

Strabane LPG Meeting

12.5.2022

10:00 am via Zoom

Present:

Paul Sweeney

Mary Mc Nicholl (RAPID)

Shauna Devine (FSH)

Natasha Duddy (AFC)

Judith Searle (Barnardos)

Carol Stewart (DC&SDC)

Sharon Callaghan (Surestart)

Donna Downey (WHSCT)

Apologies

Adrian Loughery

Susan Doherty

Claire Doherty

Agenda

Welcome/Apologies

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Presentation Gateway

WAOG Update

Member Update

AOB

1. Judith welcomed everyone to the meeting and Paul indicated apologies. Judith introduced Donna Downey from the Trust indicating she would be presenting after the first item on the agenda.

Discussion relating to frequency of meetings and agreement on bi monthly rather than quarterly. Next meeting will hopefully be face to face and possibly in Unit 45 although all members offered to host alternatively. Although the dates already agreed there was discussion about date of next meeting because of holidays

Action: Paul will email members to suggest change to date due to August holidays.

2. Minutes were reviewed for accuracy and actions from last meeting discussed. Paul indicated that the two actions were still in process. Minutes were proposed and seconded by Paul and Shauna respectively
3. **Presentation:** Donna presented on the role of Gateway within the Trust and on new developments within Gateway. Donna outlined the new roles and structures developed within the service including her own which includes supporting and mentoring social workers by providing senior social work support.

Donna informed members of a further recruitment of social work assistants within the service. Gateway have recently appointed Fiona Mc Cauley as SSWP (Senior Social work Practitioner) for early intervention. This will hopefully create a closer interface with the Community and Voluntary sector.

The presentation outlined the remit of the Gateway service as a SPOE-(Single Point of Entry) and how the RED (Review –Evaluate-Direct) team work, connecting with the Trust’s Signs of Safety Model. This model builds support, professional collaboration and connection with the C&V sector. Donna provide a comprehensive overview of the Gateway Service with examples of the types of cases they deal with on a daily basis-poverty-neglect-abuse-family breakdown-homelessness-contact with dangerous adults. Mentioned the importance of good practice for the social worker to see and hear the child. Discussed Mapping. Donna open to the members for questions and discussion after the presentation.

4. Members found the presentation informative and Judith thanked Donna for her input. Paul thanked Donna and commented on the importance of understanding and developing the interface between the Gateway team and the Locality Planning process through the vehicle of the Locality Planning

Group. Paul commented on the work of the Gateway team and the value of the contribution the locality group could make to improve the service for young people and families. Both Shauna and Donna commented on the existing relationship with the FSH and the RED team and we hope to build on this.

5. Mary apologised and had to leave the meeting due to a prior arrangement. Carol commented that this was a very useful presentation and gave her a greater insight into this work from a Council perspective. Judith commented that it was important for all community groups to be appraised on the work of the Gateway team and how they can connect and add value to this work.
6. **Action: Donna to share contact details with Paul requested by Carol to share with LPG**
7. Judith moved to HUB and Member updates.
8. Paul informed that there has been no WAOG meeting since last meeting but informed members of the plan to develop work with HOPE and Marie Dunne and also about the access to sleep awareness training circulated to members on the 8th of June.
9. Shauna updated on the work of the HUB;
 - HUB back working normally
 - Need for family /practical support similar to Home start in Omagh.
 - Anxiety in children and young people still a concern
 - Work done with MDT social workers need more staff trained
 - Need work with teenagers apart from calm skills for younger children.
 - ASD services urgently required-services after referral
 - Lack of summer provision for parents/children an issue

Sharon echoed some of these concerns sure start services under pressure recently had a stem play course start had been allocated 8 places but need more 10 will be starting for 5 week programme – this service gives parents time to consider other services like Knockavoe

Judith recognised the breadth of need in the locality.

Paul commented that we need to clearly articulate this to the WAOG and CYPSP process. There needs to be a two way process when LPGs are feeding back need.

Sharon commented on the urgent need for more speech and language input as this is a growing need after covid. Need services in rural areas. This is a real issue for parents and if not addressed will lead to further developmental issues for children.

Natasha added that they are working closely with HUB and seeing similar issues with ASD/Anxiety and Behaviour Management and the impact of waiting lists since covid.

Judith commented that covid money has stopped but need increasing.

Next 11th or 18th August.

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