



Notes of Western Area Outcomes Group
held on 15 December 2021
at 10 am via Zoom

Present:

Mr Tom Cassidy, Deputy Director, Women & Children's Directorate, Western Trust [Chair]
 Mr Kevin Duffy, Assistant Director [Community & Public Health], Western Trust
 Ms Aileen McGuinness, Chair, Derry Locality Planning Group
 Ms Rioghnach Murphy, Assistant Director Children's Services, Barnardos & Chair of Strabane Locality Planning Group
 Ms Mairead McMullan, Western Child Care Partnership Manager
 Mrs Priscilla Magee, Locality Planning Co-ordinator
 Ms Laura Feeney, Senior Programme Manager, Save the Children
 Ms Colleen Heaney, Assistant Director, Youth Justice Service
 Ms Claire Lynch, Children & Young People's Co-ordinator, Derry City Strabane District Council
 Ms Muriel Bailey, Director of Family Support Services, Parenting NI
 Ms Una Casey, Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership
 Mrs Angela Wade, Directorate Business Manager, Western Trust
 Ms Mairead McGilloway, Head of Service, Western Trust
 Ms Joanne Sweeney, Family Support Programme Manager, Mencap
 Dr Josephine Deehan, Western Local Commissioning Group
 Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Ms Linda Watson, Caw/Nelson Drive Community Association Ms Erin McFeely, Chair, Waterside Locality Planning Group Ms Edel Fox, Omagh Women's Aid & Chair of Omagh Locality Planning Group</p>
2	<p>Chairman's Remarks</p> <p>Mr Cassidy welcomed members to the meeting and advised that he had been asked by Ms Deirdre Mahon, Director, to continue to Chair the Outcomes Group meetings for the next period of time. He said this was an important strategic meeting and he was delighted to be continuing as Chair.</p>

3	<p>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 27 October 2021</p> <p>Notes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the discussion. Ms McGuinness's name to be included in the attendance list.</p>
4	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.</p>
5	<p>Unicef Update - Presentation by Claire Lynch</p> <p>Ms Lynch advised that a Unicef Child Friendly City meant that children and young people had a meaningful say and had a voice in decisions being made. She said the process had commenced in 2018 and governance arrangements and senior managers were in place, but the process had been delayed due to Covid. She advised that 7 principles underpinned a child rights based approach:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dignity. ✓ Participation. ✓ Life survival and development. ✓ Non discrimination. ✓ Transparency and accountability. ✓ Best interests. ✓ Independent and indivisibility. <p>Ms Lynch reported on:-</p> <p>Unicef's Mandatory Badges [x 3]</p> <p><u>Culture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People value and respect children and young people. ▪ People know about and respect children's rights. <p><u>Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information about a child rights is shared with children, young people and adults in different ways. ▪ People know when important decisions affecting children, young people and families are being made. <p><u>Co-operation and Leadership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People work together to make the city better for children and young people. ▪ Decisions are made involving children and young people. <p>Unicef's Optional Badges</p> <p><u>Healthy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have good physical, mental and emotional health. ▪ Are supported if they have any additional needs. ▪ Know how to stay healthy.

Equal and Included

- All children and young people regardless of their background, culture, ability or anything else:-
 - Feel welcome in the city and district.
 - Have the same opportunities to grow, learn, explore and have fun.
 - Are protected from discrimination.

Education and Learning

- Are able to learn about the world around them in a safe, welcoming and respectful place [this includes children and young people who aren't able to attend school].

Ms Lynch advised that Unicef would be measuring the change process over the next two to three years by looking at policies, procedures and culture, and partners needed to demonstrate that progress had been made. Ms Lynch detailed the governance structure with the Western Area Outcomes Group being the accountable body for the delivery of the action plan. She advised that the Education Authority was now going to be a lead partner as well and the finer details of what this would look like going forward needed to be worked out. She said 763 volunteer hours were dedicated by young people on the Advisory Board. Ms Lynch reported that there were 42 rights within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ms Lynch advised that the next steps were:-

- ✓ Working groups in each statutory organisation to finalise action plan.
- ✓ Finalise draft plans including impact and verification measures checks.
- ✓ Child friendly version of action plan created and consultation with children and young people.
- ✓ Final plan.

Ms McGuinness said it was brilliant work and said the community needed to be involved to ensure fair representation. She enquired if Ms Lynch would consider engaging with the Department of Health as "Health" was one of the badges. Ms Lynch said maybe more regional representation was required and she would discuss this further.

