

Report from Locality Planning Groups to Southern Area Outcomes Group

Months: September - November 2021

<p>Current Issues being Discussed at LPG: Including: Gaps in services/Emerging needs</p>	<p>Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health of Children & Young People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement in sport is vital for positive mental health as much as for physical benefits. (ABC Council, Craigavon-Sept) • Anxiety, on the part of children & young people and their parents / carers is a key issue which is being exacerbated by COVID. (EA EWO, Craigavon-Sept) • Some young people expressing fear over bringing COVID home from school to family members. (EANI EWO, Newry & Mourne-Sept) • Young people apprehensive about returning to school RE: ongoing COVID risks. (CCG, Newry & Mourne LPG-Sept) • COVID has escalated domestic incidences, more verbal, than violent. (PSNI, Newry & Mourne-Sept) • Averaging 20-25 referrals a month over the summer. Emotional behaviour issues being reported. Young people from 11-15 particularly in need of support. Rise in referrals into REACT from CAMHS. Long waits for assessments also. There has been an uplift in school referrals RE: behavioural issues more recently. The effects of lockdown are now really affecting young people. (Family Support Hub, Dungannon-Oct) <p>Supporting Parents & Caregivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loneliness & isolation coming to the fore as an issue for some parents. FSH has seen an increase in referrals from professionals working with children. Also seeing more self-referrals. Main age range for referrals at present is 8 to 14. (Family Support Hub, Armagh-Sept) • FSH referrals are increasing again with schools being back, particularly within the 5-10 year old age group. (FSH, Banbridge-Sept) • Seeing an appetite in parents to get back out to group sessions, but anxiety RE: COVID is still apparent. (Star Sure Start, Banbridge-Sept) • Over the summer there has been a steady flow of referrals into the FSH, relating to emotional wellbeing / mental health and children with disabilities. Increase in waiting lists for support services / agencies. More recently, there have been some queries RE: difficulties in accessing school-related digital tools RE: technical issues, etc. (FSH, Craigavon-Sept) • Long waiting lists for services such as CAMHS, but continuing to signpost to relevant support where we can. (Education Welfare, Craigavon-Sept) • All current programmes currently at capacity, with waiting lists in operation. (Bolster Community, South Armagh-Sept) • Parents really struggling with children with challenging behaviour, particularly in the 11-15 age group. (STEP, Dungannon-Oct)
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	<p>Addressing the Impact of Poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs of uniforms are a big issue for families at this time of the year. (CCG, Newry & Mourne-Sept) • Same issues: lack of social housing, expensive private rent. (BCM, Dungannon-Oct) • Lack of social housing and private accommodation still an issue. Ending of universal credit top-up is causing a lot of anxiety. (STEP, Dungannon-Oct) <p>Other Emerging /Unmet Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID is leading to increased school absence, due to testing. (Education Welfare, Craigavon-Sept) • Vaping as a current trend in school in the area. (PCSP, Craigavon-Sept) • Still proving difficult for community groups to advance plan. (CCG, Newry & Mourne-Sept) • Held a service user forum on 25/08/2021 for feedback on inclusions in Personal Development Programme for young people. Highlighted areas: Sleep, Nutrition, Gambling / Online Gaming, Sexual Health, Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Exercise, Pet Care, Energy Awareness in the home, Recycling in the home, Money Management, Stress Management. (BCM, Armagh-Sept) • A lot of clients are currently struggling with court date changes, due to postponements owing to COVID. (Advocacy VSV, Dungannon-Oct) • Anti-social behaviour in the local area has become an issue over the summer months. Lots of inter-agency currently work taking place to minimise potential Halloween-related anti-social behaviour risks. (PCSP, Dungannon-Oct)
<p>Recent Achievements by the Locality Planning Group.</p>	<p>Action Plans Draft ready to send to LPG Chairs – to be discussed and signed off at all LPG meetings in new year</p> <p>Portadown Gets Active Halloween Programme: Held on 28th & 29th October at Millennium Court, Portadown. Scorecard to follow.</p> <p>Our Journey Through Disability Workshop: 30th September.</p> <p>FYI: 6 editions of our fortnightly e-bulletin FYI: 214 pages and 325 pieces of information in total. Sent to 728-741 contacts per fortnight (excluding sharing by members). Downloaded 1049 times through CYPSP website.</p>
<p>Engagement with C&YP, Parents/ Carers:</p>	<p>PGA Halloween Programme: Numbers unavailable – to be updated at next meeting</p> <p>Our Journey Through Disability Preparation meeting for Workshop on 21st September – attended by 8 parents/carers</p>
<p>Meetings Held:</p>	<p>Meetings Held: Locality Planning Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armagh LPG – 9th September (9 attended)& 11th November (13 attended) • Banbridge LPG – 15th September (14 attended) and 10th November (14 attended) • Craigavon LPG – 7th September (12 attended) and 16th November (11 attended)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dungannon LPG – 19th October (14 attended) • Newry & Mourne LPG – 1st September (11 attended) and 3rd November (17 attended) • South Armagh LPG – 14th September (10 attended) and 23rd November (9 attended) <p><u>Total attendance at LPG meetings: 134 members: 68 from statutory and 66 voluntary/community sectors.</u></p> <p><u>Meetings Held:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Journey Workshop prep (8 parents/carers attended) • Our Journey Workshop (24 practitioners attended, 6 parents/carers attended) • Meeting with Banbridge MDT Team (3 practitioners attended) <p><u>Meetings Attended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional Wellbeing Network (6 practitioners attended) • ABC Loneliness Network Steering Group (6 practitioners attended) • PLIG Meeting (22 practitioners attended) • Newcomer Families Needs Assessment meeting (7 attended) • Craigavon Youth Provides Network (18 practitioners attended)
<p>Upcoming Events:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with MDT Leads & CYPSP on 25th November to share resources & strengthen partnership working • Joint Thematic Workshop on the newly formed Mid Ulster Labour Market Partnership (LMP) - Education and Skills and Economic Growth and Infrastructure thematic groups – 30th November • Meeting with Dungannon & Mid Ulster LPG members to work jointly to produce a school uniform recycling toolkit for schools and community settings – 30th November