

MINUTES OF NEWTOWNABBEY LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP MEETING

TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 3PM VIA ZOOM

Attendees: Jude Murphy	Network Personnel
Claire Larkin	Action for Children
Bernie McGarry	NHSCT
Andrea Graham	NHSCT
Pamela Sweeney	Action for Children
Pamela McClelland	Impact
James O'Kane	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Frances Wilson	Christians Against Poverty
Suzanne Kelly	Triangle Housing
Roisin O'Neill	Barnardos
Will McDowell	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Mr Smith	Earlview Primary School and Nursery
Stacey Myles	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Adelyn Carr	Ballyclare Family Focus
Alison McDaid	EA
Caroline Rutherford	Extern
Noreen McClelland	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Apologies: Eileen Maguire	Barnardos
Roberta Chessell	Women's Aid ABCLN
Leah Glass	NHSCT
Lorraine Adamson	Community Advice Antrim & Newtownabbey
Sinead Kelly	Save the Children
Ricky Massey	Integrated College Glengormley

Welcome and Apologies

Chairperson, Jude Murphy, welcomed all to the meeting and welcomed Bernie back to her first meeting. Apologies were noted as above.

Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Jude shared the results of the survey Sinead circulated in June. There was no clear preference regarding format.

Claire Larkin suggested arranging meetings so that Family Support Hub and LPG meetings are not running face to face in the same month.

The survey asked for suggestions of actions that could be taken forward targeting the priority areas of Parental/Family Support and/or Poverty. The majority of responses were for poverty, ideas included working with councils or a cost of living advice roadshow event.

The survey also asked for ideas of what to spend the LPG budget on. Ideas included – family support information event, help for struggling families, sponsor outdoor play in Primary Schools. Support with school or sports uniforms. Community event with poverty advice showing oil stamps, community police, vouchers, cooking on budget, goody bags. Mindfulness/relaxation.

Speaker suggestions included - Support for dads for male carers. Consumer council for poverty.

Jude asked the group for some feedback.

The group discussed a potential Community Information event focusing on Poverty. However, it was highlighted a number of Cost of Living Events are happening and we must be careful not to duplicate.

Practical support for families e.g., oil stamps and a signposting leaflet distributed to homes was also discussed

Bernie is to share the survey suggestions with the group and a decision on our budget will be made then.

Unmet need discussion

This will be a regional agenda item going forward. It is hoped that this will help to improve reporting to and from the Northern Area Outcomes Group (NAOG) and identify gaps in services that cannot be resolved at LPG level and needs to be pushed further up the chain. In addition it is hoped it will encourage partnership working and improve outcomes.

Claire reports unmet need across groups. She met with the regional hub coordinator to monitor unmet need. Claire reported a 38% increase in referrals to FSH this year. Larne, Carrick and Newtownabbey have the highest volume of need.

Pamela Sweeney said that there is a need for Newtownabbey Family Support Services. Can't stretch services anymore and needs to be highlighted again to the NAOG. Early intervention would prevent statutory level.

Adelyn agreed, is there something we can do to increase the capacity of service providers. Funding would be required to increase capacity and funding is a big issue.

Family Support Hub update

Claire Larkin reported that referrals dropped over the summer. Since September they have increased. They can now go into schools for information days and training. Attending meeting at Larne Grammar School. Christmas – who can we work with regarding food collections. Linking in

with organisations where families can be signposted to. Going to Social Services to meet new staff to inform of family hubs and what they do.

Review of action plan

Jude highlighted that as a group we went over the Action Plan in June and it is fantastic how much we have done.

If anyone is doing anything around the theme of Poverty please share with the group.

Guest speaker

Unfortunately Lorraine Adamson from Community Advice Antrim & Newtownabbey was unable to attend today. Frances Wilson from Christians Against Poverty kindly agreed to speak at very short notice.

Francis shared that CAP; Christians against Poverty, provides debt counselling, job club and life skills courses. Frances outlined that they provide more than just debt counselling as CAP stays with the client until they are debt free. The programme involves three initial sessions which are held with each client including; an introduction to CAP, a fact finding session to obtain details of the client's incomings and outgoings and then a further session which is held with the client to review the budget.

It was noted that the job club provides an 8 week course which is useful for those who are returning to work after a break, have been made redundant or simply anyone who wants to change job. The course includes sessions on identifying strengths, CV writing and interview skills. Frances will send Bernie a flyer to circulate about the next course beginning on 8 October in Carnmoney Presbyterian Church.

In addition CAP Life Skills is an 8-10 week course which is held in St Johns Church Hall in Ballyclare. The course covers lifting financial pressure, budgeting, shopping on a budget, cooking on a budget, eating well and building good relationships. One to one coaching is also available for group members to help set goals.

Francis also shared information on Baby Basics. They are a referral only service and take referrals from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Women's Aid, Community Advice, Abbey Sure Start, MindWise, Triangle Housing and others. They provide support and baby essentials to families with children from birth to 2 years old along with items for the new mum and dad.

There is a food table outside St Johns Presbyterian Church, it is open on a Monday from 11am. They have a lot of regulars attending and they can signpost them to Community Advice. It is called Munch on Mondays – it uses food with short dates to stop it being thrown away.

Frances doesn't have the final figures but there was a massive uptake of the Uniform Exchange Scheme this year. 150 families used the scheme during July.

How to refer? Email or via church website with form.

Jude thanked Frances for all her information. Noreen McClelland also thanked Frances for all her help in the community.

ACTION: Frances to share flyer with Bernie.
ACTION: Frances to share Ballymena Baby Bank information with Claire Larkin

Information sharing and Member updates

Please see template.

Anyone who would like information or events shared among members, please send to Bernie.

AOB

Frances informed the group that Michelle Purdy, who attended our first LPG meetings sadly passed away a few weeks ago. Members expressed their condolences at this sad news.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 15 November at 3pm. Venue/format to be confirmed.