

Southern Area Outcomes Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Wed 1 February 2023 at 10:00 am
Via Zoom

Agency/Sector	Statutory	Present	Apology
HSCT (Chair)	Colm McCafferty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (Family Support; Hub Lead; Safeguarding)	Leanne Spratt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (Disability)	Elaine Mooney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (Public Health)	Gerard Rocks (Promoting Wellbeing)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HSCT (CAMHS)	Denise Carroll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (CYP – Health Improvement Specialist)	Jacqueline Masterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Education Authority	Kieran Shields Sarah Muldoon Donna Weir		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NI Housing Executive	VACANT		
Community Planning/Council	Patricia Gibson (PCSP) Gary Scott (ABC/NMDDC) Alison Beattie (ABC) Allison Clenaghan (ABC) Celine O'Neill (MU)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PSNI	Karen Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Public Health Agency	Collette Rogers Kelly McCartney Laura Taylor Danny Sinclair Dr Amanda McCullough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parenting Coordinator	Martina McCooley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Youth Justice Agency	Michael Heaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Childcare Partnership	Kevin Duggan		
LCG Link	VACANT		
Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership	Gary Scott Safeguarding Co-ordinator, ABC & NMD Council		
Other Partnerships			
Voluntary Sector			
Early Years Organisation	Anne Rice/Stephanie Elliot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
MENCAP	Mikhaila Woods		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barnardo's	Monica McCann Pat McGeough		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Gillian McKeown (Chair of Disability Task Group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NIACRO	Ciara Corrigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Clanrye Group	Dara O'Hagan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bolster	Jacinta Linden (Also LPG chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (Inequalities & Inclusion)	Robbie McCague (Chair of Ethnic Minority Group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BME Sector			
Craigavon Intercultural Programme	Stephen Smith		
Locality Planning Group Chairs			
Craigavon LPG	Deborah Millar (Home-Start Craigavon)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Armagh LPG	Michael Mac Cionnaith (Youth Action)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
South Armagh LPG	Annie Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Newry LPG	Jacinta Linden (Bolster) Allison Slater	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Banbridge LPG	Lucinda Love-Teggarty		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dungannon LPG	Loraine Griffin (COSTA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
In Attendance			
Locality Planning Officer	Darren Curtis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Planning & Information Support	Valerie Maxwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
CYPSP	Maxine Gibson Una Casey Louise Dickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Administrator for Outcomes Group	Ruth Alexander	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Family Support Hub Co-ordinator	Bronwyn Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Referral Coordinator for EHWP Framework	Ann O'Hare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Locality Programme Support	Joanne Patterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. Introductions & Apologies

Colm McCafferty welcomed everyone to the Forum and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (14.12.22)

Agreed as accurate reflection of last meeting.

Action points from Previous Meeting:-

3. Matters Arising

4. PRESENTATION: Emotional Health & Wellbeing Framework – Ann O’Hare

Ann O’Hare was appointed EH&WB Coordinator for the Southern Trust CAMHS Service in August 2022. Ann was welcomed to the meeting, and gave a brief presentation of the Framework to the group.

Colm acknowledged the increase in the prevalence of autism and ADHD, and also issues around capacity. It is very helpful to have clarity around referral pathways and this is a welcome initiative. Although still in its infancy, Ann advised this has been working well so far. Whilst conversations have taken place in terms of relating the process to Child Development Clinic children, there is still more work to be done, for this to happen in the future.

Valerie said she would link in with Ann in respect of the Disability Resource, as it would be useful to include some of this information and links to the EH&WB website.

5. Family Support Hubs (FSHs) Update

The Hubs report was circulated few weeks ago. Bronwyn advised that referrals continue to increase to the FSHs, and they expect to finish this year with around 900 families having been referred. Bronwyn gave a brief overview of the Q3 data, noting that the Hubs continue to support high numbers of young people and families. Feedback is positive.

