

Minutes of the Derry Locality Planning Group

Thursday 10 February 2022 at 11am on Zoom

Present:

Aileen McGuinness – BBHF (Chair)
Rose McCrossan – Ethos FSH
Claire Maguire – North West Youth Services
Niamh O’Kane – Cedar – Youth Matters
Dee McLaughlin – Family First FSH
Sarah Dillon – Rise NI
Katie Taggart – Princes Trust
Donna Downey – WHSCT Gateway
Debbie Hunter – WHSCT Childhood Development
Sabrina Lynch – Old Library Trust
Rose O’Brien – EA EWO
Una Casey - CYPSP

Apologies:

Frances Breslin – Outer West Family Support Hub
Nicky Fallon – Family Centre
Jenny Boyle – Western Connections Services (Ascert)
Carmel Burns – Start 360
Laura Feeney – Save the Children

Welcome and Introductions

Aileen welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions took place.

Apologies

Apologies were noted as above

Review of the Action Plan

Aileen and Una outlined that the Action Plan was produced after a workshop in November. The action plan will focus on 2 of the 4 regional priorities, Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing and Poverty, at these are particularly pertinent at this time, and the main reasons for referrals to Family Support Hubs etc. Aileen noted that the action plan was a live document and could change over the life of it. She also noted that it was useful to have an action plan to focus the work of the group. Aileen also outlined some of the underpinning priorities and actions for the group,

including the importance of self-care of members, particularly as the current discussion can be quite stressful. Una noted the important role LPGs have in highlighting the group work taking place and also encouraged members to share information for FYIs. Aileen noted that it would be helpful to have task and finish groups to progress the actions, and invited members to identify which actions they could work on.

Action: Aileen, Rose and Donna to meet separately to progress action 1

Action: Claire to discuss with her team which action she would fit best with

Action: Sabrina to talk to team to see who can be involved in task groups

Action: Rose to contact Fiona Fagan to invite her to represent the churches group on the task and finish group.

Rose noted the great success on the recent slow-cooker scheme and holiday hunger breakfast club. Sabrina noted work that OLT and Dove House on cooking on a budget and safe food. Aileen noted that booklets have been distributed with the vouchers recently funded by the WOAG, these included cooking on a budget, batch cooking and using left overs. She noted it would be good to connect more going forward.

A discussion took place about the concerns arising from the recent increases in the cost of living including food, electricity and gas and oil prices. Examples were given on the recent increase of gas prices. Concerns were raised about families with new babies etc. Aileen noted that she has requested a meeting with the other 5 LPG chairs about this and what they could do to lobby.

Western Area Outcomes Group – In-year funding update

Una updated the group on the WAOG funding. The 2021/22 in-year funding was distributed to the 6 LPGs across the Western Area, which each one receiving approx. £15.8K. The LPG chairs met and agreed that funding should be used to support families struggling with food and fuel should be the priority for the funding. The charring organisations took the lead with the funding. Aileen noted that for Derry the funding was distributed through the 3 Family Support Hubs and out the families. Aileen noted that the next WAOG meeting will focus specifically on the funding and how to best use it in a timely and longer-term way that can show outcomes.

Family Support Hub Update

Rose McCrossan – Ethos Family Support Hub Oct-Dec Update 2021

Referrals past 3 months

174 Adults (144 Female & 2 Male)

174 Children (**88** -0-4yrs, **56**-5-10yrs, **25**-11-15yrs, **5**-16-17yrs)

Most needs - Financial (106) & Listening ear & Advice (40) and ASD referrals for young people have remained high and we have been using more resources and packs (48 given out) to help children with Anxiety and focus and attention in schools.

Four Churches Food Parcels – Supported **164 families** during Sept-Oct 21

Deni Flip Prog.–**12 Families** have been availing of holistic therapies, Art & Circus Skills & home Learning resource packs.

BBc Children In Need Family Fund – Grants made available to **19 families** - To help some of those families extremely vulnerable to help with essential requirements to support children's learning.

Save The Children: Grant has been awarded in Dec 2021 - **28**

Families availed of £340 worth of essential items or vouchers to help the families meet their day-to-day needs following the pressures of this past year.

Art Therapy – Wed's for 6 weeks – **16 attended** a great class ending in a Xmas grotto on 15th Dec 21.

Circus Skills – **17 Children** attended Circus and ended with a Magic show on 17th November 2021.

Forest Skills – **12 Families** - 5 weeks of parent & child sessions of outdoor play forest skills for 7 families commenced in Oct and was a great success for the first pilot and runs again in Jan – Pending covid restrictions.

Xmas Food Parcels – **51 Families - 112 Children** benefited at xmas, thanks to all of the donations from Local businesses, Health Visitors, Local schools & Teamwork's helped us to deliver.

Red Team/Gateway & Family Intervention – Still working well on a weekly basis to Access step up & step-down cases with SW TEAMS & working with stakeholders for Signs of Safety protocols/planning.

