

Southern Area Locality Planning Groups Record of Emerging Needs 2020/21 in all 6 Locality Planning Group Areas

Please note these Emerging/Unmet needs were reported by members during LPG meetings in 2020. They have been allocated into CYPSP Priorities with Other sections for other issues relayed, including general Covid-related comments.

*Mental Health covers emotional wellbeing, anxiety etc.

Armagh
 Banbridge
 Craigavon
 Dungannon
 Newry & Mourne
 South Armagh

| Armagh Locality Planning Group | | | | |
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| *Mental Health | Disability | Schooling | Poverty | Other/Covid |
| Mental fitness issues reported by parents Youth Action NI, May 20 | FSH referrals becoming more complex: parents struggling to manage challenging behaviour. FSH, March 20 | Access to limited available school places Arke Sure Start, Jan 20 | SVP coming under major pressure RE: shortage of fuel. IT poverty has been raised during helpline calls. ABC Council, May 20 | Some services not accessible, huge demand on parenting support through BCM, lot of practical support needed in the homes coupled with carer responsibilities. FSH, March 20 |
| Problems sleeping & lack of routine with impact on mental health (hoping to do something around Sleep Scotland). Children want to go out but can't, then anxious when out in public Arke Sure Start, May 20 | | Parents have raised the issue of not having equipment to be able to successfully complete/submit schoolwork. Clanrye Group, May 20 | SVP still providing some support and some of the COVID-19 Groups in other areas have flagged fuel as a major issue. SHSCT, May 20 | Parents now seeing life as it is currently being the new norm, and some becoming more socially isolated. Some families not having resources to do crafts activities. Arke Sure Start, May 20 |
| Extremely busy at present, particularly regarding emotional support. BCM, May 20 | | Parents worrying about children transitioning back to school & programmes. Parents feeling under pressure RE: home schooling and children stressed about work, separating home from school. Arke Sure Start, May 20 | More substance use in the home (increase in Universal Credit has exacerbated this in cases), food banks lot busier. Some people applying for funding that they do not really need. BCM, May 20 | Family members not comfortable with kids on Zoom meetings – considered too young. Reaching kids & parents difficult sometimes if no social media account. Coming up with new ideas to keep young people interested if lockdown continues for longer period also a challenge. REACT, May 20 |
| Severe anxiety and confidence issues in young people | | Challenge will be service getting back into schools due to social | | Not seeing an increase in referrals, because women perhaps not feeling in a safe position to |

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| REACT Oct 2020 | | distancing. CAPS NIACRO, May 20 | | self-refer. Womens Aid, May 20 |
| Children & young people fed up with zoom, becoming more difficult to engage via Zoom Arke Sure Start, BCM, NIACRO CAPS, Oct 20 | | | | New referrals much harder to engage as there has not been a physical connection with the service or worker. CAPS NIACRO, May 20 |
| Young people more difficult to engage over zoom. Becoming zoomed out REACT & Barnardos, Nov 20 | | | | Need to engage younger people more with the older people in the community SHSCT, May 20 |
| | | | | Difficulties building relationships over virtual mediums Arke Sure Start, May 20 |
| | | | | Road Safety issues, high death rate in Armagh among young men. Youth Action NI & PCSP, Oct 20 |
| Banbridge Locality Planning Group | | | | |
| *Mental Health | Disability | Schooling | Poverty | Other/Covid |

