

## BELFAST OUTCOMES GROUP MEETING

Via MS Teams

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 1.30 p.m. via MST**

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Ms. Carol Diffin (Chair)	Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
Ms. Kerrylee Weatherall (incoming Chair)	Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
<b>Statutory Sector</b>			
Mr. Paul O'Neill	Early Years, Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
Ms. Edel McKenna	Safeguarding, Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
Mr. Gerry Largey	Hub Lead, Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
Ms. Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator		✓
Mr. Brian O'Kane	NIHE, Belfast Area		✓
Ms. Katherine Calvert	Education Authority		✓
Ms. Barbara Porter	PHA		✓
Ms. Cate Taggart	Belfast City Council	✓	
Mr. Declan Davey	Youth Justice Agency	✓	
Ms. Marie Cavanagh	HSCB Belfast Local Commissioning Group		✓
Ms. Marie McAuley	Health Improvement Team, BHSCT	✓	
Ms. Wendy Pollock	Chief Inspector, PSNI		✓
<b>Community Sector</b>			
Ms. Nicola Verner	West Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
Ms. Natasha Brennan	South Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
Ms. Julie Jamison	North Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
Ms. Tracey Wilson	East Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
<b>LPG Chairs</b>			
Ms. Barbara Wallace	East Belfast LPG		✓
Ms. Deirdre Walsh	West Belfast LPG	✓	
Ms. Natasha Brennan	South Belfast LPG	✓	
Ms. Claire Allen	North Belfast LPG	✓	
<b>Voluntary Sector</b>			
Mr. Peter Bryson	Save the Children		✓
Ms. Caroline Rutherford	Extern	✓	
Mr. Martin Walls	Guide Dogs	✓	
Mr. Avery Bowser	AFC		✓
<b>Partnership Sector</b>			
Ms. Roisin McCooley	Belfast Childcare Partnership		✓
Mr. Jackie Redpath	Belfast Strategic Partnership	✓	
<b>In Attendance</b>			
Ms. Una Casey	CYPSP Support	✓	
Ms. Maxine Gibson	CYPSP		✓
Ms. Nichola Creagh	Department for Communities		✓
Ms. Bronwyn Campbell	Regional FSH Lead	✓	

## **Summary of Actions:**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1.	Dentist Referrals for Newcomers / Refugees	Ms. Diffin to raise with Louise McMahon.	Ms. Diffin
2.	Interpreting issues / SCIE Learning Sets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learning Sets to be shared once finalised.</li> <li>- Carol Diffin to write to SPPG and raise this matter.</li> </ul>	Ms. Campbell Carol Diffin
3.1	EHWB Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deferred to next meeting. Bronwyn Campbell to update.</li> <li>- Mark Conachy and Kris McKeever to be invited to future meetings.</li> </ul>	Bronwyn Campbell Trisha McDonald / Carol Diffin
3.2	ASD / Autism Referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Largey continues to liaise with Ms. Killough and colleagues, to scope out the figures and get more up to date information.</li> <li>- LPG data to be available by September</li> <li>- Ms. Diffin to liaise with Dr. Sarah Meekin initially. She will then organise a one-off focussed joint meeting re: EHWB Framework and interface to services. This meeting is deferred to a later date.</li> </ul>	Mr. Largey  Mr. Largey Carol Diffin
4.	Integrated Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Taggart will provide feedback to the Committee Paper</li> <li>- Ms. Diffin will raise with the Chair of the South Eastern Outcomes Group, Barbara Campbell re: linking to this work for areas such as Colin. - Barbara Campbell is also now leaving post. Ms. Diffin will liaise with Ms. Weatherall and Ms. Taggart and the new SE Director, Lyn Preece, and this can be picked up at a later date.</li> </ul>	Cate Taggart Carol Diffin Kerrylee Weatherall
5.	Mandatory Medical Examinations for recruitment (C&V)	Ms. Diffin and Mr. O'Neill to raise again with SPPG, the issues regards the mandatory medicals and lack of GPs to complete same.	Carol Diffin Paul O'Neill
6.	Integrated Working Paper	Paper to be amended following all feedback today and title changed.	Gerry Largey
7.	Community Planning / Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Taggart agreed to feedback to Community Planning colleagues, re: our challenges and other high level pieces of work are ongoing (e.g. CS Review etc.) and to advise that work is progressing, workshop is planned and something will be produced.</li> <li>- Workshop to be convened with external facilitator.</li> <li>- Draft SPOC re: facilitation work to be shared for comment.</li> </ul>	Cate Taggart  Gerry Largey Cate Taggart

