

**Southern Area Outcomes Group**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 10am**  
**Via Zoom**

Agency/Sector	Statutory	Present	Apology
<b>HSCT (Chair)</b>	Colm McCafferty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Family Support; Hub Lead; Safeguarding)</b>	Leanne Spratt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Disability)</b>	Elaine Mooney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Public Health)</b>	Gerard Rocks (Promoting Wellbeing)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (CAMHS)</b>	Shirley Dennison		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Education Authority</b>	Kieran Shields Sarah Muldoon Aileen O'Callaghan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>NI Housing Executive</b>	VACANT		
<b>Community Planning/Council</b>	Patricia Gibson (PCSP) Gary Scott (ABC/NMDDC) Alison Beattie (ABC) Allison Clenaghan (ABC) Celine O'Neill (MU)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>PSNI</b>	Barbara McNally		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Public Health Agency</b>	Collette Rogers Kelly McCartney Laura Taylor Dani Sinclair		
<b>Parenting Coordinator</b>	Martina McCooley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Youth Justice Agency</b>	Michael Heaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Childcare Partnership</b>	Kevin Duggan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>LCG Link</b>	VACANT		
<b>Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership</b>	Gary Scott Safeguarding Co-ordinator, ABC & NMD Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Other Partnerships</b>			
	Jacqueline Masterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Voluntary Sector</b>			
<b>Early Years Organisation</b>	Anne Rice/Stephanie Elliot		
<b>MENCAP</b>	Mikhaila Woods		
<b>Barnardo's</b>	Monica McCann Pat McGeough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

<b>NIACRO</b>	Ciara Corrigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Community Sector</b>			
<b>Clanrye Group</b>	Dara O'Hagan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Bolster</b>	Jacinta Linden (Also LPG chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>BME Sector</b>			
<b>Craigavon Intercultural Programme</b>	Stephen Smith		
<b>Locality Planning Group Chairs</b>			
<b>Craigavon LPG</b>	Deborah Millar (Home-Start Craig.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Armagh LPG</b>	Vacant		
<b>South Armagh LPG</b>	Taucher McDonald (NMDDC)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Newry LPG</b>	Jacinta Linden (SPACE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Banbridge LPG</b>	Colette Ross (EA Youth Service)		
<b>Dungannon LPG</b>			
<b>In Attendance</b>			
<b>Locality Planning Officer</b>	Darren Curtis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Planning &amp; Information Support</b>	Valerie Maxwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>CYPSP</b>	Maxine Gibson Una Casey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Administrator for Outcomes Group</b>	Margaret Gibney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Family Support Hub Co-ordinator</b>	Bronwyn Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Pauline Leeson		

## **1. Introductions & Apologies**

Apologies noted as above

## **2. Minutes of previous meeting (01.21.21)**

Agreed as accurate reflection of last meeting.

## **3. Matters Arising**

Colm noted that any issues arising from previous meeting would be addressed under agenda items. Valerie stated that in relation to Locality Commissioning Groups she has spoken with Maxine who has advised that there had been a meeting in early December however nothing has been agreed as yet; Maxine will keep under review and keep members informed.

## **4. Family Support Hubs Update**

Leanne stated that as noted at last Outcomes meeting one set of Hub meetings were missed, these have happened since then. Leanne noted the significant pressures on Hubs at present in regards to referrals, adding that they can see these are increasing. Referrals have seen a lot of poverty and families have been reaching out to FSH. FSH have been open and honest with families in relation to current situation in terms of service provision and the challenges currently faced by Gateway and Social Work. Leanne added that this has the potential to go two ways i.e figures could either increase dramatically over the coming weeks or decrease and then increase again in a few months. Leanne referenced figures for FSH emphasising that a great service is being provided, however, it does not go unrecognised that services are currently under pressure.

Colm thanked Leanne for update adding that the bottom line is that every service whether voluntary or statutory have been hit by pressures over the last two years. Demand for services has increased and this trajectory will only continue. Colm commented that this past two years has seen a disproportionate impact on vulnerable families which in turn means a sustained demand on family support services as a whole.

Colm added that challenges in relation to staff absence continue to impact on Gateway, FIT and CWD who are facing higher rates of absences. Combined with the recruitment challenges to Social Work this has led to the Trust implementing business contingency mode for both Gateway & FIT services. Adding that they are currently not able to deliver the same services, are mindful of that, however if any partner agency feels there are issues that are bordering on CP and they feel these are not being picked up Colm encouraged agencies to escalate, reiterating that those conversations should be had.

Jacinta acknowledged the difficult terrain currently being faced and concurred with comments made. However, on a positive note, Jacinta added that referrals continue to be met; people (staff) are giving all they can, Jacinta stated that she is happy to report that 119 families have benefited through the poverty support fund. Jacinta advised that MACE services are now bringing additional resources in

adding that referrals are coming through in relation to resilience and in particular, for those who do not meet the threshold for CAMHS.

