

**Minutes of the Waterside Locality Planning Group Meeting held on  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 10am, on Zoom**

**Present:**

Erin McFeely	Developing Health Communities (LPG Chair)
Una Casey	CYPSP
Claire McLaughlin	Hillcrest Trust
Catriona Fleming	Newpin
Martin Reilly	SDLP Counsellor for Waterside and Parent Champion for Parenting NI
Niamh McKinney	FIS Team
Paula Kee	Administration (minute taker)
Claire Sinton	Hope Centre/Life NI

**In Attendance:**

Sarah Gillen	GamCare
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**Welcome and Introductions**

Erin welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed Martin Reilly to the Group

**Apologies:**

Carmel Burns	Start 360
Sean Mooney	Derry & Strabane City Council

**Gam Care**

Due to low attendance Gam Care presentation was carried forward to next meeting.

**Life NI**

Due to low attendance Life NI presentation was carried forward to next meeting.

## **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Una provided an update on actions.

Claire McLaughlin noted that there were a few Claire's attending meetings and asked going forward if initials could be put against the relevant Claire making the point.

**Action: Erin to remind Claire Lynch to forward UNICEF Presentation**



Unicef CFC  
Presentation 23.06.2

**Action: Una and Erin to meet to discuss membership and look at sharing actions around promoting group and linking with the correct people to make sure that Locality Planning Group is promoted.**

## **Family Support Hub Updates and Linkages**

Erin advised that Hub updates had been covered a bit in actions from the previous meeting.

**Action: Una to email Pamela and copy Erin into email**

## **Emerging Issues**

### New Pin

During the Pandemic New Pin only closed for two weeks whenever there was a complete lockdown and have remained open since. Catriona advised that decision was taken as they support mothers with maternal mental health and during this period it has been remarkably stressful.

Catriona noted that New Pin is a four member team. They have found that maternal mental health has deteriorated particularly in lockdown periods and new mums who have had lockdown babies and first time

mums are feeling isolate and robbed of the experience of having additional supports.

Catriona advised that they have seen changes in children's behaviors and children's anxiety about going back into the community. Young people, particularly children have been badly affected by Covid in ways they didn't fully appreciate at the beginning. New Pin are doing work around feelings and anxiety and also have a Pre-Teen Programme running for 10-13 year olds and will be running another one in September.

Catriona advised that they secured additional funding from Children in Need and have been doing Drumming, Art and Drama Therapy.

New Pin are busier than ever and more referrals are coming in on a daily basis, they are trying to manage that and making sure that mothers are held and support through challenging times because their mental health has deteriorated, particularly first time mothers.

Catriona advised that they have found group and peer support is hugely beneficial, just letting mothers know that they aren't on their own and to have that reassurance from their peers has been invaluable for people.

Erin thanked Catriona and spoke on challenges for parents and children in the community throughout the different stages of the pandemic and she would welcome any reflections from the group about where youth communities are and how issues are emerging.

### Hillcrest Trust

Claire McL advised that June was the first time they got the new Centre up in running for programmes and at the start they were unsure if people were going to be hesitant to come out which turned out not to be the case. Everything held were completely full and overbooked particularly pre-school programmes.

Claire McL noted that there was no underestimating the power of bringing people together and advised that they held programmes like MonkeyNastics, an exercise programme for pre-school children. Claire McL noted at their open registration night some of the concerns coming through was about socialisation of children, particularly those born just before lockdown. Going forward into September they have a schedule of pre-school programmes which is as much to support parents as it is to look at activities and development of children.

Hillcrest have Youth Clubs operating from Primary one and up which have been oversubscribed due to restrictions. Numbers are limited so to try and accommodate as many children as possible instead of getting two sessions a week children are only getting one session and there is still a waiting list.

Claire McL spoke on the ongoing impact on services due to staff having to isolate and noted that as necessary as it was it was hard to convey the impact it was having on the service and families they are working with and during the Pandemic they have seen just how essential they are. Claire McL spoke on her concerns about the impact to crucial services coming into the autumn. Claire McL noted that last week they had seven staff isolating due to contact.

Erin thanked Claire McL and advised that this was a top priority issue for the group to think about and spoke on the impact on children's mental health and noted that these decisions wouldn't be made in this group.

#### Derry City & Strabane District Council

Martin advised that the Council have a Council's Play Plan that is going out for Consultation later this month. Before the Pandemic the Council analysed the demographics of the City across all of the Council areas and produced a report based on each District electoral area. There is one specifically for the Waterside and there is an assessment of the existing play park provision.

Given the pandemic and the conversations about the importance of play and being able to get outdoors and enjoy the good weather it is important that people have a chance to shape the play plan. Council will release the Consultation online later this month.

Martin advised that as well as investing in the existing play park provision there is also plans to try and define areas of the City where there is no play provision and improve what's there.

**Action: Martin to forward Una Consultation Link to circulate to members.**

FIS

Niamh advised that this year they have been able to refer children from FIS to the likes of Action for Children summer scheme and Extern which they couldn't last year because of lockdown and at the beginning of July they have allowed families back into the office for meetings rather than doing everything by Zoom. Niamh spoke on the worry of Covid numbers increasing.

## **Member Updates**

See discussion above.

## **Any other Business**

Claire S spoke briefly on services offered at the Hope Centre - Counselling from fully trained non-directive Counsellors on any pregnancy related issues and practical support in the line of food and clothing banks and equipment for getting ready for a baby and also a CAP debt management centre. Hope Centre is located opposite the train station in Duke Street (Old Channel 9 building). Claire S advised that everything is being done via phone calls or Zoom but they were keen to get some face to face counselling soon.

**Action: Claire S to send link/information to be shared to members**

## E-zine articles, FYIs

If any members would like anything included in the E-zine or FYI send through to Una.

## **Future Meetings**

Tuesday 19 October 2021

Tuesday 16 November 2021