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| Recent trend in requests to support young people re. bereavement. FSH Jan 20 | | FSH referrals include general anxiety around return to school. FSH, June 20 | Majority of COVID-19 Community Helpline calls relating to food. Plan for helpline to continue post-lockdown responding to envisaged ongoing needs. SHSCT PWT, June 20 | DV incidences increasing as have related homicides in NI. Women's Aid, June 20 |
| Recently seen a rise in sexting. YJA Jan 20 | | Taking away the fear of IT for parents, need for parents to feel comfortable with IT due to Blended learning. Step by step sessions for parents. Clanrye Oct 20 | FSH referrals have featured facing threat of unemployment, coping over summer months. FSH June 20 | Harder to develop new relationships during lockdown as unable to meet families face-to-face. FSH, Oct 20 |
| COVID-19 Community Helpline calls: number of mental health support requests received. SHSCT PWT, June 20 | | | | Risk Taking behaviour of heavy use of drugs and alcohol, in Banbridge involving kids then moving locations. PCSP Oct 20 |
| FSH referrals including child-to-parent violence. FSH, June 20 | | | | |
| Increase in referrals for counselling for Carers. Carers Trust, Dec 20 | | | | |
| Zoom fatigue among young people, more difficult to engage online. Futureproof, Dec 20 | | | | |
| A lot of anxiety with young people. Barnardos. Dec 20 | | | | |
| Craigavon Locality Planning Group | | | | |
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| <p>Recently carried out needs assessment in rural areas reports mental health, including anxiety, fears, body image issues, etc., and employability, as a real issue for C&YP. SSYCC, Feb 20</p> | <p>ASD referrals are increasing. Cedar Foundation, Feb 20.</p> | <p>There is a negative knock-on effect re: social integration when children are forced to travel long distances due to a lack of nearby school places. NIACRO, Feb 20.</p> | <p>Families requesting access to food hampers & fuel via SVP. Lot of queries around Free School Meals money. EA EWS, June 20.</p> | <p>Home visits stopped due to COVID-19 which has been a challenge, overcome via a mix of online activities & phone contact, etc. Emotional support ongoing via phone calls but practical support delivery is difficult due to social distancing. Families with young children are worried about younger kids not being able to effectively social distance. Home-Start Craigavon, June 20.</p> |
| <p>Anxiety & mental health issues presenting in children as young as 5 years old. FSH, Feb 20.</p> | <p>Young people with additional needs have had very disrupted year, - changed routines and special schools opening & closing has impacted on young people. Carers Trust, Nov 20</p> | <p>We have seen an increase in non-attendance at school as a result of parents losing control re. screen-time, as well as increased screen usage and addiction. EA EWS, Feb 20.</p> | | <p>Establishing contact with Roma families during lockdown has proven difficult due to drop-in clinics, e.g. Dobbin Street & Mount Zion House closing. Unable to carry out home visits has really restricted maintaining contact with marginalised families. EA IES, June 20.</p> |
| <p>Increase in referrals re. teenagers with very few 1-1 mentor type projects around to cater for lower level / high risk young people. FSH, Feb 20.</p> | | <p>Referral trends include support with home-schooling, parenting pre-school, a lot of parents anxious RE: children returning to school and returning to work re. childcare options, etc. FSH, June 20.</p> | <p>Referral trends include financial support and housing. FSH, June 20.</p> | |
| <p>Referrals made to CAMHS in recent months on behavioural issues exacerbated by lockdown. EA EWS, June 20</p> | | | | |
| <p>Dip in referrals in March/April but now increasing both in volume & complexity. Depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, historical trauma</p> | | | | |

