

# Minutes

**NEWTOWNABBEY LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP  
TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022  
3pm VIA ZOOM**

<b>Attendees:</b>	Jude Murphy	Network Personnel
	Claire Larkin	Action for Children
	Sinead Kelly	Save the Children
	Pamela McClelland	Impact Network
	Suzanne Kelly	Triangle Housing Association
	Marie Maguire	Bryson Energy
	Pamela Sweeney	Action for Children
	John Lyster	Loughshore Education Centre
	Roisin O'Neill	Barnardos
	Claire Humphrey	Barnardos
	Sinead McCormick	NHSCT

<b>Apologies:</b>	Ricky Massey	Glengormley HS
	Noreen McClelland	Antrim & Newtownabbey Council
	Nigel Arnold	Glengormley PS
	Roz McFeeters	Hill Croft School
	Roberta Chessell	Women's Aid
	Stacy Myles	Antrim & Newtownabbey Council
	Alison McDaid	EANI
	Frances Wilson	Christians Against Poverty
	Carrie Berne	NHSCT

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Chairperson, Jude Murphy, welcomed all to the meeting, particularly those attending their first meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

## 2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Jude provided the following updates on items highlighted at the previous meeting

### **CYPSP Conference – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June - Contributing to Developing Happy, Healthy Children & Young People – Tullyglass**

Over 200 people were in attendance with representative from across sectors. Guest speakers covered the span of childhood. The work of both the Family Support Hubs and the Local Planning Groups was presented and both has information stands. It was an uplifting day and excellent networking opportunity.

### **Inaugural NHSCT PANTS Awareness Week was held over 13th – 17th June**

The PANTS programme is an initiative by the NSPCC to provide messages around the topic of sexual abuse in a child appropriate way. The NSPCC has partnered with NHSCT to roll out programme across the Trust. June saw the inaugural PANTS Awareness Week and over the course of 4 days; NHSCT Health and Wellbeing Officers, along with the campaign mascot Pantosaurus, visited 18 schools, 4 nurseries, talking to approx. 1300 kids about the campaign. Schools and NHSCT used social media to publicise the visits. Positive verbal feedback from schools. In the Newtownabbey area 2 schools and a pre-school were visited.

### **3. Family Support Hub Update**

Claire Larkin provided an update. Claire reported that the FSHs were represented at the CYPSP conference and re-iterated the success of the event. Claire reported that a FSH celebration event was held recently to reflect on the work of the Hubs regionally. Brownyn Campbell, FSH Regional Co-ordinator was in attendance. This was an excellent opportunity for networking with regional hubs, share learning and good practice and discuss common themes.

One of which is the increasing numbers of inappropriate referrals. Claire plans to investigate this further but initial thoughts are that staff turnover in referring teams can impact due to lack of knowledge of referral criteria but it may also be an impact from increasing need and referrers' desperately seeking onward support. However to ensure a quality service it is important that referrals are appropriate and the service is not overstretched to the point of breaking. Another common theme was the lack of interpreter services.

Claire is keen to gather information on local uniform exchange schemes and summer schemes, preferably free of charge, operating in the Newtownabbey area.

Claire is also keen to gather information on any ASD Peer Support Groups potentially operating the Newtownabbey area. There appears to be a gap in this provision. Claire Humphrey noted a group in Jordan Victory Church in Rathcoole.

**ACTION: ALL to share any uniform exchange schemes, summer schemes or ASD peer groups with Claire**

**ACTION: SINEAD to contact Gillian Steele re her ASD service scoping exercise**

Claire noted that Barnardos delivered a virtual reality demonstration of how a young person might experience sensory overload in a busy café. She noted it a wonderful training opportunity bringing the experience more to life.

Sinead McCormick noted that the annual report from the Family Support Hubs is available and will be sent to members for review as it is very detailed and worth taking time to absorb.

**ACTION: SINEAD to share FSH annual report**

<https://cypsp.hscni.net/family-support-hubs/>

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-we-can-help/our-local-services/find-our-services-near-you/family-support-hubs/>

#### 4. Information Sharing

Sinead McCormick provided some information on events/reports.

