process, 3 districts with large geographical areas. Home visits are door step/garden gate visits which is not ideal when discussing sensitive issues with families.

Any Other Business

Una noted that there will be free training delivered by GamCare for all LPG members across the region. Increased concerns about gambling

has been highlighted by LPGs and FSHs across the region. Information for the training will be in the next FYI. Aileen noted that problem gambling is something her service has been seeing recently.

E-Zine and FYIs

Una asked members to send any articles for inclusion in the E-Zine. Also if anyone wants to advertise information about their services send through to Una for inclusion in the FYI

Action: members to send through articles for E-Zine and information for inclusion in FYI.

Dates for Future Meetings

Next meeting will be a Planning Workshop.