## 5. LPG Update

Darren referenced papers circulated for today's meeting noting that the report indicated the period was September – November however it actually related to November – January.

In relation to the Action Plan Darren acknowledged that this took longer than usual due to circumstances i.e. having to conduct meetings via Zoom to progress. However it has now been completed and is currently being shared with LPGs to ensure it reflects the conversations held. Darren added that it is hoped all areas will turn to 'green' over the next 2 years and commented that they have tried to keep actions relative and achievable. Once approved it will be uploaded to CYPSP website.

Darren advised that they are currently working on a school uniform recycling programme stating that LPGs wanted to look at something more sustainable. He has been liaising with other colleagues in the mid-ulster area. A small working group has been set up and at present they have agreed to send out information to schools, a brief questionnaire re interest in sharing information and joining the programme has been circulated via Survey Monkey. 20 schools replied, however critically 13 school advised that they do not have a programme in place currently but would be interested in joining.

Darren stated that it is now the intention to write out to those schools and ask them to join a meeting to discuss options.

Darren advised that they have been involved in the ABC area with the "loneliness network", explaining these initiatives are relevant to locality planning and relate to loneliness and self-isolation, ensuring that all ages are covered.

Darren commented that he did mention at last Outcomes meeting that he was recruiting for 2 LPG Chairs and this is now 3 and he will continue to work on this.

Darren noted that CYPSP will survey locality planning members within the next few months; this gives members the opportunity to review their membership, comment on their perception of how effective they feel locality planning is and how can this improve, Darren noted that it is always helpful to get this feedback.

Deborah commented that the 'FYI' blue link works very well adding that recently she has been able to share via WhatsApp and Messenger therefore reaching a wider audience.

Gerard advised that Promoting Wellbeing are also currently engaging with loneliness networks across all three council areas, commenting that loneliness is not specific to just older people, adding that young people in particular during the pandemic has suffered. Gerard then referenced piece of work involving children from local primary schools. The children wrote letters, cards etc, which were then, delivered to local care homes residents, this proved to be very successful and is a great demonstration of inter-generational work, PWB are currently looking at how this can be expanded on and how current

resources could be built upon. Gerard then referenced meeting to be held next week via Zoom re 'conversation on loneliness' and agreed to share link with members via Margaret

## **6. Updates from Task & Finish Groups**

### **Emotional Health & Wellbeing**

Martina provided the following update; group continue to make progress in terms of membership/representation; Martina advised that they are delighted to have Allison from ABC on board; the group continue to work with Mid-Ulster Council to agree representation. Jim Weir from Education Authority will represent South Eastern area.

In relation to Regional remit around Youth Wellness Web, Martina advised that the group have been working to ensure engagement with other agencies and are making considerable progress. Martina reiterated that the young people are at the heart of this and are very involved in the development of webpage.

Valerie added that it was agreed at last meeting that the group would have mechanisms in place to quality assure all information held on youth wellness webpage, trying to look at the structure regionally ensuring they have different professionals from different trust areas. PHA are planning to set up a new section in relation to free mental health training for young people which will link with current trust directories. Valerie referenced the development of a card, which had been discussed within the group. However, following first session with young people, they did not think a card was the best resource but help design one that would appeal to young people. Valerie stated that this will be brought back to group adding that the young people did come up with some constructive criticism and some great ideas that they felt would be more practical for young people; this will be discussed further within group.

Valerie then provided some statistics collated this week; since Webpage launched there have been over 7000 page views and over 5000 unique visitors. Valerie reported that a survey has been set up but not promoted, to date 21 have completed, majority of information shared is very positive and it has been agreed that the survey will be promoted. Valerie agreed to send via Margaret for members to share widely. Colm commented that there is a running theme which Valerie touched on i.e. communication and how do we get it out there, how do we make it relevant for families and young people who will benefit and avail. Colm commended partners for the excellent work going on within this group.

Jacqueline commented that she has been speaking to EA youth services who are very excited about the website noting that the link will be added to all Gimme 5 resources, explaining that Gimme 5 is a training programme that looks at the five ways to wellbeing.

## **Ethnic Minority**

Jacqueline provided the following update; group had not been able to meet before Christmas, currently working on draft proposal for needs assessment; challenges faced include access to services, access to hospital and GPs. Jacqueline advised that they have met with a number of organisations, main task of the group is to seek clarification of how people from an Ethnic Minority background can register with a GP, what status they have to have to get that registration and what types of papers are acceptable. Jacqueline added that help is sought for those who do not speak English i.e. how they register and once registered how they make appointments and how they are then linked to an interpreter. Ethnic Minority families find it difficult ringing into reception to explain why they need an appointment. Dental registration and school registration for children has also been raised as an issue. Jacqueline reported that a letter has been submitted asking for this clarification. Jacqueline commented that she would share with outcomes group in the hope that a more regional approach could be found.

