

## Northern Area Outcomes Group Meeting held on 15 June 2021 at 2pm on Zoom

Name	Organisation	Present/Apology
<b>Statutory Sector</b>		
Maura Dargan	HSCT (Chair)	Present
Tracy Magill	HSCT (Family Support)	
Sharon Crawford	HSCT (Disability)	Present
Ciara McKillop	HSCT (Hub Lead)	Present
Susan Gault	HSCT (Public Health Nursing)	Present
Hugh Nelson	HSCT (Planning & Modernisation)	Present
Frances Donnelly	Education Authority	
VACANT	NI Housing Executive	
Nicola McCall	(MEA) Community Planning/Council	Present
Alison Keenan	(A&N) Community Planning/Council	
Elizabeth Beattie	(CCG) Community Planning/Council	
Fiona Surgeonor	(MEA) Community Planning/Council	
Martina Totten	(MU) Community Planning/Council	Present
VACANT	PSNI	
Maurice Meehan	Public Health Agency	Present
Kate McDermott	Health and Wellbeing Manager	Present
Grainne Keane	Youth Justice Agency	Present
Jenny Adair	Childcare Partnership	Apology
VACANT	LCG Link	
Deirdre Hasson	Education Authority	Apology
<b>Voluntary Sector</b>		
Ruth-Anne Delija	Action for Children	
Pamela Kirk	Barnardo's	Present
Maria Heron	Parenting NI	
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI	
Muriel Bailey	Obo Maria Heron	Present
Pamela Sweeney	Obo Ruth-Anne Delija AfC	Present
<b>Community Sector</b>		
Zoe-Kernohan-Neeley	Early Year Organisation	
Karen Graham	Carrickfergus YMCA	
Andrea Knocker		
VACANT		
VACANT		
<b>BME Sector</b>		
VACANT		
VACANT		
<b>Locality Planning Group Chairs</b>		
Mervyn Rea	Antrim LPG	
Gerry McVeigh	Ballymena LPG	Present
Roy Beggs	Carrickfergus LPG	
David McAllister	Larne LPG	
Ursula Marshall	Magherafelt & Cookstown LPG	Present
<b>Locality Planners</b>		
Represented by Kate McDermott		
<b>In Attendance</b>		
Maxine Gibson	CYPSP (Professional Advisor)	Present

Una Casey	CYPSP (Business Support Manager)	Present
Valerie Maxwell	CYPSP (Information Manager)	
Bronwyn Campbell	CYPSP (Regional Family Support Hub Co-Ordinator)	Present
Kori McLaughlin	CYPSP (Children's Services Planning Support Officer)	Present

## 1. Welcome and introductions

Bronwyn Campbell, Regional Family Support Hub Co-Ordinator (CYPSP) introduced herself to the Northern Area Outcomes Group and was warmly welcomed to her first meeting.

## 2. Apologies

Apologies from Jenny Adair and Deirdre Hasson.

## 3. Action Plan- Update from Task and Finish Groups

Update from Una Casey:

Chairs have not been identified for 3 out of 4 task and finish groups. Current pressures have made it difficult for staff to have capacity to chair.

As per the report provided, groups are progressing well.

- Emotional health and wellbeing group have been provided funding by Maurice Meehan for a video which will progress over the coming weeks.
- School Disruption group is meeting again in February and Kori McLaughlin is producing a research report for this group.
- Some of the Children with Disability groups have had to be cancelled.
- Poverty is focusing on work that Hugh is doing with the council.

Maura noted there was good representation within each group.

Sharon Crawford – the remit on the children with disability group is very large and difficult to navigate and needs to be broken down into something more deliverable. Difficult to do on zoom so had attempted to do it face-to-face but the omicron variant hit and this was therefore cancelled. Sharon noted that something more targeted and achievable will be prioritised to commit to it. Una added that it is a 3 year plan so to not put too much pressure on at this early stage.

Request from Maura that if any colleagues are able to chair any of the groups to come forward and that balance should be struck between Trust/vol orgs and other stat org partners.

Next task and finish group dates are either confirmed or will be communicated soon from Una.

Maura acknowledged that the current wave of Covid has had a significant impact on everyone's work pressure and thanked everyone for their work and for keeping momentum going.

