

**Minutes of the Northern Area Outcomes Group Meeting held on  
Wednesday 30 September 2020 at 2pm via Zoom**

**Attendance:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Present/Apology</b>
<b>Statutory Sector</b>		
Maura Dargan	HSCT (Chair)	Present
Tracy Magill	HSCT (Family Support)	Apology
Sharon Crawford	HSCT (Disability)	Present
Ciara McKillop	HSCT (Hub Lead)	Present
Susan Gault	HSCT (Public Health Nursing)	Apology
Hugh Nelson	HSCT (Planning & Modernisation)	Present
Sabrina Lynn	HSCT (Health & Wellbeing Locality Lead)	Present
Frances Donnelly	Education Authority	
VACANT	NI Housing Executive	
Nicola McCall	(MEA) Community Planning/Council	Present
Alison Keenan	(A&N) Community Planning/Council	
Elizabeth Beattie	(CCG) Community Planning/Council	Apology
Fiona Surgeonor	(MEA) Community Planning/Council	
Martina Totten	(MU) Community Planning/Council	Present
VACANT	PSNI	
Maurice Meehan	Public Health Agency	Present
Kate McDermott	Parenting Co-ordinator	Present
Grainne Keane	Youth Justice Agency	Present
Jenny Adair	Childcare Partnership	Present
VACANT	LCG Link	
<b>Voluntary Sector</b>		
Ruth-Anne Delija	Action for Children	Present
Pamela Kirk	Barnardo's	Apology
Maria Heron	Parenting NI	
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI	Present
<b>Community Sector</b>		
Zoe-Kernohan-Neeley	Early Year Organisation	Present
Ivor Mitchell	YMCA	Apology
VACANT		
VACANT		
Karen Graham	Carrickfergus YMCA	
<b>BME Sector</b>		
VACANT		
VACANT		
<b>Locality Planning Group Chairs</b>		
Mervyn Rea	Antrim LPG	
Gerry McVeigh	Ballymena LPG	
Roy Beggs	Carrickfergus LPG	Present

David McAllister	Larne LPG	
Ursula Marshall	Magherafelt & Cookstown LPG	Apology
Locality Planners		
In Attendance		
Maxine Gibson	CYPSP (Professional Advisor)	Present
Una Casey	CYPSP (Business Support Manager)	Apology
Sharon McMinn	CYPSP (Planning Support Officer)	Present
Judith Lees	HSCT (Public Health Nursing obo Susan Gault)	Present
Christine Doherty	Barnardo's (obo Pamela Kirk)	Present

### **Welcome & Apologies**

Maura welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions took place. Maura acknowledged the length of time passed since the last meeting which was due to the onset of Covid-19.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting – 15 January 2020**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

### **Matters Arising**

Matters arising were discussed under separate agenda items.

### **LPG Infrastructure & Progress Update**

Maxine provided an overview of the work undertaken to date in relation to strengthening the Northern Outcomes Group and advised that the CYPSP Team and Northern Locality Planning Group (LPG) colleagues have been working hard to take forward the issues identified.

A summary report on feedback received from LPG Chairs, following a series of meetings was circulated along with the meeting papers. Common issues and challenges identified through these meetings included: merging of Locality Planning Groups; decision making issues; role of LPG Co-ordinator going forward; the need for better connection with Outcomes Group and CYPSP.

An Action Plan was pulled together on the back of the issues identified, a copy of which was circulated along with meeting papers. Progress to date is noted within the Action Plan.

A Workshop has been arranged for 16 October with Northern LPG Co-ordinators and CYPSP to finalise and approve the standard operating protocol and revisit the roles and responsibilities of LPG Co-ordinators.

In relation to the infrastructure work, Maxine stressed the importance of not revisiting work already done and suggested the establishment of a Sub Group with key personnel undertake this piece of work.

***Action: Maxine Gibson/Hugh Nelson to lead on convening a Sub Group to undertake the LPG infrastructure work (potential Sub Group members include Kate McDermott and Karen Graham) and report back at the next Outcomes Group meeting.***

The Group acknowledged that the challenges voiced have been heard and an engaged process is taking place to address the issues and there was commitment from all to work together to ensure that challenges are overcome.

### **Regional Emerging Needs/Feedback from CYPSP**

Maxine advised that the Partnership did not meet during the first wave of the pandemic but reconvened via Zoom at the end of August to look at learning from Covid-19 and agree on next steps. Four key emerging priorities due to Covid-19, were clearly identified across the region and these will be used to inform children's services planning going forward for 2021-24: poverty and socio-economic disadvantage; children and families mental health and wellbeing; children with disabilities; and supporting educational needs of children.

Maura advised that some Outcomes Groups continued to meet throughout Covid-19 and used it as an effective vehicle to keep communication ongoing regarding the needs of local children and families. Maura acknowledged that children and families within the Northern area were well supported by a range of voluntary/community groups, but felt that in the event of a second wave, the Northern Outcomes Group should endeavour to continue to meet.

