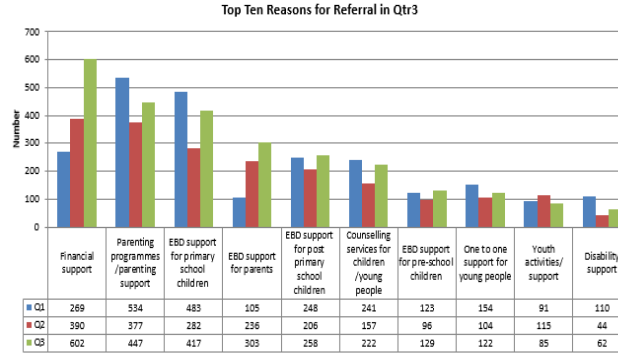




**MIDWAY REVIEW OF PROGRESS &
CHALLENGES
IN RESPECT OF
CYPSP REGIONAL PRIORITIES
2021-24**

EVIDENCE (FAMILY SUPPORT HUBS DATA)

The top reason for referral in Qtr3 was for Financial Support followed by Parenting programmes/parenting support, EBD Support for Primary School children, EBD support for parents, EBD support for post-primary school children, Counselling services for children/young people, EBD support for pre-school children, One to one support for young people (which all fall under the EHWB umbrella).



The highest unmet need in Qtr3 was for Parenting programmes/parenting support, the same as in Qtr1 and Qtr2.

Other unmet needs were EBD support for primary school children, Financial Support and Counselling services for children/young people.

REGIONAL ACTIVITY

CYPSP MHEWB Regional Subgroup

Coordination of information re service provision at locality level; and within the member organisations. This informs the wider CYPSP and other associated strategic drivers.

Current Areas of discussion:

- workforce/capacity impacting on EI
- Recommendations 1 & 2 of the NI Mental Health Strategy.

CYPSP Children & Young People Offending Subgroup

Workshop on 23 January 2023 explored prevalent topics for ongoing consideration eg:

- connecting services / information sharing;
- improving parenting support in community where children are in custody.

CYPSP Involvement in Mental Health Strategy Steering Group

OVERARCHING CHALLENGES

- Pressure on services such as CAMHS mean increasing complexity and risk levels are visible in work displaced to early help.
- Long waiting list for CAMHS, ASD, STEP and Family Support Hubs.
- Availability/Capacity of Locality based Early Intervention services.

RESPONSES/PROGRESS AT LOCALITY LEVEL

BAOG & LPG Network

- Delivery of capacity building and training initiatives via the FS hub network/LPG structures to hub members and the broader sector. Letter to National lotteries re funding priorities.
- East Belfast Subgroup created to scope services & gaps re therapeutic & counselling services (in response to closure of East Belfast Community Counselling and long waiting lists). Uhub providing small group support for children from the Carew Centre to address the gap.

NAOG & LPG Network

- Carrickfergus Youth Fair 1 February. Over 300 pupils from 2 local post-primary schools attended. 15 organisations shared information regarding local services available.
- Young People’s Mental Health Survey carried out online.

SEOG & LPG Network

- Calendar of events to celebrate Children’s Mental Health Week 6-12 February 2023 (Ards and North Down LPG and Down LPG).
- Increased provision of Colin primary schools-based one-to-one counselling, from 54 to 66 children for the 2022-23 school year, was secured through additional funding (Colin LPG).

SAOG & LPG Network

- EMHW/MDT Network Pilot commencing in Newry/Banbridge/South Armagh area to develop pathways for young people aged 13+ involved in antisocial behaviour, refusal to attend school, mental health issues etc.
- Dungannon LPG/Mid Ulster LPG - Can we talk? Conference in Oct 2022. 93 people, 26 information stalls present. NI Children & Young People’s Commissioner was the keynote speaker. Video produced.

WAOG & LPG Network

- 6 x co-designed EHWP programmes focusing on hope for now and the future.
- Ongoing work supporting mental health and well-being/adopting the core model of “take five” approach, including site visit to Lincoln Courts Community Group (Northern Sector LPG).
- WAOG funded Wellbeing & MH training for 12 Community Youth Workers (Southern Sector LPG).