The Hubs continue to be over their targets for the past year. Despite the pressures, the team remains stable, and the 3 Co-ordinators in the Southern area work extremely well together. Bronwyn acknowledged and expressed her appreciation for their collaborative work and noted they are represented and supportive of all of the Regional Developments and strategies she is trying to put in place and progress.

Colm noted the issue around the absence of an Education Rep at the Hubs. They are an important stakeholder in providing services, particularly in relation to preventative services. Bronwyn has had a conversation with the EA and received information on services available, but has not got access to them, which she will follow up. Bronwyn felt it was important to have both Education Welfare and Youth Services at the Hubs.

ACTION: Colm asked Bronwyn and Maxine to link in with one another and if they were unable to make progress in relation to getting education representation, come back to Colm for escalating to the Regional EA.

Leanne and Bronwyn have met with Michael Heaney, Youth Justice Agency (YJA) in January. YJA are very willing to provide support and take referrals from the Hubs regarding young people involved in antisocial behaviour or on the verge of coming to the attention of PSNI. They have also offered support for some unallocated cases in the Trust, which is greatly appreciated.

Colm informed the Group that he plans to progress some engagement to consider early intervention and prevention, with key voluntary providers to explore other ways of managing/ helping people coming to Social Service's attention.

Jacqueline advised she is hoping to set up a Pilot in the Newry area, linking services together, to consider gaps and provide support across the Southern area, for young people aged 13+ years, involved in antisocial behaviour, refusal to attend school, mental health issues etc. She has had conversations with a number of people/organisations, ie Bronwyn, Bolster, MDTs, EA Youth Service in the Newry area. This would link in well with the EA Youth Service connected to FSHs. Martina McAloon from the MDT Team in Newry is in agreement to be involved. Jacqueline asked member's for their views, and if in agreement will be setting up a meeting with C&V Services, also including Statutory Services in that area, and in particular Youth Action, EA Youth Service and FSHs

Members were positive about linking these services together and a number were keen to get involved and asked to be kept informed ie Michael MacCionnaith from Youth Action, Dara O'Hagan from Clanrye, CAMHS. Colm welcomes Jacqueline's group, and asked her to identify who she needs to meet with. This is an area for discussion at the Development Day and will be part of the SAOG Plan moving into next year.

6. Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) Update

The LPG report has been circulated to the group. In preparation for the Developmental day, a number of conversations have taken place in LPGs regarding the Action Plan. Darren shared some feedback on the LPG Review Questionnaire.

Darren gave a brief update on some upcoming Events. There are 16 young people registered for the Gaming & Gambling Awareness session on 2 February, which is face to face. A similar number have registered for the online session on 8 February. The Planning Group is meeting this afternoon to plan for 2 events in Armagh relating to the Cost of Living with the theme of emotional wellbeing, mental health and support for parents and care givers. Darren also referenced the schools resource produced

for the integrated school in the Banbridge area, which is being rolled out as a signposting resource for schools and teachers. It is hoped to have a follow on from the “Can We Talk” Event, held in conjunction with the Mid Ulster LPG. Darren advised they are working on getting the planning group together to consider next steps and linking in better with the schools. A Special Edition of FYI is going out this week, focusing on the Children’s Mental Health week. If anyone has any last minute information or resources, send to Joanne for inclusion.

Daren shared a summary of the key findings, from the recent CYPSP Survey. Infographics have been shared with the group prior to this meeting. Darren thanked the Chairs for their ongoing support.

7. Ukrainian Refugee Resettlement and Contingency Accommodation Proposals for Asylum Seekers (for information)

Colm advised this time last year, saw the arrival of Ukrainian Refugee families, and unfortunately there is little sign of things settling for these families. It is likely this will be with us for the medium to long term. Initial concerns regarding unaccompanied Ukrainian children coming into the system, did not materialise. Only a very small number of unaccompanied minors across the entire region, have become Looked after. However, the significant number of Refugee families arriving places pressure on what is already a highly stressed Health & Social Care system.