Mr Duffy thanked Ms Lynch and said she had been involved from the beginning and acknowledged her work in keep everyone together. He said the challenge for agencies was how to demonstrate and evidence work to qualify for the badges.

Ms McMullan enquired about the age demographic of young people being consulted. Ms Lynch advised that the age range was 12 - 18, though there were young people up to the age of 24 with a learning disability also involved. She noted that they had not been strong in engaging with very young children. Ms McMullan advised that her organisation could provide assistance with this going forward.

	<p>Dr Deehan thanked Ms Lynch for her inspirational talk and said that Omagh and Fermanagh District Council were listening to young people, but would like them to engage more with the Council. She reported that in the southern sector there were long waiting lists for both CAMHS and ASD.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Duffy to link with Dr Deehan outside of the meeting regarding CAMHS. ▪ Mr Duffy to give an update on CAMHS at the next meeting. <p>Mr Cassidy thanked Ms Lynch and said she could use the Outcomes Group to disseminate learning or training details.</p>
5	<p>Update from Locality Planning Groups</p> <p>Ms McGilloway reported that interviews were being held this afternoon to fill the vacant Locality Planning Co-ordinator post. She undertook to inform Mr Cassidy of the successful candidate, who in turn, would advise members. Ms Casey said she was happy to do a handover with the newly appointed Co-ordinator and said it had been a pleasure working with the Locality Planning Groups in the Northern Sector. Ms McGuinness said Ms Casey had been a great support to the groups and had re-energised people.</p> <p>Ms Casey updated members on the work of Locality Planning Groups, as per her report submitted for the meeting. She said the current issues were mental health, support for children and families on ASD waiting list and poverty. Ms Casey reported that LPG newsletters were being published on a monthly basis and members could forward articles to her for inclusion.</p> <p>Mrs Magee gave an update, as per her report submitted to the meeting and highlighted the main areas of concern:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Donations to gift/toy/food appeals reduced this year. ▪ Mental health. ▪ CAMHS & ASD waiting lists. ▪ Addiction. ▪ Socialisation of babies born in lock down. ▪ Recruitment issues. ▪ Referrals increasing to Women’s Aid. ▪ Digital poverty. <p>Ms McMullan reported that she had met Western SureStart Mangers and staff in Omagh and Fermanagh had highlighted the support they were providing to parents while their children were awaiting an ASD diagnosis. Mr Duffy acknowledged that ASD was a major issue for the Trust and advised that he would encourage members to share meeting details so that a member of Trust staff could be attendance. Mr Duffy agreed to be the point of contact for this.</p> <p>Mr Duffy said one of challenges in Fermanagh area was the provision of providers. He said there were specific issues in meeting the need identified and getting</p>

	<p>providers to come forward to increase capacity. Mr Cassidy queried if Pathfinder was trying to address these deficits. Mrs Magee advised that she was meeting with Ms Karen Meehan this week. Mr Cassidy said he would be happy to speak with Ms Meehan or Mrs Molloy if Mrs Magee didn't get progress with current linkages.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr Cassidy proposed that this should be raised at the regional CYPSP group. Mr Duffy to forward Mr Cassidy a form of words. <p>Ms McGilloway advised that the Hubs increased their activity this year, in comparison to 2019/20 and said staff were working really hard. She said the largest referral category was self referral. She advised that there was a need to look at stepdown and Mr Armstrong, Governance Lead in Family & Child Care, had offered to do a presentation to each Hub in relation to this. Mr Cassidy requested information on cases between Gateway and Hubs to understand the type of cases the community were dealing with. Dr Deehan paid tribute to the work carried out by the Hubs and said the figures demonstrated the extent of the need within communities.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms McGilloway to provide an update on Hubs at future meetings. <p>Ms Lynch advised that the European Union had run a workshop last Friday on the children and young people's theme and she would send the link to Ms Forrest to share with members.</p> <p>Mr Duffy said that he had met with Ms Brigid McGinty, MACE Project Manager, this week and reported that there was more flexibility in Southern Ireland to be able to do things quicker and be more responsive compared with the requirements set out by BSO. He said Ms McGinty had a meeting arranged with the Trust's Contracts Department this week. Ms McGuinness asked that this be kept on the agenda until the issue was resolved. Mr Duffy proposed that Ms McGinty be invited along to a future meeting.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Forrest to invite Ms McGinty to a future meeting. <p>Mr Cassidy thanked members for their updates.</p>
6	<p>Early Intervention Programme Updates Agenda item to be renamed Hubs Update.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms McGilloway to provide information on the number of referrals to Hubs.
7	<p>Finance Mrs Wade reported that there was a remaining Outcomes Group balance of £107,000 and it had been agreed at the previous meeting that this would be shared amongst the Locality Planning Groups. She said four groups had submitted</p>