EVIDENCE (FAMILY SUPPORT HUBS DATA)

% Referrals from Schools By Trusts

Belfast Trust	8%
Northern Trust	14.5%
South Eastern Trust	16.8%
Southern Trust	18.3%
Western Trust	12.9%

- Total of 12.2% referrals to Hubs in 2022/23 Qtr3 were from schools.
- 2.3% of 2022/23 Qtr3 referrals came from Education Welfare Service.
- Nature of referrals includes:
 - Youth activities – 85
 - School attendance issues – 37

REGIONAL ACTIVITY

DE/CYPSP SEN Task & Finish Group

Strengthens links between CYPSP Voluntary, Community and Youth Sector partners and the Education Authority's Special Educational Needs Strategic Development Programme (EA SEND SDP) to ensure the perspectives of voluntary, community and youth sector are integrated in the development of SEN services.

Family Support Hubs connecting with EA Youth Services

OVERARCHING CHALLENGES

- Educational needs of children of Asylum seeking families including time taken for children to get a place in schools and Uncertainty around staffing of EA Intercultural Education Service. (Belfast area)
- Budget pressures around education sector are producing considerable pressures around Hubs and Community and Voluntary sector in relation to school avoidance and refusal issue. Further support needed(Belfast area)
- Non-attendance of EWO's at LPG meetings due to work-to-rule practice, so unable to get a full report of the extent and causes of issues from that perspective. (Southern area)
- Issue with providing support for children and young people who are on reduced timetables within the parameters of EA requirements. (Western area)
- Service waiting lists, particularly with EOTAS. (Western area)
- Consistency of representation from EA Youth Services and EWO's at FSHs. In some areas Hubs do not have information regarding EA services/ do not have point of contact.

RESPONSES/PROGRESS AT LOCALITY LEVEL

BAOG & LPG Network

- Belfast LPG members invited to use the facilities at Currie Primary school- North Belfast on new multi-functional family unit within the school grounds.
- A Welcome Club had been established in a local primary school and a similar post-primary club is being delivered in an East Belfast High School.. The Intercultural Education Service and EA are currently looking into the issue.
- .Need for a clear pathway in place go through the school registration process.

NAOG & LPG Network

- Strong collaboration with EA, including promotion of key support services via C2K to all school staff.
- Scoping underway with Area Learning Communities re: engagement work with teachers.
- Causeway LPG £400 project activity funds provided opportunities to Rasharkin Primary School re 'Active Playtimes'.

SAOG & LPG Network

Southern area EMM Task Group have secured funding from SHSCT and EA for ESOL Level 1 training for a group of EMM young people at pre-ESOL level English. Evaluation will be shared with CYPSP and EA to explore potential future additional investment and regional scale up.

WAOG & LPG Network

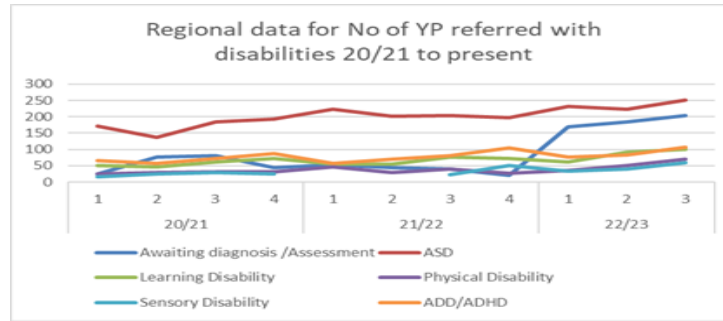
- Success in highlighting the issue of children and young people on reduced timetables within the WAOG agenda.
- Relationship with local EWO service is working collaboratively within the Locality Planning Process.
- Shantallow Family Centre's Parent Support for Teenagers to develop strategies to support children's wellbeing, particularly if school is disrupted.

SEOG & LPG Network

- Delivery of Take 5 to P7s in the Bee Safe campaign to Down Primary Schools in partnership with other public services Ards/North Down LPG/Down LPG.
- One of the Colin primary schools has been providing free morning breaks for every pupil since before the Halloween break. Securing funding to keep these free breaks for every pupil going until the end of the academic year will be a big challenge.

