

Southern Area Outcomes Group

**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 10am  
Via Zoom**

Agency/Sector	Statutory	Present	Apology
<b>HSCT (Chair)</b>	Colm McCafferty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Family Support; Hub Lead; Safeguarding)</b>	Leanne Spratt	<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>	Shirley Dennison		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Education Authority</b>	Kieran Shields Sarah Muldoon Aileen O'Callaghan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>NI Housing Executive</b>	VACANT		
<b>Community Planning/Council</b>	Patricia Gibson (PCSP) Gary Scott (ABC/NMDDC) Alison Beattie (ABC) Allison Clenaghan (ABC) Celine O'Neill (MU)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PSNI</b>	Barbara McNally		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Public Health Agency</b>	Collette Rogers Kelly McCartney Laura Taylor Dani Sinclair		
<b>Parenting Coordinator</b>	Martina McCooley		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Youth Justice Agency</b>	Michael Heaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Childcare Partnership</b>	Kevin Duggan		
<b>LCG Link</b>	VACANT		
<b>Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership</b>	Gary Scott Safeguarding Co-ordinator, ABC & NMD Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Other Partnerships</b>			
<b>Voluntary Sector</b>			
<b>Early Years Organisation</b>	Anne Rice/Stephanie Elliot		
<b>MENCAP</b>	Mikhaila Woods		
<b>Barnardo's</b>	Monica McCann Pat McGeough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>NIACRO</b>	Ciara Corrigan		

<b>Community Sector</b>			
<b>Clanrye Group</b>	Dara O'Hagan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Bolster</b>	Jacinta Linden (Also LPG chair)	<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>			
<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>			
<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"/>
<b>Administrator for Outcomes Group</b>	Margaret Gibney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Family Support Hub Co-ordinator</b>	Vacant		
	Pauline Leeson		

## **1. Introductions & Apologies**

Apologies noted as above

Colm welcomed members to what is effectively his first meeting as Chair of Outcomes Group following Paul's retirement, introductions were noted.

## **2. Minutes of previous meeting (22.09.21)**

Agreed as accurate reflection of last meeting.

## **3. Matters Arising**

Action 1 – achieved

Action 2 – Valerie advised that a further meeting has been arranged for early December which will look at connections and proposed arrangements, Maxine to provide further update at next Outcomes meeting

Action 3 – Valerie & Colm to progress membership from Housing Executive. Valerie advised that membership is due to be reviewed this year agreeing that she and Colm will discuss and update members.

Action 4 & 5 – achieved

## **4. New Our Journey Task Group**

Valerie advised that following Workshop which Darren held it was agreed that a new Task Group would be established. Valerie stated that as yet the Task Group has not been established adding that she placed it on today's agenda so that members could have some discussion in relation to who should sit on Group. Suggested nominees are: Elaine Mooney, Mark Irwin, Martina McCooey, Valerie Maxwell and Jim McDonald (parent). Darren commented that including Jim continues the same process previously taken to ensure parents are actively involved throughout the process. Darren agreed to send further communication out to parents and reiterated that the group need to look at the best ways to engage parents and the need to remain flexible. Valerie then asked members to give some consideration to representation on the group emphasising that nomination from Education is particularly important. Elaine commented that there is also a need for a Chair of the group adding that she does not feel it should be led by the Trust. Colm agreed with this noting that there is a significant cohort of families who do not require statutory involvement, reiterating that the group should be driven by the parents. Colm suggested that someone from Voluntary/Community sector should Chair, Valerie then suggested that there should be a joint/deputy Chair and this position should be taken up by a parent. Monica agreed with comments and added that she is happy to support they group in anyway but is not in a position to Chair. Jacinta concurred with Elaine adding that like Monica she could not commit to Chairing the group but would be happy to support. Valerie stated that she feels representation from Young People would also be important.

Colm noted that members will not be able to agree nominations today but asked members to have this confirmed before next Outcomes meeting in January. Valerie advised that this would fall within her remit and agreed to arrange an initial meeting of the group before next Outcomes group, Valerie stated that at this initial meeting members can agree the role/responsibilities of the Group and agree who the Chair will be.

