



**Notes of Western Area Outcomes Group**  
**held on 23 February 2022**  
**at 10 am via Zoom**

**Present:**

Mr Tom Cassidy, Deputy Director of Women & Children's Services, Western Trust [Chair]  
Mr Paul Sweeney, Locality Planning Co-ordinator  
Mrs Priscilla Magee, Locality Planning Co-ordinator  
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  
Mr Mark Rogers, Extern & Chair of Fermanagh Locality Planning Group  
Ms Edel Fox, Omagh Women's Aid & Chair of Omagh Locality Planning Group  
Ms Erin McFeely, Chair of Waterside Locality Planning Group  
Mrs Monica MacIntyre, Department for Communities  
Ms Laura Feeney, Save the Children  
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 Joanne Sweeney, Family Support Programme Manager, Mencap  
Dr Josephine Deehan, Western Local Commissioning Group  
Ms Denise McCallion, Health & Wellbeing Improvement Manager, PHA  
Ms Bronwyn Campbell, Regional Family Support Hub Co-ordinator  
Ms Deirdre Hasson, Education Authority  
Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Mrs Elizabeth Campbell, Assistant Director for Transformation & Pathfinder Ms Maxine Gibson, Professional Advisor for Children's Services Planning Ms Linda Watson, Caw/Nelson Drive Community Association Ms Mairead McGilloway, Head of Service, Western Trust Ms Debbie Hunter, Assistant Manager, Health Improvement Equality & Involvement Department
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2	<p><b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 15 December 2021</b> Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, subject to an amendment regarding the misspelling of Dr Deehan’s name on page four.</p>
3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b> There were no matters arising.</p>
4	<p><b>Chairperson’s Remarks</b> Mr Cassidy thanked members for attending today’s meeting and congratulated Mrs Magee on her Doctorate in Childhood Studies.</p> <p><b>Update on Membership</b> Mr Cassidy welcomed new members and gave an update on recent changes to the group as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mrs Elizabeth Campbell, Assistant Director for Transformation &amp; Pathfinder, Western Trust</li> <li>▪ Mr Paul Sweeney, Locality Planning Co-ordinator, Western Trust</li> <li>▪ Ms Bronwyn Campbell, Regional Family Support Hub Co-ordinator, HSCB</li> <li>▪ Ms Deirdre Hasson, Education Authority</li> <li>▪ Ms Jane Collins, Early Years Organisation</li> <li>▪ Ms Denise McCallion, Health &amp; Social Wellbeing Improvement Manager, PHA</li> </ul>
5	<p><b>CAMHS Update</b> Mr Cassidy referred to the update report on CAMHS prepared by Ms Sarah McGee, Head of Service, which was included with today’s meeting pack. Following discussion, members felt it would be helpful to invite Ms McGee to a future meeting to provide a verbal update on CAMHS and ASD.</p> <p>Ms McGuinness said it would also be helpful to have an update on MACE and how it was functioning. Mr Cassidy advised that Ms Brigid McGinty, MACE Project Manager, had accepted an invite to attend the next meeting on 27 April 2022.</p>
6	<p><b>Finance Workshop</b> Mrs Wade gave an update on the current procurement process and highlighted the difficulty this year in trying to allocate funding to groups due to the admin burden on some organisations if they accepted the funding. Ms Casey reported that the advertisement for small grants last year had to be sent out twice due to the low uptake. She gave an update on the other Outcomes Groups spending proposals.</p> <p>Ms McMullan said there were different processes in relation to amounts of money and thresholds and would be prepared to follow up on this.</p> <p>Ms Murphy said funding from the Outcomes Group was desperately needed, but within a week the funding had been allocated, and said she was unable to identify what the impact was to families in need. She said there needed to be a</p>

measurable impact in terms of future funding. Ms McGuinness said there would be more impact if there were larger projects with more measurable outcomes. She said the group needed to listen and address issues highlighted by Locality Planning Groups.

Members agreed:-

- Administration barriers - need to get funding out easily and accessibly.
- Future funding to be utilised in a preventative way and less reactionary.
- More consistent approach with measurable outcomes.
- More joined up working with partner agencies.
- Longer term planning.

Mr Cassidy reported that five of the top ten most deprived wards in Northern Ireland were within the Western Trust. He said it could be argued that the Western Trust area is the most deprived in Northern Ireland and Great Britain. He said Northern Ireland had a low wage economy, and the Western area was impacted by this issue.

Dr Deehan reported that Fermanagh and Omagh District Council had put an emphasis on addressing poverty and was supporting initiatives to reduce its effects. Mrs Magee referred to the Anti Poverty Strategy which pointed to the West of the Province being more deprived than Belfast. Ms Forrest to forward members the link for the strategy.

Mrs Magee said she believed there should be a model around adults, similar to the Family Support Hubs and said it would be interesting to hear from Mrs Campbell at a future meeting regarding the work being taken forward by Pathfinder.

Ms McFeely said the current theme was poverty and a more joined up response from a number of strategic partners was required. She said consideration needed to be given on how to develop a more sustainable food system. Ms Campbell agreed to provide a breakdown of figures for the Western Trust from the regional financial support requests.

Ms McCallion said the group needed to be cautious about procurement timescales and manage reality and expectation. She agreed to undertake some scoping to see what would have the best impact.

Three Priority Areas:-

- ✓ *All children and young people have the best start in life and are emotionally and physically healthy.*
- ✓ *All children and young people are safe and their welfare is promoted within their homes, schools and communities.*
- ✓ *All children and young people are supported to thrive and achieve their potential.*

	<p>Mr Cassidy said it appeared that poverty was the number one issue at the moment and it impacted on each of the above priority areas.</p> <p>Mr Cassidy said he would like to get agreement from members for the way ahead. Following discussion, the next steps were agreed as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Remaining members to put themselves forward for the Task and Finish Groups.</li> <li>✓ Ms Casey to send out March meeting dates for Task and Finish Groups.</li> <li>✓ Task and Finish Groups to nominate a Chairperson.</li> <li>✓ Although poverty was a huge issue, it did not discount the opportunity for groups to discuss other matters.</li> <li>✓ Task and Finish Groups to bring back spending proposals to the next Outcomes Group meeting for detailed discussion on the way forward.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Role of Chairperson</b></p> <p>Mr Cassidy advised members that he had been asked to continue as Chairperson of the Western Area Outcomes Group, and he was delighted to do so. He said the contribution from voluntary and community groups had been exemplary and said Locality Planning Groups played a huge role in society.</p>
8	<p><b>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>27 April 2022 at 10 am via Zoom</p>