EVIDENCE (FAMILY SUPPORT HUBS DATA)

Significant increase in the number of children and young people with disabilities referred to Hubs since 20/21. Due to changes in monitoring this figure includes Autism, Sensory Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, Physical Disabilities & ADD/ADHD.



Hubs continue to report that families on waiting lists are being directed to contact them for support while on the waiting list. Hubs are trying to support families however the demand is outstretching the available services and this is of significant concern and there are differences in the services able to take Hub referrals for families and young people across the region.

REGIONAL ACTIVITY

CYPSP Children & Young People With Disabilities Regional Subgroup

- Maintain a line of communication with CYPSP and advise the Partnership on emerging evidence and data relating to this group of children and young people;
- Ensure the inclusion of the voice of children and young people, utilising feedback and consultation from groups already in existence;
- Focus on the early offer of help as identified in Theme 1 of Draft Regional Disability Framework (Framework) which is: "Improve our early offer of help and community based supports" and Theme 4 of the Framework which is: "Getting Transitions Right".

OVERARCHING CHALLENGES

- Significant increase year on year of number of children and young people referred for and receiving diagnosed with ASD.
- Lack of in home ASD/ADHD Support.
- Limited peer support for parents with children with learning disabilities.
- Limited Family Support services identified in a number of areas.
- Project proposals that everyone agrees would make a huge difference to growing backlogs are finding it hard to identify a funding mechanism.
- Limited visible progress/investment on delivery on phase one actions around early intervention objectives in EHWP Framework document e.g. ASD/ ADHD supports. Growing demand pressures.

RESPONSES/PROGRESS AT LOCALITY LEVEL

BAOG & LPG Network

- West Belfast LPG identified need to build capacity within organisations. West Belfast GP Federation agreed to fund three tailored workshops/15 practitioners per session.
- The Carew Centre accessed funding to address the gap identified through East Belfast LPG re the lack of support services for families who have a child with ASD or awaiting assessment.

SEOG & LPG Network

- Plan to develop Social Cafes for families with additional needs requiring early help. (Ards and North Down LPG and Down LPG)
- Colin Early Intervention is currently developing an ambitious Emotional Support Pathway project proposal, to support families whose child has a neurodevelopmental condition. We are now actively working to secure funding to deliver this programme. (Colin LPG)

SAOG & LPG Network

- Southern Area Outcomes Group, Our Journey through Disability Task Group working on new disability guide/resource for parents by parents.
- New All About Me Passport for young people being reviewed and refreshed with Barnardo's PosAbility group.

NAOG & LPG Network

- Northern Area Outcomes Group to recommission the Youth Outreach Project for young people with disabilities.
- Information shared on support or activities for people with disabilities and/or additional needs was sent to all members.
- Newtownabbey LPG Hill Croft shared information about their Play Dates on Tuesday afternoons from 2-3.30pm for all children aged 0-6 with a learning disability and their parents/carers.
- Causeway LPG funding of £400 was supplied to 4 projects Mae Murray Foundation – 'All Ability' Christmas Event for Children with Disabilities over 300 attended.

WAOG & LPG Network

- Western Area Outcomes Group funding matched with Autism NI to provide 2 Autism Resource Officers across Western area to provide early intervention home based service immediately post diagnosis (Funding for 2 years).
- Development of ASD Social Café Events and Autism Social cafes in each locality area in the West.

Priority Area – Early Intervention Support to Tackle the Impact of Poverty on the Wellbeing of Children, Young People & Their Families Which Includes Housing Stress or Homelessness

EVIDENCE (FAMILY SUPPORT HUBS DATA)

Q3 - of the 2597 families referred to the Hubs, 23% were seeking financial support.

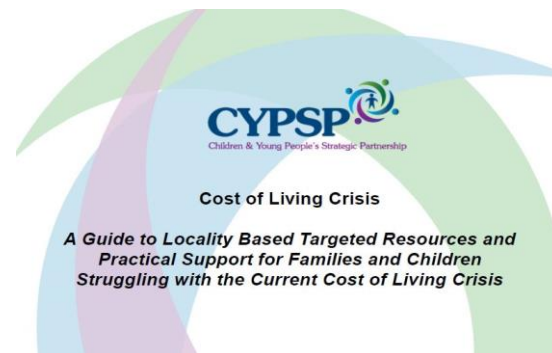
Highest poverty support requests were in Western and Belfast Areas - 25% and 39% respectively.