**Action 1:**

**Valerie to arrange initial meeting of new Task Group and agree role/responsibilities, Terms of Reference, Chair and membership. Members to provide nominations to Valerie**

## **5. Family Support Hubs Update**

Leanne provided a brief update on FSH noting that they remain extremely busy at present with a high influx of referrals. Leanne noted that unfortunately Hub meetings did not happen last week as there was no representative from Gateway Service due to staff shortages. Meetings have been rescheduled and Shauneen Quinn will attend. Leanne noted that feedback indicates a huge pressure on Hubs at present however noted that the work of the Hubs and service they provide is excellent.

Jacinta then provided an update on Newry Hub, commenting that everyone is aware of the difficult times all agencies are facing particularly in relation to staff. However as the meeting did not occur last week this did highlight that if Gateway Service are unable to attend, this needs to be communicated in advance. Jacinta emphasised that there was not any one agency at fault, all agencies are dealing with the same pressures highlighting that there have only been three instances when meetings have not been able to proceed. Jacinta advised that there has been a 62% increase on same period last year, 125 from July currently sitting at around 134. Jacinta highlighted that there continues to be no rep from EWO at the Hub with a lot of referrals coming from schools, Jacinta asked if Kieran can help raise this with EA that would be appreciated. Jacinta noted that emerging themes remain as before i.e. autism continues to be a consistent referral particularly those awaiting referral or diagnosis. Jacinta reported that the amount of referrals from autism team has also increased. Emerging themes in referrals include; children building resilience and coping strategies, the lack of services for adolescents in particular mentoring.

Monica concurred with Jacinta's comments in terms of Education rep at Hub meeting. Monica also agreed that the fact that the meetings did not proceed was no one agencies fault. Kieran stated that in terms of representation from EWO he advised that members may be aware that currently EWOs are engaging in Industrial Action therefore is it highly unlikely they will attend anything outside of their caseload. However Kieran agreed to raise at his next meeting with head of department.

Colm commented that the Hubs are now well established acknowledging that agencies remain committed to Hubs. Colm added that Hubs are now in a slightly more secure position in terms of funding and partners continue to work well. Valerie advised that the new Hub co-ordinator Bronwyn Campbell will be taking up post in January. Colm pointed out that this is a Regional co-ordinator and is very welcome as it is a reflection of the regional commitment to the Hubs.

Colm then referenced Gateway being unable to attend Hub meetings last week agreeing to discuss this with Leanne and Donna in an attempt to safeguard against it happening again. Colm added that they will also consider if Shauneen will always have capacity to attend and agree contingency representation from the service.

Jacinta commented that if an alternative or another plan could be put in place to avoid it happening again, this would be welcomed. Jacinta commended Angela for her role in supporting the Hubs adding that she plays an amazing role and always has done.

Leanne advised that Angela is currently off and is likely to be off for some time. In Angela's absence Hazel Comer would have previously stepped in to attend however Hazel is also off. Leanne stated that there was some miscommunication as neither she nor Shauneen were aware of what was in diary acknowledging that this was an oversight. Leanne confirmed that Shauneen will attend Hub meeting tomorrow and the meetings planned for early next week. Colm stated service will consider with a view to resolving any challenges

Colm noted that a constant reoccurring theme appears to be autism commenting that he feels there may be a risk in this, in that he would not want services to become saturated in autism referrals to the detriment of other vulnerable families who also require family support.

Deborah reported that Homestart are seeing more referrals from families in relation to neuro diversity which then impacts on education and other services noting that this seems to be increasing. Jacinta agreed adding that she referenced trends which are concerns from referrer agencies. In relation to poverty piece previously referenced Hubs have been able to get additional money which 42 families have already benefited from directly.

Colm stated that he is glad to hear this and reiterated the importance of having these conversations. Monica reported that Barnados in the Western Trust have secured funding via MACE project in relation to early intervention/pre-diagnosis and agreed to keep members updated.

Colm noted that funding for post aligned to Bolster in Armagh & Dungannon has been secured for another year. Jacinta added that this post has progressed some small wins that have made a significant impact i.e. the emergence of parent & toddler drop in group in the Markethill area.

## 6. LPG Update

Darren referenced report provided to members for today's meeting noting that it contains current issues being discussed i.e. emerging unmet needs, top 3 priorities for action plan given feedback. Meetings are still being carried out via zoom dates will be set for next year. Darren advised that the first draft of action plan has been written, it is his intention to share this with Chairs to get their feedback ensuring it is an accurate reflection of discussion at LPGs. It will then be presented to all LPGs next year.