Jacqueline added that the Southern Trust have the largest number of ethnic minority groups; new census will reflect this rise in figures.

A survey has been completed; plans are in place to carry out focus groups; currently collating information from survey on how Ethnic Minority families feel and what is important to them, respect and bullying not only in school but also with adults. Issues include not being able to communicate basic things they need, lack of employment, lack of housing, poverty, standard of living.

Valerie added that some information coming through relates to unmet needs and gaps in services; this has been brought to Maxine who is keen to share with CYPSP. Efforts are ongoing to make services as accessible as possible. Consideration will be afforded to strengthening links with integrated teams and MDTs in the locality. Bronwyn Campbell has recently been appointed as the regional coordinator and will assist ongoing developments in relation to interpreting issues raised by family support hubs. Gerard Rocks advised the Promoting Wellbeing Service is bringing on board an Equality and inclusion coordinator post in the coming months.

Colm reiterated that he would like members to collectively think about how we can continue to develop service access and inclusiveness in relation to all segments of our communities.. Colm added that irrespective of legal/immigration status the needs of children must be prioritised and social services have a role to play in this regard.

Kieran referenced children accommodated in hotels advising that currently there are two units within identified schools who are running a 'welcome club' approach. Funding will only last until end of March however EA are hoping it will be extended to June. Kieran added that a number of families in temporary/emergency tend to not take the offer of a school place preferring to wait until they get accommodation in the community and an associated degree of certainty regarding their circumstances.

All agencies will be mindful of vulnerabilities new families from non-national or asylum circumstances can experience.

Jacqueline referenced the high number of Roma families who moved into Southern Trust area commenting that schools, housing etc were not set up to deal with the large number of new communities. Jacqueline added that there are 2-3 families living in some houses, which creates considerable challenges, and potential vulnerabilities requiring a joined up inter-agency approach.

### **Voice of young People**

Valerie advised that including the voice of young people is now being looked at regionally in terms of CYPSP which is a positive development. Education Authority are rolling out new youth voice project across all council areas. The group agreed to consider youth groups already in place across NI to support us locally and regionally. Each outcomes group can link in with their council area.

Valerie noted a gap in relation to BAME community youth groups who could provide some service user feedback. Valerie asked partners for any advice or suggestions re how to progress more active involvement by BAME youth and children. Valerie noted that a further meeting will be arranged to see how things can be taken forward ensuring that Southern Outcomes Action Plan is as inclusive as possible..

### **Our Journey Through Disability**

Valerie advised that a meeting has been arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> Feb; there has been good response from parents and relevant service users. Darren stated he has been concentrating on making contact with the parents for consent etc to share details etc. Meeting with PPI last week with regards to how the group fits in with Parents & Carers Forum.

Monica referenced Young People's group based in Tower Hill, funding was secured and the group have set up a virtual reality-training programme, which provides valuable service user feedback. Monica added that training will be offered to our journey through disability task and finish group and encourage members to contact Eugene if they wished to avail of training.

Elaine commented that she has been involved from the start of the Our Journey initiative which the Children With Disability Social Work service in the Trust is committed to. Elaine added that issues for families have changed considerably in the past number of years and in particular since the Pandemic and how it impacts on families and children with Disabilities..

Martina referenced programmes for Parents of special needs children noting that they secured some funding from PHA for this. Martina added that the level of engagement has been excellent. Monica commented on the feedback from one of the sessions based on loss; i.e. as parents of children with disability the loss they can feel; feedback from the parents was positive.

## 7. AOB

Gary Scott provided the following update on link to Domestic abuse forums and the work plan for 22/23 which he will provide more detail on for the next meeting. Operation Encompass (PSNI DV initiative) was positive in South Eastern Trust. Gary provided a brief overview of programme outlining that it involves PSNI working very closely with schools where they are aware of children who have been impacted upon DV incidents. The plan is that the pilot will be widened out to NMD area in forthcoming year beginning 11<sup>th</sup> February. The DASS worker based within CAH will continue into the next financial year, Gary advised that in addition to being direct contact for staff the worker also provides training across both Acute sites.

Valerie noted that the NI Children & Young People's Strategy delivery plan is now out for consultation until 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Valerie encouraged member agencies to review the plan and to provide feedback.

Colm thanked members for their participation this morning noting the highly relevant discussion which reflects the work being done in the Southern area. Colm thanked members for their commitment to this forum. Colm then acknowledged the support which Margaret Gibney has provided to this group for some time now including the organisation and co-ordination of meeting advising that Margaret is moving onto another post in the Trust.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 10 am via zoom