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| <p>coming to the surface, relationship difficulties. Some children enjoying time at home, others have struggled with lack of boundaries & routine. Lot of child referrals coming through due to breakdown in family unit e.g. child dropped off at dad's and returning to mum's flaring up issues re. lack of consistency. Links Counselling Service, June 20.</p> | | | | |
| <p>Referral trends: parenting support & activities for children during lockdown, managing behaviour, emotional support for young people with anxiety and supporting teenagers at risk. FSH, June 20.</p> | | | | |
| <p>Young people displaying high levels of depression, anxiety, self-harm, eating disorders, suicidal ideation. Links Counselling. Nov 20</p> | | | | |
| Dungannon Locality Planning Group | | | | |
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| Domestic violence affecting parents' mental health (leading to anxiety, depression, etc.) and the ability to parent in general. Parenting Partnership, Jan 20. | Notable increase in ASD referrals, but not as many referrals relating to physical disability, coming through at present. Cedar Foundation, Feb 20. | | A lot of confusion relating to Universal Credit and adjusting to the new system. Network Personnel, Jan 20. | Under 18s impacted by domestic violence, with a notable increase in referrals falling within the 14-16 year old age bracket. Funding for relationship work much needed. Mid Ulster Women's Aid, Jan 20. |
| Difficulty in finding services for over 24s affected parental substance misuse. START360, Feb 20. | Referrals coming through from the hub are a lot more complex (e.g. ASD being diagnosed later). BCM, Feb 20. | | Lack of social housing and benefit delays affecting housing payments, which ultimately impacts on families. STEP, Jan 20. | Interpretation costs being raised as an ongoing issue at Newry & Armagh Roma inter-agency meetings. CYPSP, Jan 20. |
| Parents recognising that they don't have sufficient knowledge RE: internet safety to address issues at home or discuss the topic with their children. PCSP, Feb 20. | | | Universal Credit, shortage of affordable housing and little building of social housing. Landlords not registering with Land & Property Services affecting UC applications for tenants, as no breakdown of rent & rates is available. BCM, Jan 20. | FSH seeing some referrals come through with no linked statutory involvement. Continuity in support is needed once families exit parenting support programmes. BCM, Feb 20. |
| Increase in referral to FSH for girls. BCM, Feb 20 | | | A few young people had been sleeping in tents, so recently used BCM fundraising money to ensure shelter. BCM, Feb 20 | EUSS applications not being completed for all family members or not being submitted correctly. STEP - Dungannon Feb 20 |
| FSH referrals becoming more complex, for multiple reasons: parents struggling with managing challenging behaviours coupled with carer responsibilities FSH, Mar 20. | | | Local landlords not registering with Land & Property Services has meant that BCM have struggled to be in a position to pay deposits (from Homelessness Prevention Fund monies they had received) for | FSH referrals becoming more complex: a lot of services not being accessible, huge demand on parenting support received through BCM, a lot of practical support needed in the home. FSH, Mar 20. |

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| | | | relevant young people for rented accommodation. BCM, Feb 20. | |
| | | | Unmet needs: lack of social housing, Universal Credit, difficulties in proving dual residencies. STEP, Feb 20. | |
| Newry & Mourne Locality Planning Group | | | | |
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| <p>Anger issues & struggling with school associated with screen-time. YouthAction NI, Jan 20</p> | <p>Rise in ASD-related referrals. More complex needs presented through referrals, difficult to keep up with. Cedar Foundation, Jan 20</p> | <p>Screen time and social media impacting on school attendance: some young people unable to get up in the mornings due to lack of sleep. EA/EWS Jan 20</p> | <p>Have recently seen more younger people coming to the foodbank. Helping The Homeless, Jan 20</p> | <p>Lack of understanding of Brexit and how it impacts young men. YouthAction NI, Jan 20</p> |
| <p>Screen time becoming increasingly associated with behavioural issues, particularly in ages 8-14. Cedar Foundation, Jan 20</p> | <p>Children & young people with disabilities are continuing to feel isolated & segregated - Better integration is needed. Early Years, Mar 20</p> | <p>During Covid a lot of BME families went home, a lot of concern regarding their return and the impact to schools regarding free school forms, uniform grant forms not being filled out. SHSCT Oct 20</p> | <p>Impact of Universal Credit on families RE: poverty. Helping The Homeless, Jan 20</p> | <p>Young people getting into trouble over Christmas and entering the justice system. Clanrye Group, Jan 20</p> |
| <p>Children between ages 5-9 presenting with anxiety & worries and so working with families RE: coping strategies. Referrals continue to exceed resources. Home-Start Newry, Jan 20</p> | <p>Probably engaging more than ever with young people as they do not need to leave the house. Getting young people to join groups post-lockdown will be a challenge Cedar Foundation, May 20</p> | <p>Older teenagers reporting high level of stress with being back at school – lots of coursework, exams and a loss of privileges (use of 6th Form spaces) EA YS Oct 20</p> | <p>Seeing an increase in poverty, e.g. sofa surfing & food shortages. Clanrye Group, Jan 20</p> | <p>PHA funding no longer available for Strengthening Families programme, to end on 31st Mar. Families have been asking about alternative parenting programmes. ASCERT, Jan 20</p> |
| <p>Young people referred on issues such as isolation & loneliness One-off or regular calls & sometimes referral to other agencies based on severity of mental health needs. EA YS May 20</p> | <p>Our Journey' parents group looking at issues around carers and support needs e.g. Direct Payments, need for ID allowing carers and child with a disability to leave their property more often for exercise/managing distress. SHSCT, May 20</p> | <p>Young people disengaging from education due to lack of direction/concern/interest from their parents/carers or lack of ability/knowledge/education of their parents/carers. EA EWS, Jan 21</p> | <p>Patterns emerging mainly around material-led poverty: support for basic everyday needs e.g. feeding family, working from home. Many small businesses have been hit hard, increasing need for food banks due to furloughed workers. FSH seeing families as they have had a challenge to their income and are currently in a desperate situation. FSH, May 20</p> | <p>Can't take on as much 1-1 work, owing to limited resource. Youth Action NI, Jan 20.</p> |
| <p>COVID 19 Helpline Calls eased slightly but becoming more complex, e.g. mental health</p> | | <p>Lack of IT equipment to access online learning/lack of knowledge about how to access online</p> | <p>Those who have lost jobs, which impacts on the family, have been reaching out.</p> | <p>EU settlement scheme seems to be causing confusion, with families not correctly registering and therefore risking not getting</p> |

