

Northern Area Outcomes Group Meeting held on 30th March 2022 at 2pm on Zoom

Name	Organisation	Present/Apology
Statutory Sector		
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)	Apology
Hugh Nelson	HSCT (Planning & Modernisation)	Apology
Frances Donnelly	Education Authority	
VACANT	NI Housing Executive	
Nicola McCall	(MEA) Community Planning/Council	Apology
Alison Keenan	(A&N) Community Planning/Council	
Elizabeth Beattie	(CCG) Community Planning/Council	Apology
Fiona Surgeonor	(MEA) Community Planning/Council	
Martina Totten	(MU) Community Planning/Council	Apology
Marc Riddell	PSNI	Apology
	PSNI	Present
Maurice Meehan	Public Health Agency	Apology
Kate McDermott	Health and Wellbeing Manager	Present
Grainne Keane	Youth Justice Agency	Apology
Jenny Adair	Childcare Partnership	Apology
VACANT	LCG Link	
Deirdre Hasson	Education Authority	Apology
Voluntary Sector		
Ruth-Anne Delija	Action for Children	Apology
Pamela Kirk	Barnardo's	Present
Maria Heron	Parenting NI	
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI	Present
Muriel Bailey	Obo Maria Heron	Present
Pamela Sweeney	Obo Ruth-Anne Delija AfC	Apology
Community Sector		
Zoe-Kernohan-Neeley	Early Year Organisation	
Karen Graham	Carrickfergus YMCA	
Andrea Knocker		
VACANT		
VACANT		
BME Sector		
VACANT		
VACANT		
Locality Planning Group Chairs		
Mervyn Rea	Antrim LPG	
Gerry McVeigh	Ballymena LPG	Apology
Roy Beggs	Carrickfergus LPG	Present
David McAllister	Larne LPG	
Ursula Marshall	Magherafelt & Cookstown LPG	Present

Locality Planners		
Represented by Kate McDermott		
In Attendance		
Maxine Gibson	CYPSP (Professional Advisor)	Apology
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
Julie Scobie	Minute Taker	Present

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Apologies

3. Update from previous meeting

SCIE Interim report

Further sessions being scheduled with various statutory and voluntary organisations with respect to the 5 recommendations coming out of the SCIE review and a regional action plan will be developed based on those. They include consistency of referral info, consistency in how we respond across the region to self-referrals, making better links with GPs. The biggest issue highlighted was the original role of family support hubs and retaining the integrity of that function. Further update will be tabled in due course.

CYPSP update

- Shane Devlin chair of CYPSP chaired his last meeting in February 2022. New chair appointed Aidan Dawson, CE of PHA. Theme of May meeting confirmed as School Disruption.
- 3-year strategic plan launched – plan pulls together all actions in relation to strategic collaborative work and how we can work more effective and delivery on the 4 integrated themes.

4. Action Plan- Update from Task and Finish Groups

Summary report from Una Casey: (paper-shared) notes from all T & F groups incorporated in the report.

Still no chairs identified for group 1: Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing and 4 poverty

Priority 1 Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Proposed conference EHWP group. Group met in March, discussed potential of conference instead of video. Susan Gault noted that there were already plans to have an event for the Infant Mental Health Strategy (to close the current strategy and celebrate the contributions to that). The group felt that it would be useful to join up with this event and hold a full day event. The morning session would focus on 0-3 and the rest of the day on 4-18, therefore covering the full journey of the child in line with the NAOG Action Plan. Cost approx.. £7,500 for 300 delegates – with commitment from M Meehan carried over, there remains a short fall, which will need to be covered from another funding stream. Agreed that there is an appetite to meet in person, given June time it is hoped COVID will not impact on ability to meet. Tabled for consideration/approval at this group. Agreement given in principle at this stage to progress planning for the event , however until confirmation from the corporate table regarding recommencing of such in person events stood down due to the pandemic, formal sign off cannot be given .

ACTION: With respect to funding Ciara McKillop to look at potential funding stream and Kate McDermott to link in with Hugh Nelson with respect to use of any potential slippage within Locality planning budget and advise.

Priority 2: Early intervention support for children with disabilities and their families

No further progress – further meeting scheduled for the 9th May 2022. Sharon Crawford noted that the NOG funding used to tender for Cedar outreach project is ending December 2022. It was agreed that the funding provided a fantastic project, which supported a significant numbers of families who will struggle without this project and the demand for the service remains. Sharon Crawford currently looking at a number of old contracts that could be combined into a new retender to potentially support the continuation of support to these families. Maura Dargan noted that in parallel to this NOG members need to consider any additional priority needs aligned to the NOG key priorities that should be supported by available funding or confirm that they are satisfied to maintain the Cedar Outreach project. Sharon Crawford to provide data on service provision/activity met through the Cedar project to be considered alongside any other proposals from any other member (1 page profile proposal) to allow for informed decision-making process at next NOG meeting. **ACTION: NOG Members to consider any additional priority needs that should be supported by available funding (1 page proposal) or confirm that they are satisfied to maintain the Cedar outreach project. S Crawford to provide data on activity met through cedar project**

