



Notes of Western Area Outcomes Group
held on 22 February 2023
at 10 am via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Mr Pat Armstrong, Head of Service [Governance Lead for Family & Child Care], Western Trust [Chair]
Ms Lisa Storey, Childhood Development Interventions Co-ordinator
Mr Mark Rogers, Extern & Chair of Fermanagh Locality Planning Group
Mr Paul Ryan, Area Manager - Foyle Office, Youth Justice Agency
Mrs Priscilla Magee, Locality Planning Co-ordinator
Ms Una Casey, Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership
Mrs Angela Wade, Directorate Business Manager, Western Trust
Dr Josephine Deehan, Western Local Commissioning Group
Ms Muriel Bailey, Director of Family Support Services, Parenting NI
Mr Paul Sweeney, Locality Planning Co-ordinator
Ms Judith Searle, Interim Assistant Director of Children's Services, Barnardos
Mrs Monica MacIntyre, Department for Communities
Ms Bronwyn Campbell, Regional Co-ordinator for Family Support Hub Network
Ms Mairead McGilloway, Head of Service, Western Trust
Ms Alison Wallace, Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership
Ms Helen Sheils, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
Ms Denise McCallion, Health & Social Wellbeing Improvement Manager, PHA
Ms Laura Feeney, Save the Children
Ms Deirdre Hasson, Education Authority
Ms Carrie Mullan, Rainbow Child & Family Centre
Ms Louise Dickson, Children's Services Planning Support Officer
Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

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Apologies

Mr Tom Cassidy, Director of Women & Children's Services
Mr Kevin Duffy, Assistant Director [Children's Health & Disability]
Ms Claire Lynch, Children & Young People's Co-ordinator, Derry City & Strabane District Council
Ms Mairead McMullen, Western Child Care Partnership Manager

	<p>Mrs Linda Watson, Caw/Nelson Drive Community Association Mrs Brenda MacQueen, Dry Arch Children’s Centre Ms Lisa McGrath, Mencap Ms Aileen McGuinness, Chair of Derry Locality Planning Group Ms Maxine Gibson, Professor Advisor for Children’s Services Planning</p>
2	<p>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 14 December 2022 Notes of the previous meeting were approved.</p>
3	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Meeting Mrs Campbell advised that she had shared the following report with members:- “Societal Resilience Initiatives during Covid-19” by Dr Scully and Professor Shaw.</p>
4	<p>Chairperson’s Remarks <u>Membership Update</u> Mr Armstrong welcomed members to the meeting and advised that he was Chairing the meeting today as Mr Cassidy was on leave.</p> <p>Mr Armstrong outlined the importance of the Western Area Outcomes Group being more strategic focused to inform planning and linkage of same to the Trust’s pending Early Intervention Strategy. As an overarching mechanism that engages the statutory, community and voluntary sectors, the Outcomes Group is a key vehicle to ensure that planning is strategically informed and is needs led and informs the rationale to address unmet need. Effective co-ordination invites a cohesive response that, in turn, informs the way forward to address community need. Mr Armstrong cited the cost of living crisis and impact of unprecedented levels of poverty and impact on communities.</p> <p>Mr Armstrong asked if the group was clear on its strategy in terms of goals and challenges in dealing with the current unprecedented poverty, and how the group planned to advocate collectively for shortfalls within communities. As poverty was having a major impact on communities, members agreed that a Trust wide Task and Finish Group should be established to map deficits, challenges and implications. This would harness strengths, allow for better commissioning of WAOG funding, and ensure there was no duplication.</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Casey to organise a Poverty Task and Finish Group. ➤ Interested members to contact Ms Casey. ➤ Task and Finish Group to report back to the Outcomes Group. ➤ Ms Casey to send out meeting dates for all the Task and Finish Groups. <p>Ms McGilloway reported that the WDSVP also had a Task and Finish Group and enquired if there should be liaison. Mrs Magee advised that she was already linking with Ms Edel Fox. Mr Armstrong stressed the importance of such linkage to avoid unnecessary duplication of this key task.</p>

	<p>Mr Armstrong noted that the Trust was evolving its Early Intervention Strategy and linkage to the Western Area Outcomes Group will be critical to informing same given the community and voluntary representation. The role of locality planning going forward will be key to informing same.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Western Area Outcomes Group Funding 2022/23 and 2023/24 Members noted the funding allocations for 2022/23 and 2023/24. Mrs Magee said funding was working well in the projects she was involved with and some organisations had reported that they had participants who had never previously engaged. Mr Sweeney agreed that finances were working smoothly and commended the groups for the creative approaches they were taking. He said the process was allowing staff to see the width and depth of services.</p> <p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs Wade asked organisations to submit their invoices so payments could be processed before the end of the current financial year. ➤ Organisations to be reminded to complete monitoring reports. ➤ Ms Casey to provide a report for WAOG when all the monitoring reports had been submitted.
<p>6</p>	<p>Cedar Presentation Ms Marie Therese Cassin, Community Services Manager, Cedar Foundation, joined the meeting and introductions were made.</p> <p>Ms Cassin advised that Cedar was a voluntary organisation which worked with individuals and families living with disability, Autism and brain injury. She said that all services were “person centred” with every individual having an action plan with clearly identified goals for staff to work with them.</p> <p>Transition Service - supporting young people leaving schools by identifying suitable post school options e.g., further education, university, training, apprenticeships, and identifying barriers they may experience such as transport, learning support needs.</p> <p>“Right 4 U Service” - works with adults and young people with Autism to build and strengthen their capacity to engage in activities within their local communities.</p> <p>Direct work with young people and adults - supports individuals to improve social and communication skills. Home visit with individual to get to know them, and learn what they want to gain from the service - range of personal development programmes available.</p> <p>Ms Cassin acknowledged that the Trust’s waiting lists were a challenge, and advised that Cedar had been involved in the Autism cafes which were proving to be very positive.</p>

