



Review of the Configuration of the CYPSP Northern Area Locality Planning Groups

Background

The CYPSP Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) require to:

- Reflect local early intervention needs of children and families
- Engage and involve community, voluntary and statutory partners at local level
- Be effective in delivery of initiatives to improve welfare and wellbeing of children and families

It was agreed at the Northern Area Outcomes Group that a review of the configuration of Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) would be undertaken, to ensure that they are meeting the above requirements. This task will be progressed by the configuration sub group which will include collaborative representation from each of the LPGs, the CYPSP team and the Northern Trust.

This document outlines the options appraisal process, and is designed to facilitate discussion and due consideration of the issues involved. Three options have been identified however, this is not restrictive and it is expected that other options may emerge through discussion.

The identified options will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Degree to which they can reflect local issues and needs
2. Ability to engage and involve community, voluntary and statutory partners
3. Ability to be effective in delivery of initiatives to improve welfare and wellbeing of children and families
4. Ease of Implementation

Definition of Options

Option 1 - 5 Groups as currently configured.

- Larne/Carrick

- Mid Ulster
- Causeway
- Antrim/Ballymena
- Newtownabbey

This option reflects the configuration LPGs currently use and involves no change.

Option 2 - 4 groups aligned with existing Council Boundaries

- Causeway
- Mid Ulster
- Mid and East Antrim (Larne, Carrick & Ballymena)
- Antrim & Newtownabbey

Under this option Antrim and Ballymena LPG split and align with Newtownabbey LPG and Larne/Carrick LPG respectively. Mid Ulster and Causeway LPG require incorporation of Dungannon and Limavady LPGs which crosses boundary with SHSCT and WHSCT.

Option 3 - 10 Groups configured on pre 2015 boundaries

- Coleraine
- Ballymoney
- Moyle
- Antrim
- Ballymena
- Magherafelt
- Cookstown
- Larne
- Carrickfergus
- Newtownabbey

Under this option 4 of the 5 LPGs undergo a split, Causeway into 3 separate LPGs, Mid Ulster into 2 LPGs, Antrim/Ballymena into 2 separate LPGs and Larne/Carrick into 2 separate LPGs.

Considerations for Discussion

Given the 3 identified options, what are the implications for :

- Identification of LPG Chair and maintaining sustainable chairing

- Securing and maintaining fulsome commitment of key support to LPG from key organisations such as Councils, Voluntary sector, Family Support Hubs
- Ensuring sustainable involvement of and commitment of wider LPG membership

Weighting of Options

Criteria	Weight	Reason behind weighting
Reflecting local issues and needs	25	Locality emphasis longstanding basis of LPG
Engage and involve partners	25	Collaborative approach longstanding basis of LPG
Effective Delivery	30	Importance of impact agenda given recent workshop commitments and needs assessments.
Ease of implementation	20	Recognising difficulty of change and potential strategic gain

Workshop 9th March

A workshop to carry out an option appraisal was held on 9 March, chaired jointly by Maxine Gibson, CYPSP and Hugh Nelson, NHSCT. All LPGS were represented.

Attendee	Representing:
Ursula Marshal	Mid Ulster
Karen Graham	Carrick and Larne
Mervyn Rea	Antrim and Ballymena
Jude McNeill	Mid and East Antrim Council
Pamela Sweeney	Newtownabbey
Claire Humphries	Newtownabbey
Mary Tennyson	Mid Ulster
Kate McDermott	NHSCT
Gerry McVeigh	Antrim and Ballymena
Michelle Loughery	Causeway
Sharon Kirk	Causeway
Roy Beggs	Carrick and Larne
Una Casey	CYPSP

At the outset of the meeting all introduced themselves and Maxine provided an update of progress of the joint review of LPG working arrangements by Chairs, Trust and CYPSP overseen by the CYPSP Northern Outcomes Group. All issues were settled to date, with the review of structures remaining to be considered.

