

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING
MINUTES OF MID ULSTER LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP**

**Friday 23rd Sept 2022 AT 10.00AM
Cookstown Community Centre**

Attending:

Emma McElhone - NHSCT Health & Wellbeing (Chair for this meeting)
 Grainne Scullion - NICMA
 Rosemary Leese – Prince's Trust
 Lee-Ann Wilson – Rise NI
 Jillian Lennox – Network personnel
 Jessica Richie – Family Support Hub
 Bernadette Viana – Step NI
 Helen McCausland – SUSE+South west College
 Melanie Singer – NHSCT Children's Disability
 Denise Doherty – CWSAN
 Loretta Daly – Tobin Youth Centre
 Annette McGahan - Mid Ulster PCSP
 Mary Tennyson – Gold Surestart
 Norah Hughes – Find Help NI
 Josie McGuckin – Empower Project
 Emma McGeehan – MUDC
 Denise Doherty - CWSAN

Apologies:

Ursula Marshall – Chair
 Siobhan Hughes - NHSCT
 Rosemary Sleator- NHSCT Speech & Language
 Anita Hurley – NICHI
 Colette Slevin- Action Mental Health
 Chris Lindsay - EA
 Leona Christie - Toybox
 Tara Gilkinson – Speedwell Trust
 Helen Currie-Simpson – BCM
 Claire Murphy – Gold Surestart

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION By Whom
1.	Welcome & Apologies Emma welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted. A round of introductions were made.	
2.	Minutes of last meeting The previous minutes were agreed as accurate.	
3.	Matters arising Can we talk event October 2022 The 'Can We Talk' event' which was cancelled in March 2020 due to covid has been rescheduled to 25th October 2022, 9.30am -	Emma

	<p>1.30pm. Partnered up with Dungannon Locality Group to host the event. Will have a range of information stands present.</p> <p>Potential Venues For Future Meetings Emma discussed with agreement from the group future meetings would be held in November in Magherafelt 2022 and on Zoom in January 2023.</p> <p>NSPCC PANTS Campaign Emma updated the group on the NSPCC PANTS programme. A competition was held for primary school children to draw a picture for Pantosaurus' birthday. PANTS Makaton resources have just been launched and a workshop took place yesterday. Resources include booklets for parents and children. The PANTS project was also runner up in the NHSCT Chairman's Awards under the Population Health & Wellbeing Category.</p>	
	<p>The Princes Trust – presentation by Rosemary Leese Rosemary supports all young people from ages 16 – 30, who are not in education training or employment. Personal Development Programme online or face- face in Belfast and the travel is reimbursed.</p> <p>The Princes Trust works with a number of large companies such as Tescos/M&S/Lidl/Deli-lites to provide retail opportunities for young people to gain hands on experience on a short term contract. Development Rewards Programme gave out £250 for employment training, education. It can cover the cost of course fees, tools or equipment to help achieve your goals. Enterprise is face - face and virtual for those passionate to start up own business. Spreadsheet Management is at the end of their programme which offers mentoring opportunities and provides loans – promotional material £150. Team Programmes are not set up yet hopefully January 2023 for the Mid Ulster area. It will be 12 weeks long, within that project based – to identify own skills. At the end of the programme to celebrate that and get a chance to tell their stories. Google Programme is a recognised qualification – IT, support, data analysis etc though does require you to have a good level of English to do this particular course.</p>	
4.	<p>Find Help NI – presentation by Norah Hughes This is a new online digital directory of mental health services across N.Ireland and was set up during the pandemic. 16 different categories available to search on based on your local area. Free to join and Norah would encourage all relevant organisations to get in touch with her to sign up.</p>	All members
5.	<p>Family Support Hub Update Family Support Hubs returned Hub meetings to face to face this month for the first time since Covid-19. They will continue to be</p>	

face-to-face on a quarterly basis, the next one being January 2023.

The Hubs have recently renewed all partnership agreement forms with our network of services. We have been updating the paperwork for these since March 2022 and have now officially completed this. It is always our goal to consistently expand this, if anyone would like further information on signing up as a Hub partner, please contact myself or any member of the Hubs.

I attended my first event for the renewed year which began in June 2022. I attended Cookstown Information Fair, and I am attending the Jungle NI Halloween's Event in October 2022. The Hubs are hoping to reach out to schools this year, to attend either parents evenings or staff training days, to spread awareness of what we do and what is available in the local area.

In regards to referrals, the Hubs have seen a significant increase in referrals in 2022 with no corresponding increase in service availability. As always, in-home ASD and ADHD support is requested which goes unmet. Barnardos EIFSS had been filling this gap where possible, however their referrals are now closed as they are at capacity.

There has been an update in our reporting of unmet need. The Hubs are enforcing stricter parameters so this more accurately reflects lack of services in the area. If we cannot meet the exact needs requested in the referral or by the parent, we will report this as 'unmet' but may still put other relevant services in place, which indirectly benefit the family.

In addition, play therapy and behavioral support is frequently requested for cases of children under the age of 10, a highly sought-after service however, we have no partnership agreements for this across all Hubs in the Northern Trust.