<b><u>Action by:</u></b>	
	<p><b>1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b></p> <p>Ms. Diffin welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were recorded as above. Ms. Diffin apologised for the last minute cancellation of the previous meeting due to her being Director on call and an emergency arising. She confirmed this will be the last meeting before her retirement and was thankful to everyone for rearranging the meeting at short notice. Ms. Diffin introduced Ms. Weatherall as the new Interim Director of Children Services and she will also be chairing the Outcomes Group going forward therefore there will be no break in succession. A round of introductions were made around the screen for Ms. Weatherall.</p>
	<p><b>2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022</b></p> <p>The previous minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p>The following matters arising were discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dental Referrals for newcomers – previous discussions recapped. No dentists taking on new NHS patients – at least 10 families not registered at all. Action to be carried forward and Carol Diffin to follow up with Louise McMahon.</li> <li>2. Interpreting – Action Learning Sets discussed at last meeting. Update provided by Bronwyn Campbell. Work completed with SCIE, there has been some delay. Draft response is with Ms. Campbell and the group will meet next week to discuss and sign off. Final Learning Sets will be shared once finalised. Considerable need for FSHs to be able to access Interpreting Services. The reach of the overall report is wider and not specific to interpreting alone. Mr. Largey apprised of the information now available on the CYPSP website also. He added that the extremely high rate of FSH self-referrals in Belfast area added to the issue because only referrals made by HSC practitioners, are currently able to access the Interpreting Service. No personally identifiable data is held by BHSCT re FS hub support requests which is required to access the Regional interpreting Service. He noted that the Trust are doing the best they can internally to enable access to services. Other factors are also relevant in Belfast, such as the large BAME population. Ms. Campbell added that SureStarts are also having similar issues and work is ongoing to try and tie up the whole system and issues. Ms. Diffin confirmed that she will write to SPPG to have the issues noted and it can then be picked up at the next Strategic Meeting.</li> <li>3. EHWP Framework – Deferred to next meeting.</li> <li>4. ASD / Autism Referrals – Mr. Largey reminded that the geographic spread re presentation was provided previously. He and his team are liaising with colleagues to obtain updated and current data. He advised that there has been a substantive increase in both waiting times and volume. More detailed data with regards the 4 LPG areas will also be available in September. With regards the proposed one-off meeting with Dr. Meekin, this is to be deferred to a later date.</li> <li>5. Integrated working – Ms. Taggart has provided feedback to the Committee Paper. With regards the action to liaise with the SE Area Outcomes Group Chair in relation to the Colin area and linking to this piece of work, Barbara Campbell is also leaving post. Ms. Diffin will liaise with Ms. Weatherall and Ms. Taggart and</li> </ol>

	<p>the new SE Director, Lyn Preece, and this can be picked up at a later date. Natasha Brennan has shared our Plan with the VCSE Panel. Mr. Largey and Ms. Taggart have amended the Plan as per comments at the last meeting and submitted to the SPNR. Sub-group was convened.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Children's Strategy Response – Closing date gone.</li> <li>7. Contracted Services – on agenda</li> <li>8. AOB / Copy letter from Mr Bowser to DoH / Copy information from Ms. Taggart re: small grants – complete.</li> </ol>
	<p><b>3. Children's Services Review and other developments</b></p> <p>Ms. Diffin advised she had invited Ray Jones to today's meeting but unfortunately he was not available. Ms. Diffin shared the integrated working paper and Ms. Taggart shared the Action Plan with Ray Jones and Ms. Diffin will be meeting with him on 17<sup>th</sup> August and talk through the work of the Outcomes Group with him. He has already met with CYPSP and Southern Outcomes Group and has also visited the Whiterock Family Support Hub and Bolster Newry Hub. Ms. Walsh provided an update on his visit to Whiterock FSH. Ms. Campbell has met with him since and he was very positive about the visit. Some qualitative data has also been passed onto Pat Dolan to review in more detail.</p> <p>Ms Diffin updated the meeting that Professor Jones has also visited each HSC Trust and met with specific staff groups working within Children's Services in each Trust. He called an urgent meeting with the Department and the Trusts with regards the critical workforce situation. Further work is planned re: skill-mixes, reducing bureaucracy etc. There was clear recognition of the significant pressures and follow meetings are planned for September.</p> <p>With regards the change of HSCB to SPPG, the SPPG's main roles are re: Value for Money and Performance etc. The five Trusts are working collaboratively in relation to the rising unallocated cases figures, reducing bureaucracy, the role of admin, workforce and retention, early help and skills mix. And all of these pieces of work will inform the Children's Services Review. Ms. Diffin explained that the BHSC are looking at further developing Early Help Models, both in statutory services and also via FSHs and the Community and Voluntary Sector. Further work will be rolled out over the next few months. It was recognised that there are significant challenges in all sectors, particularly re: recruitment retention and fixed costs such as Energy.</p> <p>The first draft of Professor Jones report is due in February 2023 and the delivery of actions linked to the final report could take approximately 18 months.</p> <p>Ms. Diffin invited questions and comments and members cited their own thoughts and experiences with regards many of the issues listed above, including recruitment issues. For example, mandatory medicals for new starts in C&amp;V Sector with limited availability of GPs were highlighted as a particular workforce pressure that it may be possible to resolve. Mr O'Neill highlighted that there had been engagement with DE on this. Awaiting outcome of this review to inform changes to their policies. He also reported that there had been no visits to SureStarts yet though discussion had taken place re: the lack of universal access to these services: Given the current lack of universal coverage, it will be useful for CYPSP/Outcomes Groups to have sight of first draft to scope out what means for us and enable communication in our own agencies re: aligning work etc.</p>