	<p>Mrs Magee and Ms Storey thanked Ms Cassin for Cedar’s input at the Social Cafes and said their presence was greatly appreciated. Mrs Magee said the presentation was timely with funding for Autism NI and said she was planning to meet with both organisations to ensure there was no duplication.</p> <p>Mr Armstrong thanked Ms Cassin for her informative presentation.</p>
7	<p>Update for Locality Planning Groups</p> <p>Mr Sweeney reported that the main issues remained the same - cost of living crisis, waiting lists for services, and mentoring. Positive stories were the benefits of mentoring for young people and the continued success of the Autism Social Cafes.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the need for more mentors and the training and support that would be required.</p> <p>Ms McGilloway reported on work being undertaken in relation to Early Intervention - gaps in service, views of local providers, what works well. She said she reported into both the Children’s Services Board and regional workstream and would keep members updated. She advised that interviews were being held this week for a Service Manager for Early Intervention.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation on Early Intervention Strategy at a future meeting.
8	<p>Hubs Update</p> <p>Mrs Campbell advised that the regional Family Support Hubs Report Card for April - December 2022 had been shared with members. She reported that Hubs continued to be busy, with poverty most prevalent in quarter three.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Top reasons for referrals for period October - December 2022 was for Financial Support followed by Parenting Programmes/Parenting Support. ▪ Highest unmet need was Parenting Programmes/Parenting Support followed by waiting list over 8 weeks. ▪ Families in need of face-to-face support, particularly in rural areas. ▪ 90 children with disabilities referred to Hubs - 58 children on waiting list and issues regarding access to services. <p>Mrs Storey referred to the rollout of the Incredible Years Programme - Trust would have 14 trainers by the end of this financial year. Ms McGilloway reported that some of these staff worked in family response and worked solely with level 3 & 4. Mrs Magee enquired if there were any other funding streams to run parenting programmes.</p> <p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mrs Bailey to link with Ms Brigid McGinty, MACE Project Manager. <p>Ms Hasson said the Education Authority ran a number of programmes for parents, but trying to get some parents to attend could be a difficulty.</p>

	<p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms Hasson to get information on these programmes and the Education Authority's bid for Peace Plus monies. <p>Mrs Campbell said a piece of work was needed on what parenting support really was i.e., one to one, intensive work, and this needed to be scoped on a locality basis. Mrs Magee said staff need to be aware of what suited parents best.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As a starting point, Mrs Bailey to request Parenting NI to check with callers if they were asking for ongoing support in order to gauge need. ➤ Mrs Magee and Mr Sweeney to scope more details re: Parenting Support needs via LPG's and bring back to the group. ➤ Ms Casey/Mrs Campbell to liaise with Parentline re: what parenting support services offered in the Western area.
9	<p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Ms McGilloway reported on the continuing staffing challenges due to vacancies and industrial action, with some teams operating at less than 50%. She said Social Work Assistants and Family Support Workers were being employed to assist Social Workers, but these staff did not hold case responsibility. She also advised that the complexity of cases remained a challenge due to the level of poverty, mental health and levels of domestic violence.</p> <p>In respect of the latter, Ms McGilloway reported on the successful media campaign during the 16 days of action campaign which included "Holding on to Hope" conference held on 8 February 2023 with guest speakers Chan Hellman and Luke Hart. As a follow up, she advised that the Training Team were looking at providing a suite of training on domestic violence. Domestic violence referrals had also increased following the media campaign.</p>
10	<p>Youth Justice Agency</p> <p>Mr Ryan referred to the connection with young people in his service with Autism and ACE's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Young men in criminal justice system. ➤ Waiting lists - difficult for young people with Autism to keep appointments. ➤ Poverty. <p>He said he was happy for his staff to attend appointments with young people, by way of providing support and advocating on their behalf.</p> <p>Mr Sweeney enquired how the Young People's Participation Worker was helping to get a sense of what young people needed. Mr Ryan said it was early days, but a number of consultations were taking place. He reported that the outcome of consultation feedback was that young people wished for more emphasis on family involvement, and a group of 20+ were advising on how to shape services. Members noted that this was progressive from a child's rights perspective.</p>

	<p>Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr Ryan to report back at a later date when this progresses further. <p>Mrs Campbell commended the Youth Justice Agency for being quick to come forward with offers of help.</p>
11	<p>Community Planning</p> <p>Mr Armstrong underlined the importance of the Outcomes Group informing strategy, future funding pathways and commissioning workstreams. He reiterated the importance of the group developing a robust needs analysis to inform community planning going forward.</p>
12	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was no further business.</p>
13	<p>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting</p> <p>26 April 2023 at 10 am via Microsoft Teams</p>