REGIONAL ACTIVITY

CYPSP Cost of Living Resource

Resource was developed and published in September 2022 - utilised across the 5 Trust areas

As of 20 February 2023, the resource has been downloaded 8,079 times



OVERARCHING CHALLENGES

- Ongoing funding for projects alongside the challenge of maintaining service levels in the face of cost of living crisis.
- Some LPG members reporting on difficulty between maintenance costs and staffing costs.
- Western Area Outcomes Group - Attendance and buy-in for Task and Finish Group and difficulty identifying a chair.
- Ards and North Down LPG hasn't regrouped since pandemic due to reduced capacity.

RESPONSES/PROGRESS AT LOCALITY LEVEL

BAOG & LPG Network

- BAOG allocated £2000 to each FSH to enable them to provide practical supports to local families.
- Belfast Area Cost of Living and Wellbeing Café on 23/2/23 hosted by East Belfast LPG will focus on supporting families to access local services.

NAOG & LPG Network

- Task and Finish Group supported Save the Children Portal Family Support Programme. Additional funding confirmed from Councils to extended programme and move away from emergency response. More stable funding secured/ Planned presentation from Carrick Gets Active (Holiday Hunger project). Task Group has completed all actions are is currently stood down. Will review in 6 months.
- £6000 funding secured from the Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership 'Choose to Live Better' Funding to deliver healthy eating and slow cooker programmes to children and parents (Mid Ulster LPG).
- Larne/Carrick LPG – Guest speaker from MEACAS gave an overview of their service – benefit checks, advice, Save the Children Fund.
- Newtownabbey LPG members are working with people/families that are currently experiencing financial hardship. The group purchased 40 x £50 vouchers for Tesco. 10 organisations received vouchers at the beginning of February to give to their clients experiencing financial hardship
- Newtownabbey LPG - guest from Christian's Against Poverty gave an overview of the services available in the Newtownabbey area including debt counselling, job club and life skills courses, Baby Basic's and food table outside St Johns Presbyterian Church.
- Newtownabbey LPG - guest speaker from Community Advice Antrim & Newtownabbey made members aware that they can provide help and advice with issues around cost of living, benefit entitlements, problems/reviews/appeals. Including overview of the Save the Children fund and Social Supermarkets.

RESPONSES/PROGRESS AT LOCALITY LEVEL

SEOG & LPG Network

- Ards & North Down LPG Poverty forum met, in Nov and Jan - distribution of local resources, family fun day planned for March 2023.
- Colin LPG provided support to 58 local families who couldn't afford to provide Christmas gifts/toys, to ensure that Santa visited their homes on Christmas Eve. This involved 373 gifts for 152 children, 2 families received £30 ASDA Vouchers.,6 families received £30 meat vouchers.,15 families received £50 vouchers for the local supermarket.
- Over 700 households in the Colin area received the BCC £100 Energy Hardship Vouchers, these were distributed by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership and Poleglass Community Association.
- Colin LPG now have a representative from the Jobs & Benefits Office based in Cloona House every Wednesday, to provide information and support to those who require help with benefits etc.

SAOG & LPG Network

- SAOG - close collaborative working continues with the 3 local Councils and including Information shared with FSH Coordinators on how to access different poverty programmes and Council resources.

WAOG & LPG Network

- Western Area Outcomes Group - 6 x Promoting families programmes funded and underway ; Informative presentation by Action of Children on impact of poverty on children.
- Connection with local Council in relation to their poverty strategy.
- Involvement in local based responses such as Save the Children family support fund over Christmas supporting families in stress and supporting children's play and development within the family.

OPERATIONAL ISSUES/CHALLENGES

Capacity/Commitment:

- Regular Outcomes Group meetings.
- Development and maintenance of Task & Finish model across a number of OGs.
- Attendance and buy-in for Task and Finish Groups and identification of Chairs.

Need to strengthen engagement between CYPSP Support Team and Task & Finish Groups (these challenges are relevant to all priority areas so we need to think about that)