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| issues associated with lockdown. SHSCT, May 20 | | learning platforms. EA EWS, Jan 21 | Clanrye Group, May 20 | access to relevant services. NM&DD Council, Jan 20 |
| A lot of anxiety around children returning to school and loss of jobs. Clanrye Group, Oct 20 | | Pressure of online learning & sense of failure if unable to complete tasks, especially those with learning difficulties who require one to one assistance and thrive on continuous praise & encouragement. EA EWS, Jan 21 | Approx. 1,000 calls to the COVID-19 helpline in 6-weeks, vast majority for support for accessing food, e.g. food parcels, groceries delivered or seeking emergency food from food banks. SHSCT, May 20 | Seeing a link back to childhood with a lot of young people coming into contact with services. Young people not understanding that sexting & cyberbullying are offences. YJA, Jan 20 |
| Younger people reporting high level of stress with being back at school – lots of coursework, constant testing. EA YS, Nov 20 | | Difficulties some families are facing accessing Google classroom online when schools are closed. EA EWS, Jan 21 | Poverty in terms of electricity and digital poverty/home schooling. Women's Aid, Bolster Community, Oct 20 | Seeing pockets of young people across sites in the Newry area now moving beyond the at risk stage and actively getting involved in criminal behaviour. NMANDDD Council, Mar 20 |
| Lot of anxiety about returning to school due to risk of infection and vulnerable people within the household Anxiety/fear re. COVID 19 with regard to their families & themselves. EA EWS, Jan 21 | | | Huge demand for SVDP food parcels. SHSCT, Nov 20 | Anti-social behaviour has dramatically dropped since lockdown with focus on maintaining lower levels. PCSP, May 20 |
| Children who were anxious pre Covid and the school closures/ subsequent lockdown has contributed to heightened anxiety. EA EWS, Jan 20 | | | Huge demand for SVDP food parcels. SHSCT, Nov 20 | WA dealing with rise in DV levels out of personal relationships, leading to the launch of some local positive initiatives such as IRIS. Rise in non-intimate domestic violence incidences also noted, e.g. parent-to-child or vice versa. FSH, May 20 |
| Feeling disconnected from friends, sense of loneliness and isolation from peers. EA EWS, Jan 21 | Feelings of loss/sadness of missing out on the experience of special school activities/events for particular age groups. EA EWS, Jan 21 | | Some families only have one mobile and children are unable to register/log on/complete work because of this. This is especially difficult for families with limited or no English. EA EWS, Jan 21 | Some fantastic partnership work RE: DV but still under-reported, particularly inter-family domestic violence (parental assault by children), looking at ways to encourage individuals to report. PCSP, May 20 |
| Sense of insecurity about the future as we are living in the 'here and now', day to day, with daily/weekly routines ever | | | | Some families not receiving support they need due to being placed on social services family support waiting list. As these families are known to Social Services, the FSH cannot provide |