### **Our Journey**

Maxine referred to the 'Our Journey through Disability' Report (circulated with meeting papers) and advised that the report is the outcome of a co-production initiative by parents and families in the Newry Locality, supported and facilitated by the CYPSP Southern Outcomes Group. Maxine advised that CYPSP has agreed to incorporate the recommendations into all regional action plans including Northern Outcomes Group action plans to support needs of children with disability and their families.

***Action: Outcomes Group members to ensure recommendations and are featured within future local planning around children with disabilities.***

### **Scoping Papers**

Maxine acknowledged the work of the Locality Planners and LPG's in assisting with pulling together information for inclusion in the Scoping and Impact papers (circulated with meeting papers). These papers were circulated for information purposes.

## Locality Planning Update

Kate provided an update on locality planning initiatives undertaken since the last meeting.

January – March 2020:

- Safeguarding in a digital world master class in February 2020. Organised by Health & Wellbeing Officers in partnership with NHSCT Sexual Health Promotion Lead and attended by 135 participants. OBA report completed and shared.
- Carrickfergus Youth Fair for year 10 pupils held in February 2020, with around 400 pupils attending. OBA completed and shared.
- LPG Meetings held prior to lockdown.
- Scoping exercise undertaken by Antrim & Ballymena LPG which identified 3 priority areas to address: creating a Facebook page; training on cultural awareness; and mental health. All priorities have or are in the process of being addressed.
- Discussions commenced exploring setting up LPG within Newtownabbey area. Initial meeting and workshop took place at beginning of March 2020, with the Subgroup reconvening mid-September following lockdown to agree on next steps. LPG members meeting scheduled for 14 October 2020.
- Mental Health Conference in March 2020 by Mid Antrim LPG – cancelled due to lockdown.

April – June 2020:

- Health & Wellbeing staff redeployed into shielding service, with links and relationships still maintained with LPG's through circulation of relevant information.
- Health & Wellbeing Officers worked in partnership with Northern Trust Loneliness Networks to address loneliness amongst teens as a result of Covid-19.

July – September 2020

- LPG meetings reconvened with two meetings in each Locality area in July and September, with good attendance noted. 7 new members have joined LPG's since lockdown.
- Distribution of 500 'positive emotional wellbeing mental health boxes' to young people aged 14-25 years. Promoted and distributed via LPG's. OBA completed and shared.
- Helping Children and Supporting Return to School Webinar held on 24 June 2020 with 366 attendees.
- Pants Campaign launched on 24 August 2020 in partnership with CYPSP/NSPCC/PHA. Online workshops currently running.
- Northern area Children and young people needs survey ending 30 September 2020.
- Review of Locality Planning and development of standard operating protocol for CYPSP/LPG co-ordination work.

Future plans for October – December 2020

- LPG meetings will continue with the next meetings scheduled for November 2020.
- Review of CYP survey results with each LPG to identify priorities and develop 2 year Action Plan.
- Delivery of cultural awareness and ACE's training.
- Delivery of Pants Campaign workshops/information sessions – community, teachers, key statutory partners.
- Continued development of Newtownabbey LPG.

Maura acknowledged the work that had continued despite Covid-19 and thanked all those involved.

### **Locality Planning Groups Surveys with Parents/Children/Young People**

The aim of the survey was to capture the views of children/young people/parents on children and young people's health and wellbeing. The survey had two strands to it:

1. For children aged 9-25 years old;
2. For parents who had children aged 0-25 years old.

Survey closes today, 30 September 2020, with 472 parents and 127 children completing to date. Priority areas identified include: emotional health and wellbeing; access to play; access to education; safe place to hang out; sports; and healthy eating. Responses will be reviewed with LPG's.

### **Family Support Hubs Update**

Ruth-Anne advised that Hubs continued to work hard throughout the pandemic with Hub meetings taking place via MS Teams. It was noted that the Hubs are experiencing a lot of pressure due to many of the services that they would refer to closing their waiting lists due to numbers and this has had an impact on the ability to forward on referrals.

Ruth Anne informed members that the HSCB has secured additional monies for 2020/21 along with additional Covid monies. It is envisaged that the additional Covid monies will be used for counselling sessions for children, young people and parents in each Hub area (8 sessions per family - approx 100 families in total).

A drop in GP referrals was noted due to people not visiting GP surgeries for appointments, but work is ongoing with GP's to encourage parents to self-refer. Work is also ongoing with schools to ensure referrals are made especially for children and young people around mental health and anxiety.

