

**West Belfast Virtual Locality Planning Meeting
Tuesday 6th October 2020
10.30am**

Attendees:

Deirdre Walsh	Chair/Whiterock Children's Centre
Martin Sloan	LPG Coordinator BHSCT
Deborah Burnett	Greater Falls FSH
Harry Bradley	Youth Justice Agency
Michael Doherty	Lenadoon Community Forum
Nicola Verner	Greater Shankill Partnership
Nicola Masterson	Outer West FSH
Paddy Gallagher	EA West Belfast
Penny Ambrose	Beechmount Sure Start
Dympna Johnson	Greater Shankill Partnership
Jenny Potter	NOW Group
Elaine Hanna	Parenting NI
Laura Feeney	Save the Children
Heather Floyd	MUMO Forthspring
Mairead Gilmartin	Sure Start
Paul O'Neill	BHSCT
Andrea Barr	BHSCT
Sharon Nelson	Upper Springfield/Whiterock FSH
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration

Apologies:

Danielle Roberts	Here NI
Michael Hogg	EANI
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Lives
Marie Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI
Phil Lindsay	Barnardos
Sarah Jones	Belfast Met
Natalie Killough	BHSCT
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI
Kyle Duncan	Autism NI

1. Welcome and Introductions

Martin advised that the meeting was being recorded for administration purposes.

There were no objections.

Deirdre Walsh welcomed everyone and facilitated a round of introductions.

2. Poverty – Pastor Tony Meehan and Reverend Stephen Reynolds

Unable to attend meeting.

ACTION: To be added to Agenda in next meeting

3. EA Youth Division, Restart Programme – Paddy Gallagher

The Stay Connected service was initially introduced and this progressed to become the Eat Well Live Well scheme. Through this scheme, 5000 food parcels per week were delivered throughout Northern Ireland.

Detached services have continued working in partnership with the PSNI regarding any potential areas for antisocial behaviour such as local parks. As we come out of lockdown, detached work will revert to targeted work.

EA gave £167,000 to full time voluntary sectors, targeted at most the vulnerable young people. To begin with, EA's Restart programme will only be undertaking targeted work in small groups. This is a phased process and hopefully around October they will be able to take a more generic approach.

Q. Martin Sloane: When did the Restart programme begin?

A. Paddy Gallagher: It is still ongoing. It began around May and its application began from September. It needs to be phased to ensure the safety of staff and young people.

Q. Martin Sloane: Was the Eat Well Live Well scheme supplementary to the food bank?

A. Paddy Gallagher: The Stay Connected service was used as a referral system. Referrals then went to a Hub manager and Poleglass and Matt Talbot were used as a distribution centres.

Q. Martin Sloane: Is the Flair Programme is still up and going with PSNI and online safety?

A. Paddy Gallagher: Flair is a regional service focusing on mental health. It has been running throughout.

Q. Martin Sloane: There is a module being led by the University of Ulster to help staff deal with crisis. Do you know much about this?

A. Paddy Gallagher: This has only come though recently but details can be sent through.

Q. Deirdre Walsh: Regarding Covid and young people - we are constantly being told about young people being bored of it all and feeling that Covid doesn't apply to them.

It also feels as though there is no consistency with school closures and classes closing.

A. Paddy Gallagher: EA workers were first response in informing children of the dangers of Covid. A lot of young people are still very anxious about the current situation. We can only keep educating young people about social distancing, hand washing etc.

EA's own centres have a very clear policy if there is a Covid outbreak.

Q. Michael Doherty: Regarding the Eat Well Live Well Scheme, 5000 food parcels a week were delivered throughout NI. Can we get a breakdown of how many were delivered in each area?

A. Paddy Gallagher: There are statistics for the overall programme but don't know if there are statistics available per area. However, I try my best to obtain this information.

ACTION: Paddy Gallagher to send Martin Sloane details of University of Ulster Module.

4. Parenting NI Survey – Elaine Hanna

See attached presentation

Any feedback to be emailed to Elaine Hanna at elaine@parentingni.org

5. Members Updates

FSH Area:	Greater Falls	
Timeframe:	Sept 2020	
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	32 (1 out of area)	
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	GF1148 (up to 28 th Sept)	
Source of Service Requests:	Community 11	Self - 13
	Health visitor 1	Gateway 2
	GP 2	PSNI 1
	Voluntary - 1	
Key Gaps identified:		
<p>Child care Social activities for children (especially those identified with additional need)</p>		
Key Successes identified:		
<p>Continued use of Covid 19 response fund Continued use of BCC/Bytes devices for families in community Links made with MDT – West Belfast Federation staff</p>		
AOB for Sharing:		

FSH Area:	Upperspringfield/whiterock Family support hub
Timeframe:	September 2020
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	27 referrals- September
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	139 (April-sep)
Source of Service Requests:	Health visitor, ewo,self, community gp's, MDT mental health, school.
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>Services with face to face contact have been limited however some services have gradually being returning to face to face at moment due to covid restrictions, many are still working from home etc- some having noted young people are struggling to engage on phone etc - for counselling, mentoring etc. also some services for family support/ counselling etc are full/almost full to capacity due to demand for such services during covid</p>	
Key Successes identified	
<p>Through continued discussion with hubs/local community groups etc it was recognized the need the pressures families were under especially those who have been furloughed/lost jobs etc as a result of covid 19 - financially etc with a small amount of money being allocated for covid 19 support for food support, practical help, transport costs, child centred activities to families referred through the hub.- it has enabled our hub to provide a little support to those families who we have been able to identify through local knowledge, highlighting issues on social media etc which has enabled families to self-refer to the hub for such practical support as electric gas, food – including meat parcels, uniforms.</p> <p>Such contact with those in need has also enabled me to see if these families have needed any further services due to the pressures faced by families at this time.</p> <p>Services in locality being creative with online zoom classes and activities, resource packs for children and families etc during this period</p> <p>Good networking and liaising with services in locality -schools, community etc - in delivery of food parcels etc</p>	
AOB for Sharing	

