

## Southern Area Outcomes Group

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 9.30am

Via Zoom

Agency/Sector		Present	Apology
<b>Statutory</b>			
<b>HSCT (Chair)</b>	Paul Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Family Support; Hub Lead; Safeguarding)</b>	Donna Murphy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Disability)</b>	Elaine Mooney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Public Health)</b>	Gerard Rocks (Promoting Wellbeing)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>HSCT (CAMHS)</b>	Stephen Rogers Denise Carroll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Education Authority</b>	Kieran Shields Donna Weir Sarah Muldoon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NI Housing Executive</b>	VACANT		
<b>Community Planning/Council</b>	Patricia Gibson (PCSP) David Patterson (NMDDC) Allison Beattie (ABC) Allison Clenaghan (ABC) Martina Totten (MU)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>PSNI</b>	Wayne Johnston		
<b>Public Health Agency</b>	Collette Rogers Kelly McCartney Laura Taylor Dani Sinclair		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Parenting Coordinator</b>	Martina McCoey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Youth Justice Agency</b>	Michael Heaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Childcare Partnership</b>	Kevin Duggan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>LCG Link</b>	VACANT		
<b>Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership</b>	VACANT		
<b>Other Partnerships</b>			
<b>Voluntary Sector</b>			
<b>Early Years Organisation</b>	Peter McKinney		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>MENCAP</b>	Mikhaila Woods		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Barnardo's</b>	Monica McCann Pat McGeough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>NIACRO</b>	Tracey Gillen		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Ronan Garvey attended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Community Sector</b>			
<b>Clanrye Group</b>	Dara O'Hagan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>SPACE</b>	Jacinta Linden (Also LPG chair) Alison Slater attend for Jacinta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>BME Sector</b>			
<b>Craigavon Intercultural Programme</b>	Stephen Smith		
<b>Locality Planning Group Chairs</b>			
<b>Craigavon LPG</b>	Deborah Millar (Home-Start Craig.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Armagh LPG</b>	Aileen O'Callaghan		
<b>South Armagh LPG</b>	Taucher McDonald (NMDDC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Newry LPG</b>	Jacinta Linden (SPACE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Banbridge LPG</b>	Colette Ross (EA Youth Service)		
<b>Dungannon LPG</b>	Jacqueline Masterson (SHSCT)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>In Attendance</b>			
<b>Locality Planning Officer</b>	Darren Curtis		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Planning &amp; Information Support</b>	Valerie Maxwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>CYPSP</b>	Maxine Gibson Una Casey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Administrator for Outcomes Group</b>	Margaret Gibney		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Family Support Hub Co-ordinator</b>	Helen Dunn		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Pauline Leeson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Summary of Actions

**No actions from meeting.**

### **1. Introduction and Apologies**

As noted above.

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting (31.10.2020)**

Agreed as accurate reflection

### **3. Matters Arising**

Terms of Reference Welfare Reform group – Paul noted that this was an administrative error, Margaret to resend. Paul reminded members to send information re impact of COVID on service delivery to Valerie.

### **4. Update Family Support Hubs**

Donna provided the following overview; at last meeting advised that there had been a dip in referrals however referrals picked up again over the summer months and this continued over Sept, Oct & Nov. Donna advised that the Hubs are now seeing a dip in core referrals to Hubs but have noted an increase in contacts not necessarily resulting in full referral to Hub; co-ordinators are signposting support services. Outreach worker; Donna advised that Transformational funding has been extended, initially this money was used to look at increasing referral activities and supports to families, however the service found that additional support was needed to engage those harder to reach families. Outreach worker is located in each Hub in an attempt to gather better data and navigate providing better support; Outreach Worker may well complete intervention if required. Donna reported that the Outreach Workers are currently work 30+ hours each week at Band 4 they gather information from referral source, meet with family to ensure the family receive right service/support. Donna commented that this has been a positive initiative and Hubs will benefit from ongoing transformational fund. Donna added that initially there were some challenges in terms of recruitment, funding etc.

Pat added that Barnardos have been able to use funding to provide financial support to families that they have identified in need. Pat added that it is his understanding that this will also be opened to other hubs.

Donna acknowledged that it has been noted that all Hubs have gone the extra mile in terms of services/supports to families, food packages, financial help and activities.