- Uniform Schemes

There are currently 8 Community Groups confirmed across the Borough delivering a scheme this year. Information on all schemes and operational detail can be found on the Council Website at

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/uniform/>

\*Please note additional groups may be added throughout the summer\* The poster was sent to membership but will also be included in the member updates after this meeting.

- Uniform Grants

In light of the cost of living crisis and the increasing costs of school uniforms, please find information on the school uniform grant and please note the closing date is toward the end of July

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

- Oil Stamps

The oil stamp scheme allows householders to buy £5 oil stamps from local retailers and Council premises helping them to budget and spread the cost of central heating oil.

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/oilstamps/>

- Summer Schemes

Summer Schemes provide an all-inclusive mix of sport and play, arts, crafts, drama and much more <https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/leisure-centres/activities/summer-schemes/>

- Public Health Dietitians have launched their youtube channel.

Find out more information in the link below.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/public-health-dietitians-youtube-channel-now-live>

- Save the Children Family Support programme.

In response to the pandemic (financial issues/cost of living) 228 Households referred and 547 Children supported. £56430 Supermarket vouchers allocated, £6,720 Argos Vouchers etc. In the Antrim/Newtownabbey area 50 Households referred and 118 Children supported. £22,857 in funds were provided to the area.

Sinead Kelly from Save the Children acknowledged that there are families in increasing need and increasing numbers of families coming forward seeking help. The programme was originally an 'emergency response' programme but that the language around that needs to change as it is no longer an immediate emergency situation, it is unfortunately the way of life. Sinead, and others, noted again that there are increasing issues experienced by working families who do not

qualify for benefits by way of their employment status but are living on the “bread line.” Sinead reported there are discussions about how to make the programme sustainable and to be available across the year, rather than being limited to the Jan-Mar period, but this will take collaboration across a number of partners.

- Humanitarian Funding

Sinead Kelly reported that, Save the Children, working with Community Advice Centres are able to support Ukrainian families in a similar way with £340 available to them, again primarily for vouchers or essential equipment. Sinead encouraged members to contact Community Advice for more information.

John Lyster, Loughshore Education Centre, reported that the EANI are working to support the placement of Ukrainian children in schools

<https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/intercultural-education-service-ies/asylum-seeker-and-refugee-asr-support-team-0>

Members discussed the support available at the Ukraine Assistance Centres. Details available at

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/ukraine-assistance-centres>

**ACTION; Sinead to share the Save the Children report**

## 5 Review of funded projects

Sinead McCormick presented findings from the evaluations provided by projects funded by 2021/22 budget allocation. It was agreed that all projects had, and will continue to have, positive outcomes for their local communities.

**ACTION: Sinead to share presentation**

## 5. Review of action plan

Jude shared the current action plan with actions arising from the identified priorities:

- Resilience, Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing
- Parental and Family support
- Poverty

The actions completed were noted. The number of actions completed was acknowledged and whilst there will always be work to undertake within all priorities, there have been more within the area a mental health actioned and as such the focus going forward may need to be on poverty and family support. It was also noted that this is a natural plan given the current cost of living crisis and demonstrated increase in families seeking help.

Jude asked the group to consider specific actions that could be taken forward by the group.

**ACTION: SINEAD to send out survey to wider group to seek some views to direct the group**

## 6. Member Updates

Please see member update document (separate)

## 7. AOB

**New member:** Claire Humphrey introduced Roisin O'Neill who will be Acting Manager for Children's Services whilst Claire works on development in other areas. Claire will remain on the group contact list and attend meetings as capacity allows.

**Considering CYPSP Budget:** Jude asked attendees to consider about how they might like to distribute the £2000 CYPSP budget for this year before the next CYPSP Meeting. Different options were proposed such as small grants, similar to last year's use, or a community based event or training opportunities.

**Issue of Format of the next meeting:** Meeting in-person or online. Online option minimises travel time but opportunities for informal discussions are reduced.

**ACTION: Sinead to send out survey to ask for opinions about the format of the next meeting.**

## 8. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is

**Tuesday 20 September at 3pm**

**Venue/format TBC**