

Antrim/Ballymena Children's & Young People's Strategic Partnership Locality Planning Group minutes

Tuesday 21st June 2022 at 2.00 pm via Zoom

Attending

Gerry McVeigh	Co-Chair, Assistant Manager, YES Start 360
Lynsey McVitty	Health and Wellbeing Officer (Antrim/Ballymena), NHSCT
Linda Wylie	Health and Wellbeing Programme Support Officer, NHSCT
Mervyn Rea	Co-Chair
Jude Murphy	CFSP, Network Personnel
Claire Kelly	Family Support Practitioner, Family Support Hub
Nigel Montgomery	Youth Worker, Education Authority
Christina O'Neill	All About Us- ASD Teens
Hannah Bowyer	Community Development Officer, Ballymena South Community Cluster
Chris Lindsay	Education Authority
Sam Montgomery	Turning Point
Sharon Caldwell	Home Start, Antrim
Tina Gregg	Sure Start
Clare O' Neill	Fareshare NI
Rosemary McKee	Education Authority
Laura McCaughey	Impact Network NI
James O'Kane	Environmental Health, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Natalie McGrath	CFSP, Network Personnel
Stacey Myles	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

1. Welcome & Apologies

Mervyn welcomed everyone.

Apologies

Karen Merwick, Community Advice, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
 Eileen Maguire, Barnardos
 Kyleigh Lough, Mae Murray Foundation
 Heidi Johnston, Education Authority
 Catriona Fitzsimons, Start 360
 Jennifer Campbell, Sure Start
 Paula McLaughlin, NICMA
 Denise McVeigh, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Speaker (1) – Sharon Caldwell – Antrim Baby Bank

Sharon explained that during the height of the Covid 19 pandemic the Home Start service had been obliged to adapt and look to other ways to deliver their service. They commenced door step deliveries and soon realised that a Baby Bank would be an important scheme to establish. They were aware that an Antrim & Newtownabbey Baby Bank had been running successfully and this became the inspiration for Antrim Baby Bank.

Sharon indicated that the objectives of the scheme were to relieve poverty, to re-distribute quality products and thereby relieve parental stress.

The Antrim Baby Bank is open every Tuesday in Castle Mall Shopping Centre and they distribute clothes for children under three years, nappies and various family essentials. Sharon indicated that they are very dependent upon a group of volunteers who work there each week.

There have been 170 referrals to date and 78 different families have been supported. Those who attend the Bank have been referred mostly through GP's, Social Services and Community Organisations and once referred they can come back themselves. Sharon also indicated that there have been more and more teenage mums attending. She indicated that the scheme has been a great opportunity for signposting attendees to other organisations and services.

At present the Baby Bank is a pilot programme but will most probably become permanent.

Sharon will e-mail Referral Form for distribution to partners.

All partners were very impressed by the insight received regarding this valuable work.

Speaker (2) Clare O'Neill – Fare Share NI

Clare brought us a presentation on the work of Fare Share Northern Ireland which has been operational since 2010. They are the largest charitable food redistribution project in Northern Ireland and their objectives are to fight hunger and food waste. Food Share believe that no good food should go to waste. They distribute from their Warehouse in Mallusk surplus food to charities and Luncheon Clubs who turn it into nutritious meals and this feeds approximately 33,340 vulnerable people each week. Last year a total of 1.6 million meals were provided.

For further information on how to register to access surplus food please contact Clare by e-mail on Clare.oneill@fareshareni.org.uk or [Tel:- 07759 129081](tel:07759129081).

All partners were extremely impressed by the Fare Share NI project.

5. Family Support Hub update – Claire Kelly

The family support HUBS have been increasingly busy over the past months however have eased this month due to the summer holidays.

I am continuing to expand our networking and am using the summer months to gather new networking opportunities.

The Ballymena /Antrim is Struggling for counselling services we only had a small number of counselling services available who have long waiting lists already. We are also having an increase in services no longer accepting referrals due to waiting list, staffing issues etc.

The HUB meetings will be returning to face to face on a quarterly basis with the first meeting being September followed by January given December is an incredibly busy month for all involved.

6. Member Updates

Tina Gregg, Sure Start

- Dad's Voice will commence on 5th July 7.30-9pm. The group will be held in Turning Point NI in Ballymena and will be facilitated by Sure Start, Turning Point NI and Aware NI
- Sure Start have now been back within outreach groups, play sessions, workshops and parent programmes will continue to run throughout the summer offering a wide variety of services to our families

Lynsey McVitty – NHSCT

NHSCT running hypnobirthing classes for pregnant women and their partners
Trust is looking more foster carers particularly for children with a disability. They are running an information evening in Dunsilly Hotel on Wednesday 29th June 6.30-8.30pm. On Facebook page.

Walk in Covid vaccinations for people 5+ are still available at the Seven Towers leisure centre.

Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership Food for Thought webinar: 10am – 12noon, Wed 22nd June. CYPSP news.

Hannah Bowyer – Community Development Officer, Ballymena South Community Cluster

The Ballymena South Cluster Community Groups are planning for a networking event on the 6th October 2022, at Harryville Community Centre and will be sending invites to a number of support organisations to get involved. This will be a great opportunity for organisations to promote their services.

Ballykeel 2 & District Community Association have just completed a very successful 8 week pilot of a Parents & Tots group with approximately 30 children attending weekly. The group are currently seeking funding so this can continue after the summer holidays.

Ballykeel Together Development Association continue to run their Bright Stars Youth Club every week and this is providing a much needed service for children with autism and special educational needs. The group have reported some lovely good news stories with the children's development from attending the Youth Club.