	<p>proposals and their funding was to be paid in the coming days.</p> <p>Mrs Wade reporting that in the Southern Sector, organisations really wished to take the funding, but felt they could not administer the process, and the issue related to admin capacity. Ms McGuinness reported that the Derry LPG had assisted families with costs in relation to electricity, gas and oil.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs Wade, Ms McGilloway and Mr Duffy to discuss. Mrs Wade to link with the Trust's Contracts Department. Ms Feeney said she would be happy to support. <p>Mr Duffy requested that information on high level themes be sent out to members again.</p> <p>Ms Casey proposed that future funding from the Outcomes Group needed to go into a longer term project. Following discussion, it was agreed that the next meeting be dedicated to finances.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next meeting to be dedicated to finance issues, with Mr Duffy providing a briefing note on CAMHS, as per discussion earlier in the meeting, <p>Mrs Wade and Mr Cassidy thanked Ms Casey for taking over Mrs Donnelly's duties whilst recruitment was completed.</p>
8	<p>Community Planning</p> <p>Ms Lynch advised that the Strategic Growth Plan was to be reviewed in terms of governance, partnership structure and data sets used. The draft plan had previously been shared with members, but she asked if a couple of members would volunteer to meet with her to finalise changes.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms Casey and Ms McGuinness undertook to meet with Ms Lynch to take this forward.
9	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Ms McGilloway reported that the Family & Child Care Sub Directorate were extremely busy dealing with complex referrals. She said the Directorate were also struggling with workforce vacancies across all areas. Ms McGilloway said other Trusts were experiencing similar staffing difficulties and waiting lists, as were partner organisations. She said the Trust was working hard to support staff and were employing a skills mix to support teams. Mr Cassidy noted that a regional review of children's services was due to commence and said he had never known services to be under so much pressure.</p> <p>Ms McGilloway reported that the Trust were currently dealing with two very serious organised child abuse cases, based on digital technology. One case involved over 250 young people and spanned three Counties - the PSNI, TULSA and the Gardai</p>

were involved. Information was currently being collated in relation to the second organised abuse case. She said a media campaign was being planned with the PSNI in early January 2022 on young people and technology and a training programme was also planned for schools and clubs.

Ms McGilloway reported on the Trust's "16 Days of Action for Domestic Abuse" campaign. She said the Trust's Communications Department were currently collating data on the number of videos viewed during the campaign and the Trust and PSNI were collating statistics to establish if there was an increase in calls to both organisations over the campaign period. Two online events were held on 6 & 8 December 2021, in partnership with Foyle Women's Aid. The event on 8 December 2021 reported on the provision of a new Justice Centre opening in Derry in April 2022, the first one in the UK, which would provide a one stop help centre for victims of domestic violence.

Ms McGilloway advised members that a new Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Bill was coming into effect in Northern Ireland and the Trust were anticipating an increase in referrals, particularly in relation to coercive control.

Dr Deehan said she was shocked at the number of staff vacancies and acknowledged the pressure on Trust Social Workers.

Ms Bailey advised that the SBNI were working with the PSNI to provide online safety videos for young people, parents and carers. She said the SBNI were also working alongside NSPCC.

10 Any Other Business

Ms Casey reported that the Western Area Outcomes Group one page plan had been included in the regional plan which was going out to consultation after Christmas. Mr Cassidy asked members to take time to read the plan before the next meeting.

Mr Cassidy referred to two horrific family and child care deaths in England recently and said it was anticipated that social work would receive a lot of bad press over the coming weeks. He acknowledged that family and child care social work was a difficult place to work and said there would be published reports into the circumstances of the deaths of the children. Mr Cassidy said staff in the Trust were prioritising child protection cases on a daily basis. Members agreed and said they would be supportive of social work, particularly in their community and voluntary role.

Finally, Mr Cassidy wished everyone a Happy Christmas and advised everyone to stay safe and have a restful time over the holiday season. He paid tribute to all staff who facilitated the rollout of the vaccines and encouraged anyone to get the vaccines/booster.

11	Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting 23 February 2022 at 10 am via Zoom
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