



Notes of Western Area Outcomes Group
held on 25 August 2021
at 10 am via Zoom

Present: Mr Tom Cassidy, Acting Director of Women & Children's Services, Western Trust [Chair]
Mr Kevin Duffy, Assistant Director [Community & Public Health], Western Trust
Mrs Brenda MacQueen, Executive Director, Dry Arch Children's Centre
Ms Claire Lynch, Children & Young People's Co-ordinator, Derry City Strabane District Council
Ms Monica MacIntyre, Department for Communities
Ms Colleen Heaney, Assistant Director, Youth Justice Agency
Ms Rioghnach Murphy, Assistant Director Children's Services, Barnardos & Chair of Strabane Locality Planning Group
Ms Kori Gault, Children's Services Planning Support Officer
Ms Laura Feeney, Senior Programme Manager, Save the Children
Mr Paul Kellagher, Children's Services Manager, Action for Children
Mr Mark Rodgers, Extern & Chair of Fermanagh Locality Planning Group
Ms Allison Wallace, Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership
Ms Mairead McGilloway, Head of Service, Western Trust
Mr John Boyle, Director of Community and Wellbeing, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Ms Joanne Sweeney, Family Support Programme Manager, Mencap
Ms Edel Fox, Omagh Women's Aid & Chair of Omagh Locality
Ms Aileen McGuinness, Chair of Derry Locality Planning Group
Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

Mr Cassidy welcomed members and introductions were made.

1	Apologies Ms Suzanne Mahon, Assistant Director [Family & Child Care] Ms Una Casey, Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Ms Maxine Gibson, Children's Services Planning Professional Advisor, CYPSP
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	<p>Ms Linda Watson, Caw/Nelson Drive Community Association Ms Muriel Bailey, Director of Family Support Services, Parenting NI Ms Debbie Hunter, Assistant Manager, Health Improvement Equality and Involvement Department Ms Susan Mullan, Derry & Strabane District Council Ms Fiona McCann, Health & Wellbeing Senior Officer, PHA</p>
2	<p>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 30 June 2021 Notes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the discussion.</p>
3	<p>Matters Arising There were no matters arising.</p>
4	<p>Chairman's Remarks Mr Cassidy advised members that Ms Mairead McMullen had been appointed as Western Child Care Partnership Manager with the Health & Social Care Board, and would be invited to attend future meetings of the Outcomes Group.</p> <p>Mr Cassidy reported that he had attended the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership meeting on 23 August 2021. He said the work of the Western Area Outcomes Group was in line with work being undertaken in the region. He noted he had given an update on the excellent work undertaken by the community and voluntary sector in the West and highlighted food poverty, the work of food banks, digital poverty and period poverty. He also highlighted the economic deprivation and rurality of the Western Trust area.</p> <p>Mr Kellagher said he was seeing a real deep level of poverty. Ms Murphy said there was a need for a second campaign on period poverty.</p>
5	<p>Update from Task and Finish Groups Mr Duffy said additional representatives were required for Task and Finish Groups two and three and asked members to consider in the interim before further discussion at the next meeting.</p>
6	<p>Update from Locality Planning Groups Ms McGilloway advised that Mrs Magee remained on sick leave and recruitment was progressing for the Locality Planning Co-ordinator post in the Northern Sector. Mr Cassidy asked for an update at next meeting as these vacancies impacted on work being taken forward.</p> <p>Ms Wallace reported that parents were very concerned at the length of the waiting list for an ASD assessment and were asking what supports were available in the interim. Mr Duffy reported that ASD waiting lists were an issue across the region, but said it was important for Trust staff to join discussions in Locality Planning Groups, as it was important for Managers to make close connections to make</p>