As mentioned above The Ballymena South Cluster will be holding a networking event on **06/10/22 3-6pm at Harryville Community Centre** and we are inviting your organisation to take a stall.

This event is linking in with the Ballymena Shared Neighbourhood Advisory Panel and we feel this will be a great way to inform the wider public about the different opportunities that are available through the Housing for All scheme. The event will also showcase the work that our community groups do and help to promote their services.

I will be sending out a formal invite but just wanted to reach out now and ask you to hold the date.

Stacey Myles – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council



School Uniform
Re-Use Scheme Info

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 by clicking the hyperlink on the leaflet or on the Council Website here:

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

Please note additional groups may be added throughout the summer

Jude Murphy & Natalie McGrath – CFSP, Network Personnel

CFSP are still accepting referrals within Ballymena and Antrim areas. We have been carrying out our Parent Power initiatives of sensory packs, managing challenging behaviours and Take 5 for you. As well as this we are still running online workshops and accredited training courses including L1 Mental Health First Aid. Our Family Mentors are able to help with health and social support. We are also running a three day Confidence to Succeed workshop 5th - 7th July that includes support with budgeting, creating/updating a CV, what to do next - progression routes, as well as coping with stress and confidence and motivation workshops to help individuals to make the best decisions for their future.

Young people and parents are welcome to attend the sessions provided eligibility is met and sign up registration is completed.

Sharon Caldwell – Home Start



Home- Start Antrim - What we do !.docx



Antrim Baby Bank Referral Form.docx



Baby Bank leaflet (NEW) - Copy.pdf

Home Support is now slowly growing after such a difficult time throughout Covid. Volunteers are now becoming more confident in supporting families in their homes again. We need new volunteers, so I aim to spend August recruiting new volunteers to attend our volunteer

preparation course in September. I hope that in the autumn our capacity for one to one weekly support for families will increase as new volunteers are trained.

Family Group has been a huge success with so many parents having experienced so much isolation now keen to engage in community. This has now finished for the summer and we are open for referrals for this restarting in September.

Baby Bank is open every Thursday 10-3pm providing baby essentials to families to reduce poverty, parental stress and redistribute valuable resources. As this is a volunteer lead project this is closing for the month of July and will reopen on Thursday 4th August.

Gerry McVeigh - Assistant Manager, YES Start 360

2-6 Wellington Street, Ballymena BT43 6AE | Tel: 028 25689356 | E: Catriona.Fitzsimmons@Start360.org or Gerry.McVeigh@Start360.org

- **VOICES** – supporting young people aged 8-17 who have been impacted by parental substance use through counselling, key work and family work
- **DAISY** – supporting young people aged 11-25 who are impacted by their own substance use through counselling, key work and family work
- **Targeted Life Skills** – Life Skills programmes for young people aged 11-21 covering issues such as healthy relationships, managing difficult emotions, risk taking, decision making, social media
- **Connections** – promoting Alcohol Awareness Week (20-26th June) at local Tesco stores and in the community. Able to deliver one off awareness sessions on drugs and alcohol for young people and adults
- **Youth Engagement Service** – work with schools coming to an end, planning for next year. Drop In's for young people aged 11+ Tuesday and Thursdays 3-5pm, will expand over summer. Young Men's Football Thursday evenings at Ballymena Showgrounds 7-9pm (16+). Fishing programme will run over summer aged 14+. Job role will be out shortly – minimum OCN Level 2 in Youth Work, full time though flexible or part time hours will be considered.
- **Engage Women** – providing support for women aged 18+ who have been in custody or had contact with the criminal justice system.

James O'Kane – Environmental Health, Antrim & Newtownabbey Council

Summer Schemes:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/leisure-centres/activities/summer-schemes/>

Oil stamps:

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

Christina O'Neill – All About Us

Our group, All About Us - ASD Teens works with young people of various ages both those who are diagnosed with autism and/or associated conditions and those going through the diagnosis process, their siblings and their families.

At present we have an under 4s group, ages 8-18, ages 13-17 and ages 17-24 groups.

We also provide a community drop-in session and a parent support session once a week (term time).

We are winding down our activities for the summer at present and are fully booked for our summer weeks and trips but we are accepting new referrals from August, this can be self-referral or through other organisations.

Our basic programme runs from September to June and works on emotional regulation, fun with food and sensory workshops.

Additional information about our activities and registration can be found on our Facebook page @allaboutus2018 or by emailing to christina@allaboutus.club or caroline@allaboutus.club

7. Action Plan update

CYPSP Happy Healthy Children Conference 15th June- The day showcased support services, projects and research related to Children and Young People in the NHSCT. Topics included CYPSP LPGs, Roots of Empathy, Mental Health Support for Neo Natal Families, the YEAR Project and many more. Content looked at child development from before birth into the teenage years. Feedback was extremely positive.

PANTS campaign - still can get support with staff training sessions, parents' awareness raising sessions, parents' booklets and posters. Schools volunteers. Resources in 12 different languages will be available shortly.

PANTS Schools Week – 13th – 17th June 2022 was a week-long promotional campaign including information sharing, an activities pack developed for schools, visits to schools/nurseries by Pantosaurus, and supporting parents workshops. Pantosaurus has covered 300 miles in 4 days, visited 4 nurseries, 17 schools and 1252 pupils across Northern LPG's.

Future Actions

- Two needs identified by children and young people remain around Education and MHEW needs of ethnic minority children. Sub groups to be set up.
- Cost of living crisis discussed

8. Any Other Business

None raised

9. Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 13th September, 2022 at 2.30 p.m. Venue- Start 360 YES Offices, 2-6 Wellington Street, Ballymena, BT43 6AE (Beside Poundland)