The Hubs are also working to highlight the lack of translation services across the Northern Trust. As the Hubs have no translation services of our own, we rely on external services to bridge this gap. My manager and Service Co-ordinator of the Family Support Hubs, Claire Larkin, has been working closely with the Regional Hub Co-ordinator to highlight this gap and how this limits support for non-English speaking families. The Hubs record this need in our quarterly stats, to provide evidential reports of translation services needed.

We have been made aware of the Ukraine Assistance Centre's which have been set up to give advice on key services including: health assessments, education, jobs, benefits, housing, and immigration. These are set up in Ballymena, Belfast, Craigavon

	<p>and Newry, should you have a Ukrainian family who requires support with same.</p> <p>The Hubs are anticipating a difficult winter for many families financially due to increases in the cost of living. Action for Children have a Cares at Christmas Toy Appeal, in which we will deliver some toys to families in need. Staff will also link in with the local food banks for their Christmas food hampers and organise to deliver these to families.</p>	
6.	<p>Members updates</p> <p>Empower Project The Empower Project is managed by DADS. Josie informed the group the Empower Project has now moved into the second year of its 2-year extension programme funded by the National Lottery Community Fund NI and are looking at other ways. If you missed any of our webinars this year, you can still access the presentation slides on our website which contain vital and useful information- children activities.</p> <p>Empower project – The Journey Celebration Conference is at Tullyglass Hotel on Tuesday 11th October 6pm – 10pm, speaker Jude Morrow is going to talk on “Becoming a Hero for Autistic Children – Adopting a New Approach.”</p> <p>Balanceability classes training children (4yrs-12yrs) to ride bikes. Each session costs £15 and each child should bring their own bicycle and helmets - 40 kids have now have enrolled.</p> <p>Mid Ulster PCSP Annette advised that they are continuing to support youth services. PCSP continue to deliver positive relationships within post primary schools and support the PSNI with the delivery of internet safety & road safety in schools.</p> <p>Community Family Support Programme Network The project has been supporting parents and carers via the Calm Kids programme. Upcoming event on 18th November with Dr Knox (psychology) from England to talk about school based anxiety. Various other courses coming up include: Money Mood/Christmas Budgeting/Take 5. Eligibility to join the programme: economically inactive, unemployed or work less than 30 hours. The Grow programme finishes in December.</p> <p>NHSCT Children’s Disability Team Melanie reiterated the value of attending these meetings to find out what is happening in the local area so she can pass on to colleagues and families.</p> <p>Tobin Youth Centre</p>	

Loretta advised their project is a 5 year big lottery funded programme which started 2020. 148 families registered, funding target for the 5 years was 75! 190 young people registered with the project. A 2 week summer scheme was held with 53 children attended, many of whom can't join mainstream summer schemes. They have a number of family trips planned including a trip to the Jungle, Moneymore. Their youth club meets fortnightly with 3 different age groups: p1-3/p5-7/Year 8+

Gold Surestart

Mary informed the group that she will now be sharing the job role with Claire Murphy. Surestart have expanded into the Magherafelt East Ward. All programmes are back face to face. Currently recruiting for a number of childcare positions, and they also would have opportunities to volunteer.

CWSAN

Denise spoke on the suicide prevention project in Mid Ulster. Returned back to face-face training. Various programmes coming up, information will be circulated via the CYPSP News.

Step

Bernadetta handed out Step leaflets and advised that housing is an ongoing issue. Step have a new opportunity to join the housing team to deliver their Sustaining Tenancies Project, currently funded to March 2024. STEP will be hosting a series of information events throughout Mid Ulster in October to provide advice and support on what help is available.

SUSE+ / South West College

Helen informed the group the programme is geared towards 16-65 to help them get back into education and employment. Since April have supported over 150 families. Back face-face in office but keep online as an option for those who are unable to come out. Free Qualifications, Specialised Training with 1-1 Dedicated Support Additional Support Careers Advice & Guidance CV Building Interview Preparation.

NICMA

Grainne supports childminder and have ran a number of workshops for their members including NEA – reduce energy in home and Makaton. The NICMA conference is taking place in October in Omagh, hope to recruit more childminders.

Mid Ulster District Council

Emma updated the members on the Dept of Communities funding for social supermarkets. Potential for new foodbanks to join the foodbank network as long as they meet all the governance requirements.

	<p>Rise NI Lee-Anne highlighted the RISE service is opening up to key stage 2 and will provide therapeutic support on a one to one and group basis. Mary from Goldstart advised that the RISE newsletter is fabulous for pre-schools/playgroups</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business Emma asked the group if they would be interested in submitting an application to the Choose to Live Better Funding for a healthy eating project. By working in partnership with CWSAN there is an opportunity to avail of potentially funding up to £4,000 per organisation. Healthy eating was identified as a need in the Mid Ulster CYPSP survey carried out in August 2020 and with the increasing cost of living the need for nutritious food on a budget is more important. All members attending agreed this would be a great idea. Emma to contact Anita to submit an application.</p>	<p>Emma & Anita</p>
8.	<p>Date & time of next meeting 25th November 2022 @ 10am, Magherafelt Youth Office.</p>	