	<p>understanding easier. Mr Duffy said there were supports available for families and agreed to share Trust contacts with Ms Wallace. Mr Cassidy asked members to involve Trust staff and encouraged them to invite Trust staff to relevant meetings.</p> <p>Ms Lynch said there was a responsibility on Government to provide appropriate funding for ASD services. Mr Duffy said ASD was getting a high profile and he was satisfied that it was being raised at all appropriate forums. Mr Cassidy said the whole area of children’s disability was being highlighted, but public sector finances were restricted. The pressure on the two acute hospitals in the Trust, as well as the community sector, was immense at the moment.</p> <p>Ms Murphy reported that Barnardo’s ran a programme providing home visits and workshops, enabling links with parents experiencing similar difficulties. She agreed to forward information to Mr Cassidy’s office for circulation. Mr Cassidy advised members to use his office, if they wished to, to disseminate information to the group.</p> <p>Ms McGilloway reported that a Senior Practitioner was reviewing referrals at Gateway. She said she had attended a regional meeting on Family Support Hubs and the demand was the same across the Province.</p> <p>Mr Kellagher said there was a demand for support in relation to ASD and children’s mental health. Mrs MacQueen said there was clear evidence that when a service gets in early to help, behaviours change, and said sometimes children were suffering from sensory overload and this was currently being mapped.</p> <p>Ms Feeney advised of action planning workshop planned for September 2021.</p> <p>Mr Duffy said there was currently a call out for submissions in relation to the Autism Amendment Bill feedback, and this was an opportunity for members to contribute. He said the Trust would also be responding.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Forrest to forward information to members on the Autism Amendment Bill.
7	<p>Early Intervention Programme Updates</p> <p>Mr Cassidy acknowledged that groups were missing the input of Locality Planning Co-ordinators, but asked if members could give a detailed report at the next meeting in October 2021.</p> <p>Mr Cassidy said it was important that the Trust filled the vacancy in the Northern Sector and arranged cover for Mrs Magee’s post. Ms McGilloway reported that the Trust’s HR Department had stated that the Northern Sector post required to be desk topped which was causing a delay. She said she was hopeful that Mrs Magee would return to work in the coming weeks.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms McGilloway to continue to liaise with HR to progress recruitment for the Northern Sector post. ▪ Ms McGilloway to update the group at the next meeting.
8	<p>Community Planning</p> <p>Mr Boyle reported that work was progressing with the Trust, PHA and the Healthy Living Centres in relation to the two pilot projects. He said Erne East had been selected in relation to the mental health of young people and the views of GP's would be taken on board to help have an action in place before Christmas.</p> <p>Mr Cassidy thanked Mr Boyle for this update and said he had apprised the regional CYPSP of this development at its meeting on 23 August 2021. Mr Boyle said it was important to concentrate on the three outcomes and report cards to provide feedback at the next meeting.</p> <p>Ms Lynch said groups were missing the input of a Locality Planning Co-ordinator. She gave an update on Youth Zone and Unicef, where a draft plan is to be in place by 20 September 2021 followed by feedback phases and a final action plan to be submitted by the end of November 2021.</p> <p>Ms Lynch reported on the compilation of the Unicef CFC Draft Action Plan and agreed to share the action plan in its current draft format for members to feed into it. Mr Cassidy encouraged members to take the time to give feedback on the draft plan.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Lynch to forward the draft plan to Mr Cassidy's office for circulation. <p>Mr Cassidy thanked members for their updates.</p>
9	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Ms McGilloway reported that the Trust was experiencing workforce challenges due to vacancies and a plan was in place for social work staff to work overtime at weekends. She said the level and complexity of cases was increasing, with a greater demand for basic necessities such as food, electricity etc. She was anticipating referrals to increase again when schools reopen after the summer holidays. Ms McGilloway commended the work undertaken by the community and said Mrs Magee had been greatly missed.</p> <p>Ms Fox reported that Women's Aid were experiencing similar issues in relation to the volume of referrals and their complexity and risk level. She reported on difficulties in recruiting staff, which had never been an issue before now. She said staff were dealing with issues around poverty, debt, housing, isolation, and the closure of schools due to Covid.</p> <p>Mr Kellagher said agencies were extremely busy and were working collectively, but said it was important to be mindful of the pressures that staff were under. Ms Fox said staff were dedicated, but needed to be mindful of burnout, as when staff go off</p>

	<p>sick, it has an impact on the core team, so staff wellbeing was a priority.</p> <p>Mr Rogers stated that family complexities were spiralling out of control very quickly. He reported that they were assisting with food parcels, food vouchers and the sourcing of school uniforms.</p> <p>Mr Cassidy agreed that the demand on the entire community system was increasing both in terms of volume and complexity, which was an extra layer on top of Covid. He said the linkage between voluntary, community and statutory organisations was vital to support communities in need. He acknowledged and thanked frontline staff in the efforts they were making, but said it was crucial to avoid staff burnout.</p> <p>Mr Cassidy took the opportunity to encourage everyone to get vaccinated. Mr Kellagher thanked the Trust for the rollout of the vaccine to the community and voluntary sector.</p>
10	<p>CYPSP Think Family Sub Group/Hidden Harm</p> <p>Mrs MacQueen advised this this item continued to be an agenda item on the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership. Ms Gault undertook to ask Ms Casey to link with Ms McMullan.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Item to be kept on the agenda of the Outcomes Group.
11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>MACE</p> <p>Mr Duffy reported that he had spoken with Ms McGinty, CAWT MACE Project Manager, yesterday, and advised that referrals were coming in and interventions were up and running. He said there would be a call out again for providers which would end in September 2021.</p> <p>Youth Justice Agency - Update</p> <p>Ms Heaney reported on the development of a mental health worker co-located between CAMHS and the Youth Justice Agency. She said this was due to commence in the Southern Sector and be rolled out to the Northern Sector. She was hopeful to have someone in post before the end of September 2021. Ms Heaney said young people in the justice system can be vulnerable and the CAMHS additional resource has enabled the Trust to undertake this development with the Youth Justice Agency which she was excited about.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Mr Duffy to provide a further update at the next meeting.</p> <p>Collaborative Working</p>

	<p>Ms McGilloway reported on the excellent response from youth workers and hospital staff in the care of a young person who had overdosed at a bonfire in Derry. She said everyone worked collaboratively in the interests of the young person.</p> <p>Mr Cassidy thanked everyone for their continued efforts and asked that his message of thanks be relayed to all staff. He asked if there were programmes, services etc, that groups which to share, these could be circulated by his office.</p> <p>Mr Cassidy thanked members for joining today's meeting.</p>
12	<p>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting The next meeting is arranged for 27 October 2021 at 10 am via Zoom.</p>