Pat commented that at previous meeting it was referenced that in relation to CWD there has been an arrangement that A&D will facilitate referrals were these children have not been allocated a SW.

Elaine commented that this is on the back of 'Our Journey through disability' programme and will be reviewed again, sign posting, time limited piece of work, more responsive to needs of families hope if successful will roll out to other areas.

Paul commented that this is an excellent example of good collaboration which should be promoted. Noting that it is an example of supporting families, giving that early intervention which in turn means the families are not referred into statutory services.

Jacinta then gave an overview of activity noting that at Christmas there were 87 referrals this was an increase of 33% from the last quarter, significantly higher due to Covid. Jacinta stated that some families were just about managing before Covid. Due to Covid families were facing additional pressures from redundancy, furlough, home schooling and mental health issues. Jacinta advised that triage system was put in place which was positive noting thanks to Barnardo's for opportunity. Given this support they were able to offer toys, electric, heat food etc. to families in need and were even able to call on Christmas eve with meals for Christmas day and toys for Christmas morning.

Ronan reported that they have had a bit of dip in enquiries however these have picked up again, noting much same picture that Pat and Jacinta have painted. Ronan referenced CWD pilot adding that they would be interested in that being extended into their area.

Paul commented that he is increasingly concerned about the number of families finding themselves in poverty, adding that he feels it is important to capture the collaboration of the group. Paul stated that another concern is around domestic violence bubbling in background, wanted a sense from members in terms of what is happening. Paul referenced pilot project in relation to domestic violence and early intervention which remains active. Donna advised that this programme is based on low level referrals that come in Gateway but don't meet the criteria for full assessment; the pilot has seen 20 families on average per month since March. Some of those referrals have resulted in families being navigated to the outreach worker or Hub, currently writing up evaluation of project. Donna advised that the pilot has allowed workers to see the importance of follow up with those families down the line i.e. in 3 or 4 weeks to try and navigate them to services around parenting, behaviour management etc. Staff within Family Support Hubs have been trained in domestic violence and they can address some of the early awareness issues. Donna noted that the project has been very successful and is another example of the collaboration between Hubs, Domestic Violence Partnership agencies & Women's Aid.

Jacqueline stated that she does not have an update in terms of the impact of domestic violence from community groups and agreed to ask for update from them and provide feedback. In relation to the poverty issue Jacqueline relayed similar experience as noted by Jacinta & Pat at Christmas time. Jacqueline stated that she was very alarmed by the amount of schools that needed help for families, highlighting that these were families that had not been previously known.

Jacinta advised that they are seeing parents reporting concerns familial violence from teenager adding that families are using services very well. Jacinta noted that one parent had commented that they had not realised how much they was triggering the behaviour. This family availed of parenting programme, Jacinta highlighted that if families get the hand of help at the right time there can be a positive outcome.

Martina reported that she has had recent contact with Parenting NI who provide 'walking on eggshells' programme, Martina noted that funding will be lost for that particular programme.

Michael added that YJA have seen a number of children coming into the justice system in relation to child on parent violence, some of these young people have been remanded on bail then breeched their bail conditions due to a conflict with parents meaning they are being returned to Youth Justice Centre.

Pat added that he is aware that YPP have also had few cases of young people where this has been a feature.

Paul noted that the other element that has surfaced is the impact on mental health; both parents and young people and asked members what issues are emerging.

It was noted that home schooling has put additional pressure on parents, young and older children not only in terms of the teaching but some families do not have the technology to facilitate home schooling which is another pressure. Deborah advised that thy have new mums who haven't been able to go out or attend mother & toddler groups which has an impact on their mental health serious. Deborah also highlighted that children are now at home all the time with no school which is adding pressure.

Donna advised that EA have experienced an increase of impact of mental health on young people, young people are now confined within their family units, home schooling, restrictions have added additional pressure. EA have noted an increase in concerns from young people in terms of anxiety stress and worry, exams.

Denise advised that this has been seen across CAMHS, Denise commented that young people benefit from structure in their day adding that some zoom sessions which have been led by parents have had up to 130 families logged in.

Kieran pointed out that all services in EA are open and available to agencies for either face to face meetings or online. Kieran added that schools are very aware of the impact on mental health and reiterated that services remain open. Kieran advised that staff are doing calls noting that there is good positive mental health provision out there. Kieran asked that if any member had any experience of bad practise to let him know so that it can be flagged up and something done about it.