Darren encouraged members to share FYI newsletter with colleagues.

Darren noted that two Chairs of LPGs have resigned, he is currently recruiting and is hoping to sort by beginning of year.

## 7. Updates from Task & Finish Groups

Valerie advised that there are no chairs in attendance today and provided the following brief update on each group:

### Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Youth wellness Website is up and running, fantastic that partners are sending through information for use, Valerie asked members to retweet and share any information to raise awareness

Currently looking at pulling together information pack for parents, trying to arrange with EA Service agree drop off points, hope to take forward in New Year

Information card for young people with key telephone numbers and QR code for youth wellness group – hoping to take forward via Dara's group

### Ethnic Minority

Valerie advised that Jacqueline has moved on to a new post however has agreed to stay on until needs assessment completed, further meeting to be held in December to pull together work to date with recommendations. This will then be shared with Outcomes Group who will in turn share at higher level with CYPSP to ascertain how to take issues forward. Valerie noted that the biggest issue at present remains GP registration for Newcomer Families.

Translation Hub continues to receive excellent feedback, partners continue to send information through. Valerie advised that a new section in relation to Tetun language has been added for inclusion, which is proving very useful.

Colm noted that a growing trend has been identified for example lower uptake of vaccine in BAME communities wondering if there was a communication problem in relation to vaccine uptake, asking if information and education is out there and is being shared with BAME families. Valerie advised that the group have done significant work in relation to vaccines and how to access them, this information was shared through Social Media and translation hub. Valerie noted that there does appear to be some conspiracy theory within certain communities adding that she is unsure how this can be

addressed moving forward. Valerie agreed to raise this with Jacqueline and new Chair once identified. Kieran suggested linking in with Stephen Long in the Belfast Trust to discuss how they have gone about promoting vaccine uptake.

### **Voice of young People**

Valerie stated that Dara is hoping to take forward work; they have identified number of local groups who are happy to act as reference group.

Michael commented that there has been great work in respect of this, and asked how other agencies would connect in to some of those things that are already in place. Colm stated that this is very relevant and needs consideration. Colm added that members may be aware that there will be a review of children's social work services, this review will include how services can engage with young people. Valerie advised that CYPSP are not setting up a specific group they want to link in with those groups already established, they will act as references groups on a local level as well as regionally. Valerie noted that there is quite a considerable network of Youth Groups that we can link in with, leaders are happy to be point of contact, no reason why partners can't access via CYPSP to utilise those different forums.

### **8. Strengthening links in respect of poverty forum and DV forum**

Valerie noted that at the last meeting Gary agreed to be the link in relation to domestic violence forum. Valerie stated that she included this item on agenda as she wanted members to discuss how they thought the Outcomes group could strengthen the link in both the Poverty and Domestic Violence Forums.

Michael stated that it was his understanding that when planning the priorities for Outcomes Group both these themes were identified however there were no clear defined tasks. The link between Outcomes and these forums is required to ensure information is going out to both these groups and if there was some appropriate ask/task from these groups there is an agreed way for it to come back to Outcomes Group.

Colm suggested writing to both forums to open up channels of communication, it was also agreed that this will remain on agenda. It was agreed that Gary will be the link for DV and Colm will be the link with the poverty forum.

Alison then provided an updated on some the work currently been done by the Council in relation to poverty, food banks etc, highlighting that Council are very keen to support.

Valerie suggested setting up short Task & Finish group alongside the FSH to ensure all agencies are aware of what is on offer and to strengthen communication links.

Taucher stated that if there is any information from these group she would be happy to share/raise through DEA forums.

## **9. AOB**

Colm noted the standard agenda items which are included at each meeting, adding that he would welcome any partner agency to come forward with any agenda items for future meetings.

Elaine asked members to share any information in relation to services available for families in need via Margaret

Kieran then referenced meeting with Council leadership tomorrow to help set up a Newry City of Sanctuary group of volunteers. Kieran asked members who might know, particularly asylum- and refugee- experienced residents in the Newry City Region who might be interested in joining a new group to get in touch with Kieran or email him for more information.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10 am via zoom