A briefing paper outlining criteria, options and weighting has been circulated in advance and was affirmed at the workshop, subject to following understandings:

- Some chairs require discussion with wider LPGs on outcome before final agreement
- Hybrid options can be considered through follow up discussion

With the criteria and weighting of criteria agreed and options for discussion settled, there was vibrant discussion involving all present:

- expressing views on the discussion questions raised in this paper
- sharing of experience by LPG chairs and view
- review of criteria as applied to each option
- scoring of options

There was a common consensus that ensuring effective outcomes for children and families was the key objective and that there were alternative ways of ensuring this other than further structural change. Particular issues specific to individual LPGs, such as the Dungannon interface for Mid Ulster LPG, were raised and noted.

A number of improvements were noted and plans are to be put in place for taking these forward and are incorporated in the structural action plan included in this paper.

Criteria: Reflecting local issues and needs:

It was felt that option 3, based on previous Council configuration would be best for reflecting local needs and issues by providing a localised focus. It was agreed that under current arrangements the localised nature of issues and needs can be well reflected through, for example, the recent needs assessment survey. It was further noted that alignment of data by Council aided local understanding as does management of agenda. These factors led to the conclusion that local needs and issues were being reflected under option 1 and would similarly be reflected

under option 2. The scores out of a maximum 10 were therefore agreed as 8 for option 1, 8 for option 2 and 9 for option 3.

Criteria: Engaging and Involving Partners

Discussion on current participation reflected strong partnership engagement for new LPGs with Newtownabbey and established LPGs. Despite the benefits of holding virtual meetings which facilitated attendance without travel, it was agreed that option 2 would for some reduce engagement while for statutory partners such as Councils it would potentially help engagement. With many partners operating across more than one of the previous council boundaries, it was concluded that option 3 would reduce engagement and involvement. It was concluded that option 1 scored 8, option 2 scored 7 and option 3 scored 6 reflecting the balance of how structural configuration impacted across community, voluntary and statutory partners within LPGs.

Criteria: Effective Delivery

The effectiveness of delivery of recent initiatives addressing the impact of Covid, on mental and emotional wellbeing and on poverty, was noted positively and the agreed action plan arising out of the February Outcomes Group workshop was taken into consideration. It was agreed that effective delivery would be maintained under option 1 and also under option 2 however that it would be more difficult under option 3 given that many of the issues arising cut across local boundaries, as reflected in the recent survey of needs. The agreed scores were 8 for option 1 and 8 for option 2 with option 3 scoring 6.

Criteria: Ease of Implementation

It was recognised that the existing configuration would require least change and that the move to option 2 would impact on most but not all LPGs. Option 3 would involve the largest upheaval and would be challenging to implement given the need to identify 10 active chairs. The scoring was 10 for option 1, 7 for option 2 and 5 for option 3.

The weighting applied to the scoring against agreed criteria is presented in the following table. It was agreed that this was reflective of the discussion and best represented the views of the group as a whole.

Criteria	Option 1			Option 2			Option 3		
	As is (5)	Wgt	Score	Councils (4)	Wgt	Score	Old Councils (10)	Wgt	Score
Reflecting local issues and needs	8	25	200	8	25	200	9	25	225
Engage and involve partners	8	25	200	7	25	175	6	25	150
Effective Delivery	8	30	240	8	30	240	6	30	180
Ease of implementation	10	20	200	7	20	140	5	20	100
TOTAL			840			755			655

Conclusion

It was agreed that on discussion that option 1 came through as the preferred option and that this was reflective of the consensus of those representing all the LPGs in the appraisal. Further discussion within each LPG was required to confirm.

Additionally it was agreed that arrangements would be put in place to further ensure streamlined structures to address the need to achieve the best outcome:

- Annual meeting of LPG Chairs (Maxine to review need for AGM)
- Strengthened communication on areas of cross over for Mid Ulster Group involving Dungannon LPG and for Carrick & Larne Group with Ballymena.
- Succession planning to be developed to provide for development of new chairs