FSH Area:	Shankill Hub
Timeframe:	Q2 (July – Sept)
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	July - 6 Aug - 11 Sept -19
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1073
Source of Service Requests:	Self Health Visitor Allied Health Professional CAMHS EA GP
Key Gaps identified:	None
Key Successes identified:	<p>Families referred to suitable services – changes in provision of support given due to situation with Covid-19</p> <p>Reasons for referral included; mentoring, family support, financial support & employability support.</p> <p>29 electronic devices distributed to via recent initiatives</p>
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	OWBFSH
Timeframe:	September
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	19
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	73
Source of Service Requests:	Gateway – 2, School – 8, Self – 4, GP – 1, Community – 2, CAMHS – 2
Key Gaps identified:	
Unmet need – service only available online but did not want to participate unless face to face	
Key Successes identified:	
Having Covid ad-hoc fund to support families	
AOB for Sharing:	

BAOG Update – Martin Sloane

The last BAOG meeting occurred in September. The main themes, emerging from all LPG's, are those of poverty, education and disability services.

There was discussion around more funding for the FSH's. The Early Intervention Support Team in the BHSCT are currently contacting all the Outcomes based groups to ascertain what support they are providing for children returning to education. There be extra funding for some of these Outcomes based groups.

Save the Children's Emergency Response programme – Laura Feeney

The Emergency Response programme was delivered from end of April via Sure Start. It has seen an increased demand month on month and therefore has been extended until December. They are supporting families with children of 6 years old and under through early learning packs, supermarket and Argos vouchers, and toy bundles and packs. Referrals are taken through Sure Starts.

Educational Underachievement and Social Disadvantage - Dympna Johnson

Dympna advised that her colleague, Jackie sits on an expert panel looking at the links between educational underachievement and social disadvantage. There's an online survey about this and Dympna will send the link to Martin for circulation.

ACTION: Dympna Johnson to send survey link to Martin Sloane

Lenadoon Community Forum - Michael Doherty

Michael advised that their counselling service had taken place over the telephone but they are now planning face to face sessions. Their family support workers are delivering service through Lenadoon Women's Group. Parenting classes are taking place but numbers have had to reduce to a maximum of 6 people. Now that classes are smaller, there is a waiting list.

They are trying to plan their Families in Need Winter Appeal for this year. As it will look different from previous years, they are not focusing solely on food but also looking to distribute gas and electricity vouchers. They are currently looking at how to generate the income to achieve this.

Afterschools, youth clubs and daycare are up and running again, trying to maintain some normality as there could be a circuit breaker in the near future.

Beechmount Sure Start – Penny Ambrose

Programmes for Two's and their Butterfly programme - for children with emerging social and communication difficulties, have been continuing. The biggest issue has been accessing premises where they can run parent and child groups. Post-natal mums have been asking where they can go to meet other new mums. From a mental health perspective it is important to have contact with others.

It is thought people are reluctant to let out their premises due to fear of Covid.

Michael Doherty added that the Belfast City Council closed all their community centres which meant the voluntary sector had to step in to accommodate groups.

Martin Sloane advised he would contact the Belfast city Council about this issue.

ACTION: Martin Sloane to contact Belfast City Council regarding the reopening of community centres.

Spectrum Centre - Nicola Verner

The Spectrum centre recently reopened for a number of services such as face to face counselling and family support. Referrals declined during lockdown but they have risen sharply again. The centre is being fully utilised 6 days and 4 nights per week, all following current guidelines and protocols

In terms of Belfast City Council community centres, Nicola said they were informed that the delay in reopening was a staffing issue as some BCC staff had been furloughed and some redeployed.

Youth Justice Agency – Harry Bradley

Face to face meetings resumed in mid-August.

They initiated the School's programme, contacting 30 schools. Of this 50% replied and the Youth Justice Agency will be working with these schools.

The Section Referral Scheme is for young people involved in a non-offence but inappropriate use of media technology. Police have been referring these youths to Harry and his team where they participate in a one-off session, alerting young people and their families to the risks online.

The Community Resolution Programme is ongoing. This is for young people coming to the attention of the police regarding public order offences, such as drug/alcohol abuse or criminal damage. This programme continued operating throughout the pandemic via the telephone and Skype.

Q: Deirdre Walsh: Are you finding that young people feel Covid won't touch them and can be indifferent to it?

A. Harry Bradley: Both extremes, some young people don't care whereas other families are vulnerable and extremely cautious. With referrals received through CRN (Community Resolution Notice) regarding children involved in anti-social behaviour, most of these young people feel that Covid will not affect them.

Greater Falls FSH – Deborah Burnett

Deborah advised that they have been granted some funds to offer financial help to families in need. The parameters around the use of the money is very broad and can be used for shopping, a winter coat, uniforms, a day out etc.

Deborah just wanted to make the group aware there is money there to be used.

6. A.O.B

- Martin Sloane suggested forming a Poverty sub-group. The next West Belfast LPG meeting will probably take place mid-November so would look to set up a Poverty sub-group just after this.
- Deborah Burnett advised that ethnic families in the Clonard area feel they are being intimidated and there has also been some instances of hate crime. We need to get the message across that this is not acceptable.