Paul commented that this morning's discussion has highlighted the constraints members are faced with, however emphasised that members are trying to make the best of bad situation.

#### **4. Update Locality Planning**

Jacinta advised that LPGs continue to meet adding that the collaboration that has been developed has been brilliant; Jacinta asked that as vaccinations have now opened up can staff get vaccine; asked if Paul could clarify this. Paul stated that Directors have lobbied through the Board on behalf of community/ voluntary sector and those who have contracts with the Trust the supporting the need staff to be vaccinated; recent correspondence from our own HR department Southern Trust as Directors have been advised that vaccine can be offered to front line staff. Paul noted that there is to be a further meeting today to clarify the logistics of delivering this. Jacinta commented that the vaccine would give staff more confidence when working with the families.

Taucher stated she would echo what Jacinta said in terms of value of group, translation hub BAME large in our area continued to meet, some clarification in terms of Darren being off i.e. should LPGs continue to meet.

Jacqueline advised that LPG Dungannon met in November and LPG in Armagh are due to meet tomorrow. Jacqueline stated that for information one of the best things that has come out of pandemic is the connection between all LPGs. Mental health remains a significant issue both in relation to parents and young people, groups all continue to work in background.

Valerie advised that Kerrie continues to work supporting LPGs and agreed to contact Kerrie to confirm if meetings are going ahead. Valerie added that Darren was hoping to get to some meetings this week if able however she has not heard from him. Valerie stated that she would assume Darren would like meetings to go ahead Kerrie will be there to facilitate.

Paul stated it is important that Darren gets the message that he needs to rest, take it easy and members all hope that he gets better soon.

#### **5. Update task & finish groups**

##### **BAME**

Jacqueline provided an update on the survey results thanking Valerie for collating information.

Jacqueline advised that responses were received from a good mix of statutory and community organisations adding that the group has up to 20 members however it is felt that this is needed.

Survey went in out in September and closed in November to organisations across the Southern Trust both statutory and community/voluntary, 83 responses were received, 53 from statutory and 30 from community/voluntary organisations working directly with BAME and some faith based groups.

Jacqueline shared screen with members to show break down of responses received.

Jacqueline then provided an overview of results of survey, stating that it was important to note that total number of responses are not reflective of all southern trust area as not all responses provided figures.

When asked to identify unmet need responses included: interpreting services, language barriers, access to child care, access to suitable housing, GP registration and access to medication. Jacqueline noted quite a lot of similarity in responses from Comm/Vol and Stat organisations in that they too noted difficulties with language/interpreting services, lack of funding, staff issues, gaps in engagement, demands on service due to COVID

Dara stated that this was a brilliant piece of work which pulls together the issues. Dara asked if there were any issues highlighted in terms of education as it has been noted that some families can speak English but can't read and write. This led to some discussion around classes and the lack of them, it was noted that sporadic classes do run from time to time. Dara commented that she would like to develop conversational classes.

Kieran stated that regional colleges enrolment is only once per year if miss in Autumn then can't do until next year. Adding that there are some extended school programmes but again these are very sporadic.

Taucher reported that they have run a number of classes and found again it was aimed at a certain standard, times for these classes can also be an issue as majority are working shifts therefore if at work can't go to classes. The provision of child care is also an important issue when attending classes as some children are not old enough to leave at home.

Jacinta concurred that this was an excellent piece of work which has prompted the thought why not offering classes with crèche facility which was previously done.

Jacqueline noted that in relation to GP registration they are currently looking at developing a help sheet to explain what information is needed when registering with GP.

## **Emotional health & wellbeing**

Martina advised that Deirdre McParland is now Chairing the group and they met for the first time earlier this week (Martina shared screen to show membership of group). Terms of Reference have been agreed via Outcomes Group; group will meet four times per year with additional communication between members as needed. Group have discussed the importance of no duplication of work. In terms of early stages; central location for information for YP in relation to mental health, other piece of work card with magnet attached to mobile phone with key numbers for help. Webpage public face of group aims – have it accessible to children young people and parents. Key pieces agreed from Outcomes group.