Whilst there has been a good response, for host families, an area of concern has arisen, regarding some businesses hosting multiple families, and the risk of potential exploitation with regards to labour etc. This is an area to be continually mindful of, and liaise with police colleagues if necessary.

Due to the increasing number of refugees and the associated dispersal, there are now plans for contingency arrangements to be established outside the greater Belfast area. The SHSCT has been identified for the establishment of contingency arrangements, which will lead to hotels or other multi-occupancy sites being identified for families to be housed. This will place additional pressures across all of Health & Social Care. Colm has had recent discussions with MDT colleagues, and reminded members that all families will be entitled to be registered with GPs, which will again lead to additional pressures.

This will remain as a standing agenda item, to keep members informed of any eminent developments.

8. Updates from Task & Finish Groups

Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Jacqueline reported this group met recently, and considered membership to ensure they had the right people involved. They also looked at how they communicated the health messages on the Youth

Wellness Website. They are currently identifying merchandise for distribution amongst the young people, highlighting the Youth Wellness Website. At present they have good representation from ABC Council, but not from Newry & Mourne or Mid Ulster Councils. Valerie agreed to link in with Jacqueline and follow up, to seek representation from these Councils.

Ethnic Minority

Robbie McCague is the Inequality & Inclusion Coordinator in the SHSCT, and Chair for this Task Group. He works with ethnic minorities, refugees and Irish travellers.

Robbie advised that a subgroup was set up for Interpreting Services to look at ways of maximising this resource and the gaps/barriers for people who have little or no English. Discussion considered how to reduce the barriers for people who are struggling to access services, suggestions included using online tools like Google Translate, Microsoft Translation App online, and other web based resources. Robbie advised that when he and colleagues in Central Booking tested template letters against the App, none of them were accurate or reliable enough to use. Feedback from this group is we need to find another way forward – maybe looking at template responses. This work will continue, and Robbie will provide feedback through the Task Group and this Forum as well.

Discussions are ongoing with the GP MDT Team in Newry about increasing access to GPs for ethnic minority and Irish Traveller communities who would previously have relied on the walk in service, which is no longer available as all GPs are Phone First. Not having English as your first language creates barriers, having to rely on someone else to make the call for you. The NINES service is planning a road show across GPs, within the Southern Trust.

The working group identified language support for school age children was an issue. A number of children did not have English language to enable them to partake in the curriculum. While they have a dedicated resource to try to enhance that through ESOL, many children were identified as pre-ESOL level. They are missing huge opportunities in the school and are not able to engage with their peers, so they rely heavily on someone else to translate for them. Robbie has explored funding streams but the barrier exists as this sits with EA. One of EA's statutory duties is to fund schools to provide this support, however the schools are overstretched and their budget doesn't cover it. In discussion with schools, Robbie advised they cannot meet the demand or need.

Robbie would like to pilot an intensive 6 week course, with a group of young people at pre-ESOL level, to bring them to above ESOL Level 1. This would mean they could undertake part of the curriculum and progress into the next school year. The feedback and evaluation from this pilot would then be used to provide the EA with a model that works, to get additional investment. The cost to run the pilot is approximately £700 per school. Colm told Robbie to go ahead and develop a plan for the pilot. He acknowledged that it is an EA statutory responsibility, but advised that all partners need to rise to these type of challenges as it won't happen if we are just relying on one Statutory agency to deliver.

ACTION: It was agreed to add the ongoing work in ethnic minorities and the need for funding streams, to the Agenda for the Development Day. Valerie advised she will link in with Robbie to develop the pilot.

The N&M MDT is a new service development with significant investment. Martina McAloon is keen to make links, and Robbie was encouraged to get in touch with her. Colm and Valerie are considering how best to involve MDTs, in particular Martina into this work as well.

