

Report from Locality Planning Groups to Southern Area Outcomes Group

Months: November 2020 – February 2021

<p>Current Issues being Discussed at LPG: Including: Gaps in services/Emerging needs</p>	<p>Armagh (19th Nov and 14th Jan 21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people more difficult to engage over zoom. Becoming zoomed out (REACT & Barnardos) • Zoom fatigue has increased among young people (React, Barnardos, Cedar) • Food and Fuel Poverty (Barnardos, BCM Armagh) <p>Banbridge LPG (1st Dec and 27th Jan 21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in referrals for counselling for Carers (Carers Trust) • Zoom fatigue among young people, more difficult to engage online (Futureproof) • A lot of anxiety with young people (Barnardos) • Challenging to keep people engaged online especially with Men's Groups (ABC Banbridge) • Emerging issue of pressure on young people with regards to GCSE grading and workload (EA YS) <p>Craigavon LPG (24th Nov and 19th Jan 21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people displaying high levels of depression, anxiety, self-harm, eating disorders, suicidal ideation (Links Counselling) • Young people with additional needs have had very disrupted year, - changed routines and special schools opening & closing has impacted on young people. (Carers Trust) • Zoom fatigue among young people (Cedar) • After the last lock down, there was an increased number of children with anxiety in September on return to school (St Anthony's PS) • Challenging to keep children engaged and talking via zoom (Women's Aid) • Main issues are technology. A lot of parents struggling with using Google classroom and other apps. Current situation is stressful for kids and parents (EA EWS) <p>Dungannon LPG (10th Dec and 2nd Feb 21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging issue around technology, for some kids online does not work for them. The one-to-one support needed cannot be offered to them through an iPad (Cedar) • Emerging issues; poverty, violence from child to parent (BCM) • Emerging issues; technology for families especially with more than one child, behavioural issues with children and young people, mental health, isolation and food poverty (EA EWS) • Complex cases of domestic violence & higher no. of families with children with ASD experiencing issues (Network Personnel) • Emerging issues: increased debt caused by job losses and Universal Credit delays, affordability of housing, mental health an increasing issue, children's behavioural issues (STEP) • Issues around fuel poverty in the area (Mid Ulster Council)
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<p>Current Issues being Discussed at LPG: Including: Gaps in services/Emerging needs (Continued)</p>	<p>Newry & Mourne (10th Nov and 20th Jan 21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Younger people reporting high level of stress with being back at school – lots of coursework, constant testing (EA YS) • Lot of anxiety about returning to school due to risk of infection and vulnerable people within the household. School closures/ subsequent lockdown has contributed to heightened anxiety (EA EWS) • Feeling disconnected from friends, sense of loneliness and isolation from peers (EA EWS) • Sense of insecurity about the future as we are living in the 'here and now', day to day, with daily/weekly routines ever changing according to the latest lockdown rules (EA EWS) • 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 • 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) • 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) • Difficulties some families are facing accessing Google classroom online when schools are closed (EA EWS) • Huge demand for SVDP food parcels (SHSCT) • Lack of IT equipment: 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) • 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 support in the interim waiting period (EA EWS) • Not all young people engage well online (EA YS) • Lock down has really increased numbers of Domestic violence, helplines very busy (Women's Aid) • A lot of queries on Carers receiving the vaccine (Carers Trust) <p>South Armagh LPG (3rd Nov and 16th Feb)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor mental health among young people and a lack of mentoring available (FSH) • Young people very stressed and anxious on returning to school (EA EWS) • Digital disadvantage for families (NMandDDC) • Huge increase in poverty (Bolster Community) • Lack of parenting programmes for Roma and Bulgarian families (NMandDDC) • Mental health especially parental mental health (Home Start) • Issues around risk taking behaviours, drugs, and alcohol (NMandDC) • Parental mental health, children's mental health, increase in relationship breakdowns (Bolster Community) • Engagement in schoolwork is not working for all children this time round. Group work is more difficult due to restrictions and over Zoom some children are struggling to engage (NIACRO CAPS) • Lack of routine and structure in children's lives, anxiety among GCSE age group on cancellation of exams (EA EWS) • Parents requiring support around motivation and routine for children. A lot of housing support required (Clanrye)
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<p>Recent Achievements by the Locality Planning Group.</p>	<p><u>Portadown Gets Active:</u> PGA Christmas event on Wed 2nd December at CIP, Portadown. 40 families received Xmas hampers. Event included hot food and visits by ABC Council Lord Mayor, Almac, CiNI and Planning Group members. Video recorded of interviews with participants (children and parents). Currently being edited. PGA Annual Scorecard attached with this report.</p> <p><u>FYI:</u> 8 editions of our fortnightly e-bulletin FYI: 348 pages and 570 pieces of information in total, at an average of 43.5 pages and 71 pieces of information per edition.</p> <p><u>Our Journey Through Disability:</u> Presentation given and poster produced on Our Journey Through Disability for Social Work and Social care Research Conference on 10th March.</p>
<p>Engagement with Children & Young People, Parents/Carers:</p>	<p>PGA Christmas Programme: 40 families (45 parents, 62 children) Our Journey: 12 parents/carers</p> <p><u>Total engagement with 62 children and 57 parents/carers</u></p>
<p>Meetings Held:</p>	<p><u>Meetings Held: Locality Planning Groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armagh LPG – 19th Nov (18 attended) and 14th Jan 21 (16 attended) • Banbridge LPG – 1 Dec (14 attended) and 27th Jan 21 (13 attended) • Craigavon LPG – 24th Nov (14 attended) and 19th Jan 21 (14 attended) • Dungannon LPG – 10th Dec (10 attended) and 2nd Feb 21 (17 attended) • Newry & Mourne LPG - 10th Nov (16 attended) and 20th Jan 21 (17 attended) • South Armagh LPG – 3rd Nov (14 attended) and 16th Feb (11 attended) <p><u>Total attendance at LPG meetings: 174</u></p> <p><u>Meetings Held: Action Plan:</u></p> <p><u>Locality Planning Groups Action Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Journey Through Disability: 6 meetings with SHSCT representatives (16 attended) • Portadown Gets Active - 3 meetings (14 attended) • Portadown Gets Active Xmas event – 40 families attended <p><u>Meetings Attended:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAWT MACE Network & Universal Intervention meetings – 3 meetings • Infant Mental Health Workshops – 2 workshops (54 attended) <p><u>Southern Outcomes Group Action Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional Wellbeing Network - 2 meetings attended • BAME Needs Assessment Group – 2 meetings attended • Youth Voice Task & Finish group – 2 meetings attended
<p>Upcoming Events:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 further workshops on An Introduction to Infant Mental Health (originally 3, now 5 workshops in total due to high

demand).

- Our Journey Through Disability Workshop on 14th April