Valerie then shared proposal for webpage, advising that through ongoing discussions linking in with Trust, school, and direct engagement with YP & community planning one issue being highlighted by young people is that they don't know where to go to access support/information re mental health. Proposal brought today for approval from Outcomes Group – central unique page which is simple and easy to navigate page will signpost support for young people. This is a multi-agency resource providing information to children and young people across the agencies. Key area highlighted is the co-production of work with the young people themselves. Next step is to commence co-production to ensure voice of young people is at the core of the design, it is easily accessible, engage with school, family support services, youth forums, LPGs and other groups we can access. Look at and agree content and design of page with young people and stakeholders, hope to do PR campaign around this and promote. In terms of resources Valerie stated that she hopes her team will provide the technical assistance in development acknowledging that there may be some small costs.

Paul added that the aim is to complement and enhance work that already exists.

Donna stated that she welcomes the proposal pointing out that specific areas should be targeted, adding that they are hearing across our services that children and young people are struggling.

Jacqueline concurred adding that she feels it is very timely given what they are hearing in LPGs, Jacqueline stated that she has a list of groups/organisations re youth action & disability which may Valerie may benefit from linking in with.

Paul then asked if members were endorsing the wellbeing page for young people, all members agreed to endorse.

## **YJ/CAMH Pilot**

Michael provided a brief background to Pilot for members re co-located worker. Michael commented that this pilot has been Running for a while now and continues to do very well, given current restrictions face to face can be limited at times.

Regional level – meeting just before Christmas re roll out to other Trust areas, agreed in principal want to roll out and both organisations are committed to co-funding. Michael noted that are things that still need to be addressed such as the oversight and governance arrangements. Michael added that there was some discussion on a regional level about what the pilot is NOT doing i.e. not providing funding to Trust to deal with mental health issues; funding is being provided to roll out pilot.

Michael then advised that the CAMHS commissioner has moved on and a new commissioner will be in post very soon, may be some issue re commitment of funding YJA 3yr HSCB commitment or proposal to release funding.



## Voice of Young people

Dara noted that the aim to ensure we get young people involved in any actions that are being brought up and these meetings. Dara advised that through a number of meetings 40 organisations have been identified and asked if they wanted to tie in. Dara noted that 9 organisations have completed survey from a good geographical area and age group, those 9 happy to go ahead in Southern Trust initially as a pilot, with a view to spreading regionally.

Dara advised that she has arranged a meeting for this Friday 15<sup>th</sup> the agenda will include introducing the organisations and an overview of the aims of Task & Finish group. Youth groups to discuss best mode of communication with young people; obviously due to Covid this will be carried out online, Dara agreed to provide further update at next meeting.

## 6. Monitoring

Valerie stated that she wants to sign off old plan for the workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, like to complete as much of plan as possible and have available, will be linking in over the next few weeks in relation to stats that are needed.

## 7. New Action Plan/Workshop

Valerie then shared screen with members noting that at last CYPSP meeting 4 priorities were identified overarching: children mental health and emotional wellbeing, early intervention support CWD and families, support to children whose wellbeing has been affected by disruption to their schooling, contribution to strategic cross departmental actions in response to food and fuel poverty.

Valerie commented that 4 areas have been identified to take forward in our new plan suggesting that these are delivered through task & finish process again

- CWD
- BAME
- Emotion & Mental health and wellbeing network
- DV

These areas are all underpinned by the voice of young people

Valerie asked if members were happy to move forward and focus on these at workshop, suggesting that the proposed agenda review and sign off current plan then:

- Review and discuss data in relation to priority areas
- Feedback/input children and young people from this Friday's meeting
- Review and establish task and finish groups that are needed
- Identify next steps to develop new plan

Paul questioned if Domestic Violence should be one of the areas pointing out that as noted by Michael there is a forum within Southern Trust which focuses specifically on domestic violence. Paul suggested leaving forum as it is with Outcomes periodically 'dipping in' if required.

Some members felt that domestic violence needs to remain a priority area on action plan and it was agreed that this will be discussed further at workshop on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

## **AOB**

Paul advised that he had received correspondence from Gary Scott ABC & NMD Councils requesting to join Outcomes group, members felt that this would be beneficial to group, it was agreed that Gary would be invited to join Outcomes group.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 31st March 2021