Our Journey Through Disability

- Launch for New Parent's Resource

Gillian advised they have been making good progress in relation to the Parent's Resource. Information has been sent to EA and Health Trusts for quality assurance. They are planning to carry out consultations this month with parents who are part of the group, and also Autonomy and Parent Line for their feedback. The introduction is now finished and Valerie is working on the ME Passport from Barnardos, which gives all the information about the young person. Gillian plans to get a group of young people from Barnardos together for feedback on how efficient it is and if anything else needs added. Given this will be a live downloadable document, Gillian and Valerie are considering bringing it to the CYPSP Regional Disability Group, for taking responsibility and ownership of it moving forward.

It is planned to have an official launch to celebrate the work done by the parents. Colm gave approval for this. One of the other key areas for consideration is PR. Valerie will link in with Maxine about the Regional subgroup taking ownership moving forward to make sure we get this out across all GPs across NI, HVs and keyworkers who are going to be supporting CWDs.

Poverty & Family Support

Valerie reported that information has been shared with FSH Coordinators on how to access different poverty programmes and Council information. A number of initiatives are happening across the Council areas including Warm Spaces, and opening up venues for people to access to deliver programmes. There are a number of different initiatives being run through the Foodbanks and Fuel poverty schemes. The Central Resource is being updated and includes information on free meals and breakfast clubs for students being run by some of the churches and schools as well.

ACTION: Once updated, Valerie will forward the link for the Central Resource to Ruth to circulate to the group, for sharing with anyone who is struggling with poverty etc.

Elaine will forward information to Valerie and Joanne on the Newry Food initiative, for inclusion. Valerie has put on the website, but will ask Joanne to send the link to FSHs also.

Robbie asked that people be mindful of Asylum seeker relocations happening across NI, including the southern area and the limited benefit entitlement, which will bring another level of poverty for them.

9. Southern Outcomes Group Plan for 2023/24

Valerie shared the Action Plan with the group of what they hoped to take forward over the next Planning Session. Some of the information referenced today by Jacqueline and Robbie in relation to the ongoing work, will be taken forward on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Network and Ethnic Minorities Group. Valerie went through the key actions within the Plan, for taking forward over the next year. She advised this would mean all the key actions and outcomes identified from the previous workshop to set up a 3 year plan, will have been met. Any gaps identified will be taken on board moving forward for 23/24.

10. Development Day (5 April 23) – Objectives and Areas for Focus

Colm acknowledged the very effective work done by this group, but felt it was important to reflect and if necessary reset objectives for the next year and beyond. Some of the key components we will continue to commit to include:-

- Ethnic minorities
- Children with Disability
- The poverty agenda
- Early Intervention
- FSHs

Other items may also be included as standing Agenda items. Colm asked members to spend some time preparing for the Development Day, to plan what we want SAOG to prioritise and commit to over the next year.

Valerie will coordinate the Agenda, and look at drafting an Action Plan to deliver on key areas. She will be in touch with Jacqueline and Robbie, and other key people in preparation for this. A draft Agenda will be circulated at the end of March and members were asked to come back to Valerie with suggestions, so that the Development Day is as beneficial as possible. The venue on 5th April is the Seagoe Parish Centre, Portadown.

11. AOB

- Update on Regional Children's Social Work Review (Professor Ray Jones' Work)

Prof Jones was commissioned by the DOH to carry out a review of Children Social Care across the Region in NI. Currently there are 5 standalone children's services, one in each Trust. Prof Jones' recommendation is that NI would move towards one standalone Children's Social Work Service, modelled on TUSLA, the national Children's Social Work Service in Ireland.

Colm is in favour of looking at this recommendation, given the current significant challenges. The recommendation has been made to Robin Swann, former Health Minister. The DOH is carrying out an options appraisal. Prof Jones is due to complete his deliberations at the end of March, and will write a report for submission to the DOH in May. An official launch is due in June 23.

Colm will give the Group informed of developments.

12. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 5 April 2023 at 10.00 am

Venue: Seagoe Parish Centre, Portadown