



## **Note of Meeting**

### **Waterside LPG**

**27.9.2022**

#### **Attendees**

Erin Mc Feely (Chair)

Paul Sweeney (WHSCCT)

Alison Wallace (WNP)

Kate Taggart (P T)

Lucy O'Brien (AFC)

Duncan Lyons (AFC)

Mary Mc Nichol (RAPID)

Catriona Duddy (NEWPIN)

#### **Apologies**

Linda Watson (CNDAG)

Carmel Burns (Start 360)

Fiona Mc Cauley (WHSCCT)

Laura Feeney (STC)

#### **Update from WAOG**

There was discussion regarding the Priority focus areas coming from the Outcomes group with a focus on agreeing providers who could take the priorities forward.

#### **Priority 1**

Western Area Outcomes Group Funding

Proposal for In-year Funding in 2022/23 and 2023/24 Priority One –

**All children and YP have the best start in life and are emotionally and physically healthy.**

There was agreement that this work with a group of young people could be taken forward by Lincoln Court Youth Group. This piece of work would involve promoting positive mental health by adopting the take 5 approach and directly engaging a group of young people from the area. Alison indicated that a proposal could be developed relatively quickly because of the existing work being done in the area and that this would be an enhanced support for young people.

**Action**

Alison to link with youth group to submit proposal.

**Priority 2**

**All children and YP are safe and their welfare is promoted within their homes, schools and communities**

There was agreement that the Waterside LPG could adopt a focus regarding the rural nature of the locality in year 1 of this funding with the option of maintaining this in year two. Supporting families through the delivery of a defined programme, which looks at health and wellbeing, could be provided through RAPID who have wide experience in providing this type of service in this context.

**Action**

Proposal from RAPID to be taken forward at next WAOG meeting

**Priority 3**

**All children and young people are supported to thrive and achieve their potential.**

There was considerable discussion generated about the proposal agreed on priority 3, which involved enhancing the ASD early intervention service through match funding with Autism NI. This would enhance existing provision for families with children with ASD and include a home visiting programme.

Members highlighted the growing levels of need in this area and there was agreement that the locality-planning group could work together to develop better awareness and coordination of existing services. This could support children/young people parents and carers. Initial conversations from the task and finish groups within the WAOG had highlighted the need to support parents through developing

peer support, particularly in light of an early diagnosis for their children or because of extended waiting lists and the difficulty accessing services. This discussion was continued under member updates.

## **Updates**

Alison has championed an approach that involves collaboration between the WNP/Health Improvement/Health Visiting to promote a social café event for ASD services. There is an event scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> of September at St Columb's Park House to bring providers and families together in order to promote service accessibility for parents and young people. This approach had the full support of the LPG and it is envisaged that if successful, can be replicated across the Trust.

The next LPG meeting can feedback on the outcome of the event.

Updates from members continued to evidence pressures on all services in the locality. Lucy indicated that Action for Children have an emergency contingency fund which can be accessed by families, however, the anticipated demand because of the cost of living increases is likely to be considerable.

Catriona and Mary indicated that their services also continue to operate under ever-increasing pressures. The pressures facing young people and families are likely to be compounded by the onset of winter. Paul indicated that he would continue to feed these issues to the WAOG.

Alison outlined some of the supports in the Waterside locality and talked of the possible benefits of progressing the idea of the social supermarket and wraparound support for families in areas like Tullyally and the Hope centre in Duke St.

Members also highlighted the concern of growing waiting lists across services, which is being reflected via the Hub, for example, the waiting time for counselling can be up to 30 weeks long.

Discussion around the need for greater resources within services reflected the concern among members for young people and families. Members are willing to work together to support families and to help manage waiting lists through shared and collaborative approaches.

Paul congratulated Erin on her new appointment and thanked her for her contribution as Chair of the LPG.

Alison Wallace is the new Chair. Alison brings a wealth of experience of community development throughout the Waterside. Alison will be a great asset to our process.

**Date of next meeting:** 15.11.2022. Virtual at 10:0am