



Minutes for Omagh Locality Planning Group

2pm-4pm 17th April 2023

Meeting Room 2, Community Centre, O’Kane Park, Omagh, BT78 5AB

Kindly Hosted By: Deirdre O’Connor, Poverty Officer, FODC

Attendance: Karen Duffy – Omagh Family Support Hub; Winnie Kelly (LAST Sure Start); Ciara McMaugh (Tinylife); Deirdre O’Connor (Poverty Officer, FODC); Edel Fox (Women’s Aid).

Apology: Elizabeth Campbell (WHSCT); Monica MacIntyre (Department for Communities); Margaret Ferris (ASD Team Lead); Sarah Dillon (RISENI); Alison Spriggs (Homestart); Mairead Taggart (NR / Health Improvement); Megan Murphy (Autism NI) Nicola Cassidy (Riverside Family Centre); Grainne Scullion (NICMA); Anne Lavery (PSNI); Eilish Morgan (FODC Community Planning); Hazel McGuigan (The Hub); Michael McLean (Action Mental Health).

In Attendance: Priscilla Magee

1.	<p><u>Welcome And Apologies</u> Welcome was extended by Chair to all in attendance. A round of introductions was made. Apologies noted as above.</p>
2.	<p><u>Purpose of Meeting – Refresh & Reset of LPG</u> Priscilla gave a brief outline of the different levels of CYPSP and how it meets its vision:</p> <p>“The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership’s (CYPSP) vision is that children’s lives will be improved by children and families, communities and agencies working with each other, around the child and family at the centre, Its role of taking forward integrated planning and commissioning across Northern Ireland will help to ensure that children’s outcomes improve.”</p>

	<p>The role and responsibilities of the LPGs were outlined and the linkage to the Family Support Hubs and the difference between the two processes.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>The WAOG Funding Priorities</p> <p>The in-year funding 2022-23 /2023-24 from the WAOG was highlighted beginning with the 3 priorities:</p> <p>Priority One: All children and young people have the best start in life and are emotionally and physically healthy.</p> <p>Priority Two: All children and young people are safe and their welfare is promoted within their homes, schools and communities.</p> <p>Priority Three: All children and young people are supported to thrive and achieve their potential.</p> <p>Detailed and discussed was the work funded in the F&O area within the 3 priorities:</p> <p>Priority One: Healthy Outcomes Through Positive Experiences (HOPE Families) was designed & led by Fermanagh & Omagh Women’s Aid & Empowering Migrant Families. This 16 weeks project in Fermanagh & Omagh focused on nutrition, physical activity and personal development for 24 women who have experienced DV, who may be at risk of losing their tenancy or women from an ethnic minority community. Edel reported that the projects have now completed with nearly 100% attendance but will be repeated later in the year with further WAOG funding. Edel & Kerrie Flood (Fermanagh WA) are going to present the positive outcomes to the WAOG.</p> <p>Priority Two: Healthy Outcomes Through Positive Experiences (HOPE Youth) was designed & led by EXTERN. The participants - community youth workers were provided with a raft of free mental health and emotional wellbeing training. Participants also attended WAOG funded training by NEXUS NI – supporting young people disclose domestic and sexual abuse and gender identity. Participants have reported that this has been a great way to link in with other training / support organisations and learn what they offer. A one off meeting bringing all the participants together is planned for the Spring.</p>

	<p>Priority Three: Support for Families After Autism Diagnosis is being delivered in this area by Megan Murphy (Autism NI) who sent her apology. Referral for this project has increased and funding will continue in this new financial year.</p> <p>Discussion continued into emerging trends and unmet needs. Members shared that summer scheme funding has been greatly reduced and this will impact families. In the past FODC have offered some free places through the Hubs particularly for families who had more than one child wishing to enrol.</p>
4.	<p><u>Autism Social Cafes & Mapping of Local Support</u></p> <p>Continuing on from the Autism Support for Families After Diagnosis Priority meetings have been meetings attended by LPGs, Health Improvement & Autism Early Intervention Team mapping supports/ organisations & groups and to arrange Autism Social Cafés across the Trust for families to attend. These Cafes have now been held in six areas with great success with positive feedback from families including grandparents / carers, visiting health and social care students and practitioners. The Cafes have also been useful in an attempt to map Autism services / supports which seem to varying across areas with some areas having no or very limited Parent Support Group access.</p>
5.	<p><u>Communication / Review of Membership</u></p> <p>Discussed was if information was going out from the Coordinator sufficiently and in a timely manner. The Coordinator suggested moving to a fortnightly e-zine design were communication would be collated in one message. Members were unsure if it would bring about any more benefits as they had so many e-zines coming to them from Council and other groups.</p> <p>It was felt membership was steady but with funding disappearing it was important to keep the membership distribution list current.</p>
6.	<p><u>Poverty Discussion</u></p> <p>Deirdre O'Connor the new poverty officer for FODC described her new role and in regard to the regional NI Anti-Poverty Strategy which has been delayed and the proposal for development of Fermanagh & Omagh area own Anti-Poverty Strategy. Additionally Deirdre explained how her work fitted with Community Planning and People and Places Strategy. Deirdre shared that</p>

	<p>Fermanagh will be one of the first areas to migrate from Tax Credits to Universal Credit which effects 250 families many thought to be working families. The threshold for Free School Meals will be different and there is concern for those families with limited literacy skills although Jobs and Benefits have created a Helpline and in person team.</p> <p>LPG members reported concern at recruiting staff and retaining them given the changes in Tax Credits and the effect on their services due to so many staff wishing to only work 16 hours a week which results in an increase in management and admin.</p> <p>Affordable childcare, cost of living & cost of family activities / affordable summer schemes were all discussed.</p> <p>Priscilla explained how the Western Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership of which she is a member has created task & finish groups in regard to domestic violence & poverty and Coercive Control Through Technology. WAOG have now set up their own poverty task and finish with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council hosting a Poverty Working Group. The question which was asked was how do we incorporate individuals'/families' lived experience of poverty into these groups? This question will be picked up again at next meeting.</p>
6.	<p><u>Feedback From Members</u></p> <p>Winnie Kelly shared with members the stress that Sure Start families are experiencing with long waiting lists for support for ASD/ADHD/ physical needs assessment and interventions even if the child is displaying very serious behaviours. The review of Sure start has not yet been published. Members all agreed there is a severe pressure on all services and they asked Priscilla to raise this in her report to the WAOG.</p> <p>Hub catch up given.</p>
7.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Members discussed the report from the Regional Locality Planning Group Members Survey (2022) which has been carried out. Members contributed the usefulness of LPG for new members who are trying to establish themselves in the area.</p>

	Infant Mental Health Week, June 2023 has the theme 'Bonding with your bump' & the Coordinator is working on events / activities to celebrate this and will be in touch with members for their help.
	Date & Time of Next Meeting As the next LPG meeting is scheduled for June as it is such a busy month it was agreed to push the meeting into early July 10.30am, 4 th July 2023, Venue to be Confirmed