Working With Other Agencies – Most agencies have all resumed normal face to face services although there are still quite high waiting lists. – Still not re-convened the ETHOS Steering group Meetings emailing updates quarterly.

Open Families - Currently engaging with all of 45 open families & they are all availing of many outreach services. But the referrals have been very busy again with our average doubling with average of 40 referrals a month now and over 60 in December 2021.

Elemental – We are in the process going live after the whole ETHOS Team complete training - We are joining the Social subscribing platform and using to help track data for clients on their journey travelled.

Ballyarnett Community Regeneration & Support Programme (BCRSP)

Working really well in collaboration with SCRA, EA, Rainbow, On Streets for an extra 7hrs a week to work with a co-hort of 9-12 families providing family support. To date this is going really well and we have commenced a health and fitness wellbeing programme and it's going really well twice weekly with 22 registered.

Empowering Women Project

Ethos Hub is involved in the project working on Empowering women; the families referred onto the programme progress to volunteering opportunities, OCN Qualifications, Creativity & personal development classes.

Community Mobilisation Seed Project Via Multi-Disciplinary Teams

The Partnership working with GP Social workers & Mental Health from Local Practices to ensure that the project helps to target Mental Health and wellbeing for families & young people Impacted by Covid - £8000 Running EAR SEED THERAPIES AS A PILOT, HOLISTIC THERAPIES, CONNECTED KIDS & GYM 1-1 PERSONAL TRAINING.

Up And Coming This Quarter Jan-Mar 2022.

- **Forest Skills** – To commence in the play trail soon – date to be confirmed.
- **Art Therapy** – Wed's in Shantallow Community Centre from 4.30-5.30pm – Due to Start on 19th Jan 22.
- **Minding me – Personal development – (Extended skills programme)** Is to recommence in Shantallow Community Centre on 18th Jan 22.-
- **To attend ACES** – Trauma Informed Practice Training OCN Level 2 – Train the trainer in Feb 2022.

Dee McLaughlin – Family First Family Support Hub

- Received funding from Save the Children which helped **25** Families. Delivered food hampers funded by CFM and helped 15 families with vouchers from Cornerstone.
- Issues include: children and families on waiting lists for face to face services.
- Extensive waiting lists for Extern's Strength to Strength and Early Intervention Support Service.
- Need for support for school transitions.
- High demand for support for ASD and Anxiety, behaviour management.
- Delivering programme for 23 5-12 year olds with Fresh Little Minds.
- Parenting NI and Autism NI services are still on-line, families are reporting that they are not engaging with on-line programmes.
- GP SW service very over stretched and encouraging families to self-refer to FSH.
- Coordinators are meant to be a sign-posting but doing much more than this.
- Coordinators are very stretched with having to attend a high volume of meetings and workshops, too many structures, need to focus more on supporting families than attending meetings, some of which are duplicating. And have other work to deliver within organisation too
- Dee leaving FSH and new coordinator will be starting soon.
- Every organisation over stretched. Need to be mindful of burnout.

**Action: Aileen to raise the issue of volume of meetings at the
WAOG**

Frances Breslin (submitted report as unable to attend)- Outer West Family Support Hub

- Received Funding from the Western Area Outcomes Group Which is used for Fuel.
- Received Funding from Western Trust.
- 28 Families availed from Save The Children Fund.
- 90 Families received Christmas Hampers
- Families also received toys and smith vouchers

- Extensive waiting lists for Extern's Strength to Strength and Early Intervention Support Service.
- Lack of services that which engages with the whole family.

- Waiting lists for Statutory services, such as CAMHS
- Rise in referral for anxiety and mental health for children, there is also a lack of services.
- Rise in referral for adult mental health and again lack of services
- Rise in ASD referrals and lack of services for ASD
- Increase in referrals for bereavement and behaviour management.
- Large numbers of referrals for families requiring financial support, especially around fuel and electric.
- Lack of one-to-one support for children
- Parenting NI all programmes online, Parents need face to face services.
- Due to a lack of level two services and extensive waiting lists, the hubs are buying in programmes and services, to plug the gap. The Outer West Family Support Hub is providing Mentoring for children aged 8 to 18, Adult counselling, Child counselling, One to One holistic therapies, Hopeful minds , Connected Kids and Level 2 Award in Introduction to Mindfulness and reducing anxiety in Children.
- Staff are finding it increasingly difficult to manage the workload due to the increase in referrals and attending meetings, there needs to be realistic expectations for staff and their roles within the hub.

Any Other Business

Una encouraged members to send through information for the FYIs. Paul Sweeney has been appointed as LPG coordinator and will start in post soon. Una has been in touch with Paul to do a handover, hopefully he will be in post for the next meeting. Una thanked members for their commitment to the LPG.

Date of Future Meeting

Thursday 3 March at 11am

Thursday 5 May at 11am

Thursday 8 September at 11am

Thursday 8 December at 11am