Ciara gave an overview of the key points from the Hubs 2019/20 Annual Report:

- Referrals slightly down – 1,577 referrals in 2019/20 compared to 1,695 referrals in 2018/19;
- 80% of 2019/20 referrals were for 5-15 years olds;
- One third of referrals were for emotional behavioural support for primary school children;
- GP's were the largest group of referrers;

- 371 children with disabilities were referred with the highest referral category being ASD.

Ciara advised that there is currently work ongoing within the Causeway area, looking at how to better connect Social Workers with the Multi-disciplinary Teams and Family Support Hubs in the area.

***Action: Ciara and Maxine agreed to explore how the role of Multi-disciplinary Teams link with CYPSP structures to develop relationships. Feedback will be provided at the next meeting.***

Ciara thanked Ruth-Anne and Paula for their hard work throughout Covid and acknowledged the quick response and flexible approach of the Community and Voluntary sector during this time. Maxine also thanked Ruth-Anne and Pamela for providing the additional monitoring information to support the additional funding secured.

Maxine advised that recruitment will take place for the vacant Regional Family Support Hub Co-ordinator post (Helen Dunn was previously in this role).

### **Outcomes Group Membership**

Maxine advised that the CYPSP Team are currently looking at issues around membership and attendance of particular agencies at a regional level across all CYPSP groups. Maxine stressed that it is the role of the Outcomes Group Chair and members to identify key agencies to fill gaps in the membership, but the CYPSP Team can assist with this.

### **Member Updates**

- Action for Children – Ruth-Anne

Learning from Covid has highlighted an increase in families in poverty and Action for Children have utilised an emergency fund supporting families with food, heating electric etc. Redundancies due to Covid were noted and it is anticipated that this will continue into the future as restrictions continue to be imposed.

- Public Health Nursing – Judith Lees

Judith advised that the ADHD Post Diagnostic Support Programme funded through Barnardo's is up for re-tender March 2020 and asked if funding was still available and if so, did members have any changes to the programme before it is re-tendered?

***Action: It was agreed that the Susan will produce a project evaluation report for the last 3 years and provide a presentation to the Group at the next meeting to aid with decision making on funding the project going forward.***

- Carrickfergus LPG – Roy Begs

Roy stressed the importance of education to enable people long term to overcome poverty and advised of high levels of poor primary school attendance within one Ward area. It was noted that poor attendance at school is likely to result in young people not achieving GCSE's, which in return may hinder young people securing employment and result in poverty in the long term. It was agreed that early intervention in tackling poor school attendance is key in helping to address poverty.

- Childcare Partnership – Jenny Adair

Jenny advised that funding was secured from DoH for additional staff to support early years children with a disability work. This project has been ongoing over the past few years and the growth in demand for the service was noted along with the growing need for mainstream early years services for children with disabilities.

It was noted that the key regional priorities highlighted through the CYPSP learning meeting are also showing in the childcare sector.

Jenny informed members of a pilot project undertaken by Sense last year within the Northern area, where they worked with around 14-16 childminders to try and offer childcare services for children with a disability. A report on the outcomes of the pilot is currently being developed and it was noted that some issues emerging are also issues which are highlighted within the 'Our Journey Through Disability' Report.

A Belfast Childcare Partnership report commissioned on the needs of children with a disability within the Belfast area was noted. The launch of this report is pending.

Jenny also informed members of a round table discussion currently being organised with key representatives to look at children with a disability and access to childcare. Jenny agreed to keep the group informed of discussions/progress.

- Public Health Agency – Maurice Meehan

Maurice advised that a Stakeholder Engagement process is about to commence in relation to the reconfiguration of Tier 1 & 2 drug and alcohol services, which includes services for children and young people. The engagement process will enable PHA to obtain further information about the services, needs and performance of contracts to ensure the £4.8m available is invested appropriately.

Maurice informed the group about a series of PHA blogs/articles around mental health, infant mental health, nutrition, return to school etc for families and young people.

**Action: Maurice to forward Maura the dates of the Northern area Stakeholder Engagement Events and a link to the PHA blogs for onward circulation to members.**

- Carrickfergus YMCA – Karen Graham

Karen welcomed the key regional priorities of CYPSP going forward and advised that as a local community provider these priorities have been visible at a local level over the last 6 months.

## AOB

- Action Plan

Maxine advised that the other Outcomes Groups were beginning to review their current Action Plans, identifying unmet actions and progressing in the development of their next Action Plan.

***Action: It was agreed to review the Action Plan at the next meeting and Maxine will circulate the current 2017-21 Action Plan and plan on a page.***

- Items for inclusion on the next meeting agenda
  - Review Action Plan
  - Review of ADHD Post Diagnostic Support Programme – Presentation/Project Evaluation (Susan Gamble to present and provide evaluation paper so group can decide on way forward)
  - Members update
  - Outcome of ongoing work re processes & structures

Maura finished the meeting by encouraging members to attend future meetings.

Date of next meeting: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 2pm via Zoom (link to follow)