#### **4. Family Support Hub Updates**

Update from Pamela Sweeney-

Continuing to process all incoming referrals within timescale of 4 weeks. Some financial support is still being offered where needed, mainly around fuel and food but also at times cookers, washing machines or fridges. Full complement of staff are still available.

Service co-ordinator was temporarily of, but returning Monday and all work has been covered.

#### **SCIE Interim Report**

Ciara McKillop - info came from the SCIE review presentation earlier in the morning which revealed 22% of referrals to hubs last year were poverty related. Need discussion around how we continue to support hubs to be able to meet these needs of families. Cost of living is going to increase which will increase pressure going forward.

Bronwyn Campbell provided update that the SCIE event was really positive. Lots of common themes were identified and recommendations going forward. Launch of the SCIE report is being discussed. The review has been positive and fully reflects the great work the hubs have done, particularly through the pandemic. More information will be provided and more work will come out when the report is launched.

Pamela Sweeney- lots of discussion at the event around the importance of intervention and children's emotional mental health and wellbeing and that discussions on this will progress and it will be enlightening to see what work comes out of the review on these matters.

Maxine agreed adding that the children's services review needs to take account of early intervention services and how capacity issues particularly within the statutory sector are reflected in our voluntary/ community sector. There are about 5 recommendations coming out of the SCIE review and we will pull together a regional action plan based on those. They include things like consistency of referral info, consistency in how we respond across the region to self-referrals, making better links with GPs. The biggest issue coming out of the meeting was needing to go back to the original role of family support hubs and retain the integrity of that function. Updates will be given on this work over the next year.

Sharon Crawford – commented that there can be a lack of connection between the Gateway services and the Family Support Hubs. Gateway services have not been involved in some meetings lately. Pamela Sweeney noted that Gateway are invited to the steering groups but have not been able to attend the last few. Sharon requested she be copied into the invite as gateway services have been extremely busy so she would attend herself.

Update given by Maura on the Children's Services Review- Was launched on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January by the Health Minister. It is being undertaken by Professor Ray Jones who is a former director of

children's services and has 50 years experience in social work. He will be leading the review alongside other panel members who include Marie Roulston, Judge Smith and Professor Pat Dolan. Well-balanced panel who will bring good insights to how NI are delivering services and how we may need to improve. The first strand of the work is around the experiences of children and families using the services, second strand is around structures and systems and the third strand is about social work practice. VOYPIC and CINI have been brought in to help bring the children/ YP and parental perspective into the review. 16 months has been set for the review to take place starting in February 2022. All children's social work services, ADHD, ASD, EHWP services are all in scope and how they connect including some regional facilities such as Beechcroft. Out of scope is the Board and the Department. Maura will get the terms of reference circulated. Recommends that everyone is aware of it as there are opportunities for us all to contribute to it and influence what the next 10 to 20 years will look like for children, families and staff members.

Ciara McKillop noted that Pat Dolan's research is about family support and early intervention.

Maura- the directors met with Ray Jones and noted he is a very impressive man. The panel is as good as we could hope to get. Connected to social justice, poverty agenda, early intervention, prevention, etc.

Maxine had a meeting with Shane Devlin to request he write to the department and request CYPSP be involved in the review where possible. We can't do a review without looking below the threshold of gateway and tier 3 CAMHS.

Updates will be given on this when possible.

## **5. Locality Planning Group Update**

Kate McDermott-

The LPGs have had 20 new members join since November. Good representation from the GP federation in the Causeway area. Many consistent themes can be highlighted. The in-year 10k budget for LPGs is going to a number of small local projects which members had the opportunity to apply for, e.g. supporting parents to support children's mental health, support children with bereavement in Mid Ulster, etc. Additionally, due to the increased need around financial hardship we have linked with save the children to create an emergency response family support programme to reduce the hardship and help alleviate the impact of poverty. Broadened the scope this time and brought in partnership agreement with local councils and community advice centres who have match-funded the Trusts' 45k investment. Referrals will run until the end of March. If localities express higher demand, spend can be moved if need be. Northern Digital Safeguarding group will be launched in the media on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb to link in with the safer internet communications. This has been a highlighted issue so LPGs have been working collectively with WHSCT to roll out webinars and training after March.