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| changing according to the latest lockdown rules. EA EWA, Jan 21 | | | | support in the interim waiting period. EA EWS, Jan 21 |
| Too much screen time due to online learning and lack of physical activity throughout the day making it more difficult for young people to 'switch off' which can affect sleeping patterns, mood and their overall sense of well-being. EA EWS, Jan 21 | | | | |
| South Armagh Locality Planning Group | | | | |
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| Recent referrals primarily | Disability, including | Absence from school an | Poverty (becoming a regular | Engaging with BME community continues to |

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| linked to emotional regulation and seeing online safety affecting children as young as P6/7, as well as social anxiety associated with mobile phone usage. CAPS/ NIACRO Jan 20 | programmes for sibling of disabled children continuing to feature in referrals. SPACE, Jan 20 | emerging issue SPACE, Feb 20 | feature, not always food related: some parents can't afford for child to attend after-schools due to cost, so they may become more isolated. SPACE, Feb 20 | prove difficult. Parents rarely attend planned workshops/programmes, attendance very sporadic when they do, but could be linked to work shift patterns. N'hamilton Community Centre, Jan 20 |
| Bulk of referrals linked to anxiety, bullying, social media and gambling - particularly male teens. EA/EWS, Jan 20 | Recent referral trends: Families with children with disability struggling RE: social isolation, lack of respite, frustration with siblings, etc., Children managing bereavement. FSH, June 20 | Awareness raising RE: dental hygiene, particularly with BME families, is needed in some schools in the local area. SHSCT, Feb 20 | Community needs have evolved: emotional support required at start of lockdown, now more practical support & financial concerns, e.g. increase in food bank, fuel, nappy requests. Slowdown in referrals to clinics eg SLT and ENT has meant now a long waiting list, which worries parents. Home-Start, June20 | There appears to be a lot of signposting happening (which is positive). However, corresponding services seem to be at a bottleneck. SPACE, Feb 20 |
| Behavioural support & anxiety in children are ongoing referral trends. Anxiety is a huge issue, bereavement (e.g. finding it difficult to deal with a grandparent dying) FSH, Jan 20 | | Families expressing concerns around C&YP anxious about returning to school. Access to laptops & multiple devices for home learning flagged by parents- working with schools to offer alternatives. Lack of routine highlighted by families. Some families returning to home countries and EWS not notified. EA/EWS, June 20 | Dealing with referrals via COVID-19 Community Hub for food parcels, fuel, etc. To date the area has South Armagh area have received approx.. 750 referrals, majority from N/Hamilton & Crossmaglen. Currently between 350-400 food parcels going out each week. NMandDD Council, June 20 | Still finding it difficult to engage with BME families but work ongoing. EA/EWS, Feb 20 |
| Families expressing concerns around mental health (children & young people anxious about returning to school, dealing with bereavement (including pets) - signposting families to SHSCT Bereavement Helpline. EA/EWS, June 20 | | Children failing to do schoolwork as it was causing conflict & aggression in the home. NIACRO CAPS, June 20 | COVID-19 Helpline: approx. 1,000 calls during lockdown. Main requests for food parcels, accessing fuel & electric, making sure people get prescriptions. SHSCT, June 20 | COVID-19 Helpline: Particular concern for BAME community, particularly Roma, RE: communication barriers getting info to families, social distancing problems due to crowded living spaces. SHSCT, June 20 |
| COVID-19 Helpline: Began to | | Young people very stressed and | Families expressing concerns | Recent tensions in N'hamilton area, particularly |

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| quieter down but cases now more complex for mental health (anxiety & depression). SHSCT, June 20 | | anxious on returning to school EA/EWS, Nov 20 | around food & finance (linked to job loss) EA/EWS, June 20 | on non-adherence to social distancing on the part of Roma families SHSCT June 20 |
| Poor mental health among young people and a lack of mentoring available. FSH, Nov 20 | | | Digital disadvantage for families NMandDDC, Nov 20 | Lot of change for Roma community in N/Hamilton: getting translated info. out an issue, particularly in Bulgarian. Sure Start, June 20 |
| | | | Huge increase in poverty Bolster Community, Dec 20 | Lack of parenting programmes for Roma and Bulgarian families NMandDDC, Nov 20 |