There was discussion regarding the timescales involved in tendering new contracts. There was some reflections that the regional procurement process can be very lengthy and in some cases take a number of years. Other members

reflected on their experiences of local procurement in line with the BSO's Strategic Sourcing Model for Social Care and acknowledged that timeframes can be impacted by some very specific and unique circumstances. It was confirmed that local procurement processes will apply in respect of NOG funding. Mr Beggs noted that such a delay would reduce the flexibility to respond to community needs and requirements and this needed to be addressed regionally. **ACTION: Sharon Crawford to confirm the potential to extend the existing contract until new service is in place and Maura Dargan to consider any delays with contracts dept. should they emerge in this instance.**

Priority 3:

Support to children whose wellbeing is being affected by disruption to their schooling

Co-chairs confirmed, Pamela Kirk and Christine Doherty with support from Una Casey. Focus groups being held in 5 schools in Ballymena and Antrim to ask children how to celebrate school staff. Plan to roll out in year with these schools and next year roll out to more schools. Survey Template for teachers in development. Research paper currently under development "Understand the effects of disruption to education on children's wellbeing", should be available at end of April. Report will be shared with T & F group on 15th April to review and will then be disseminated across the other T & F groups. Data provided with respect to implications of school closures due the pandemic on children and young people's education, incorporating the views of parents, teachers and the young people. Report will also highlight the digital divide, safeguarding and child protection issues resulting from these closures. Kori happy to take further contribution from members as will be a live document going forward. **ACTION: Report to be shared in advance of next meeting.**

Priority 4: Contribution to strategic cross Departmental actions in response to poverty, as well as locality based service responses

Update to be provided at next meeting by Hugh Nelson

5. Family Support Hub Updates

Continuing to see significant referrals associated with fuel and food poverty. Consideration being given to providing additional support to families in line with last year approach, ie food and fuel vouchers. Seeing significant referrals with respect to anxiety, relating to school attendance and the impact school closures have had on young people.

6. NAOG action plan 2021-2024 updated version

Update Action plan share

7. Update for LPG

Report shared

Recurring emerging needs across the majority of groups

- Food and Fuel poverty
- Needs of refugees that have and may arrive in NI
- Lack of autism awareness and support to children and family on Waiting list for services.

All meetings well attended engagement/ partnership working progressing well and 13 new members have joined the northern LPGs since the January meeting.

Save the children family support programme (offering practical financial support for vulnerable families across all LPG areas) running from January 2022 to the end of March 2022. Funding and allocations completed through investment from Trust and council in the Mid Ulster locality. An evaluation report will be available mid-April, which will highlight any Trust wide gaps and continued need. Programme involved 175 families (314 children). Report will be shared once available.

8. Any Other Business

- **Ukraine resettlement – Ciara McKillop provided update**

7500 host families identified in NI, Extern and Barnardos to provide screening programme with respect to these families prior to allocation. Maura Dargan acknowledged Extern and Barnardos assistance which is welcomed regionally as Trusts are not in the position to do this given current workforce pressures. All Children and families will be visited by PHN who will undertake the basic health needs assessment i.e. vaccinations/COVID and TB screening, families will then be allocated a GP/HV and be in receipt of universal services and can be referred to other Trust services as required. Mr Beggs noted potential number of children and young people that may have suffered significant trauma as a result of the conflict and queried as to mechanisms in place to support these individuals. Ciara McKillop advised that once families are settled and young people in school, trauma related work will be progressed as required as evidence has shown that it is better to wait until individuals are in a settled environment before commencing.

- **Children's review – newsletter shared and tor**

AEDSW have met with Prof Ray Jones (independent chair of the CS review) in person. This was an introductory meeting and they will meet again following Prof. Jones visits to all 5 Trusts. Prof Jones very clear that any

model will be informed by services and welcomes all input. Due to visit NHSCT early May and meetings have been arranged with CEX, Chair and WCF Senior management team and a further day arranged to meet with WCF front line staff to get a feel of services. Update will be tabled routinely at this forum.

- **CiNIComms** - Enquiry received from Michelle McGlade-Buick, Parental Participation project. The Parental Participation Project is funded by CYPSP and Parenting NI delivered this project up until December 2021. In Jan 2022, CiNI won the tender and took over the project. The focus of the work within the project is to ensure that parents who use services are involved in every part of planning, design, development and delivery at each level ie Co-production. Requesting to meet with NOG rep to discuss plans and gain our perspective on how co production can inform CYPS services. **ACTION: It was agreed that Michelle would be invited to present at the next meeting and subsequently link into one of the established task and finish groups. Julie Scobie to progress.**
- **Autism Bill** - Kelly Maxwell advised that the amended Autism bill was passed 7th March 2022. Bill aims to improve training and access to support and services. Formal correspondence from DOH to be issued within incoming weeks outlining changes and responsibilities for organisations. **ACTION: Kelly to provide synopsis of changes along with a link to the amended bill, which Julie Scobie will circulate.**
- **Podcasts** - Ciara McKillop noted suite of podcasts development by the NHSCT with respect to Autism. Useful resource for Statutory /Voluntary sector and families/Carers/Teachers. **ACTION: Ciara to forward links to Julie Scobie who will circulate.**

9. **Date of Next Meeting** - 21st June 2022 @ 2pm via zoom

Maura Dargan
Director WCF Division