Report is included in agenda papers to reference this update.

Gerry McVeigh- LPGs give an opportunity for organisations to come together and for links to be made and for us to offer better support to the community.

Hugh Nelson- This is a second year in a row that the need for financial support has been there and that things will continue to get worse.

Maura- we will see more need on the ground going forward for financial support. Locality planning groups are more important than ever over the next while to identify those families in need of help.

Pamela- a lot of these families will be coming through the hubs through GPs and other routes so will hopefully be getting picked up.

Susan Gault HENRY Project-

National charity focusing on giving children a healthy start in life. It was commissioned last year with focus on childhood obesity but the wider implication has been around parental relationships, confidence, emotional health and wellbeing and healthy lifestyles for children aged 0-4. Commissioned to train health visitors and child health assistants and money has been provided for these in each trust. This has had to move online because of covid but the first report for the first year is out and evidencing some great outcomes (89% improvement in family lifestyle) and looks at eating behaviours, eating well, screen time, emotional wellbeing and family lifestyle. This report is limited because less families engaged in the first year due to covid but we are commissioned to deliver to 400 families each year in each trust. This project should now progress well with covid restrictions reducing. Health visitors will identify families that will benefit from this programme, engage with them and sign them up. Feedback so far is very positive and this report will be circulated soon.

Maurice Meehan- flagged up a successful early intervention support service delivered by action for children in the northern area now preparing for re-procurement. Market engagement will take place on this soon. New providers will be in place by the middle of next year. Updates will be provided where needed.

## **6. CYPSP Update**

Maxine-

3 year regional children's services plan is now complete and thanks to everyone for the contributions and plans on a page. That plan will go out for brief consultation to CYPSP partners so all will have an opportunity to consult. This will be a brief period because the plan is based on consultation from young people, parents and partner members. It is late as it was a 21-24 plan. The priorities mentioned will most likely be the priorities for the next 3 years. The plan pulls together actions in relation to strategic collaborative working and how we can work more effectively. Also have specifics on how we will

deliver on those 4 integrated themes, including taking work back from the task and finish groups. The task and finish groups will operate for the period of the children's services plan.

Next partnership meeting is at the beginning of Feb and it will be Shane Devlin's last meeting as he is moving to England for a new role. This will present its own challenges as a new chair will be appointed and take over. The theme for the next partnership meeting is Emotional Health and Wellbeing. Una has produced a helpful document to report on what the task and finish groups are doing across the region.

The HSCB are moving to the department of health and alongside this are also moving towards a future planning model which is focused on integrated care. The model that we have at CYPSP from strategic level down to locality planning groups will be encouraged to be taken into account in the new future planning model to ensure it is not adult-services- focused.

### **Any Other Business**

Susan- the Northern area infant mental health strategy is now due for review after 3 years. We now need to review with the stakeholder group and look at what the strategy is going to look like going forward. The last 3 years have focused on the basics, awareness around infant mental health but the next 3 years will need to explore parent-infant relationships and intervention.

Maura-

It is going to be a big part of our agenda to get the infant mental health framework right.

Maurice- Agrees infant mental health has been impacted by the pandemic. Received an email from the NI Childminder's association who were raising concerns about what their membership were seeing in the 0-3 age group as implications of the lockdowns so a very critical area going forward. The local plan is key as well as the regional.



Support given where needed on this. New substance misuse strategy has been launched. This is a 5-10 year strategy on prevention and treatment on substance misuse, drugs and alcohol, children and adults. Public health approach and integrated consideration of mental health services as well as drug and treatment services.

Maura- this is a space that has lacked attention for children and young people and not well developed for adult services either so this is well needed to reduce challenges on families where this is an issue.

Previous minutes approved.

All outstanding actions have been discussed and are ongoing.

Sincere thanks from Maura for everyone's hard work and contribution to the excellent and strategic work that is ongoing in this current climate and extreme pressures.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting- 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022 via zoom**

### **Actions**

Maura to ask Julie to circulate the terms of reference for the children's services review and the report on the Henry Project.