	<p>Ms. Diffin advised that workshops may be scheduled in autumn 22 which should give an opportunity for those interested to hear his ideas.</p> <p>There was some discussion re: the GP/Medical issue raised earlier and Mr. O'Neill advised that it has been raised regionally as a safeguarding issue. SPPG would not make any amendments to the procedures. Mr. O'Neill also highlighted the increasing issues with regards placing of Ukrainian families and lack of resources available.</p> <p>Ms. Diffin and Mr. O'Neill to raise again with SPPG, the issues regarding mandatory medicals and lack of GPs to complete same.</p>
	<p><b>4. Integrated Working – Activity and Learning to date</b></p> <p>Ms. Diffin thanked Mr. Largey and Mr. Hontavilla for collating this paper. Mr. Largey advised that this is a working draft document and not final. They have pulled together lessons from various actions taken during the pandemic. There are 3 strands – Context, Implications for BAOG and Use of CYPSP Structures. Mr. Largey provided a detailed overview – sits against Action Plan, use of Children's Cooperation Action to pilot and gain learning, learning from individual organisations and partnerships, notion of aligned spend, common purpose for practical decisions to be made, using LPGs and Chairs and partnerships, building co-productions and co-design process, huge amount of work undertaken, investment needed in these structures, huge potential for this work. The paper is draft but does highlight key themes.</p> <p>Ms. Diffin reflected that we have learned a great deal re: what works well. She also wished to acknowledge the considerable work undertaken by the LPG Chairs and it is clear that better structures will be needed going forward. Comments were welcomed.</p> <p>Considerable discussion followed with regards to potential ways forward and the critical learning taken from the paper, the challenges faced, what we can do better, how we can resource appropriately and embed this approach. There are continued high levels of pressures across the services and flexibility appears to be decreasing. Mr. Redpath commented on both the purpose of this paper and the proposed audience. He spoke to the original working group which was working on a paper to inform the Living Here Board and other Boards under Community Planning re: joint working. He felt there was some confusion in these papers due to timeframes and titling possibly.</p> <p>Mr. Largey advised that this draft paper relates specifically to the work undertaken using Children's Cooperation Act Pilots to support Covid response and the title may be confusing. The purpose is summarise the learning from the spending elements of those responses. Perhaps should be renamed 'Integrated Spending Pilot'. He confirmed that the paper Mr. Redpath mentioned above is a different paper and is not yet complete. Mr. Largey would hope for a workshop to be convened at beginning of September and we will need to be informed by a Briefing Paper re: next steps. Mr. Redpath added by asking who the final paper will be for? Mr. Largey advised that it will be an Outcomes Group paper and will potentially be shared with Community Planning structures, in-Trust, with DfC, DoH and BCC in relation to joint-up, co-production/co-design spend. Ms. Diffin added that it also sets the model for work going forward re: winter pressures. She also acknowledged the competing timescales, i.e. Belfast Agreement, Living Here Board, CYPSP processes etc. Members continued to give their thoughts and it was agreed that communities are crucial to supporting and</p>

informing this work, and are closest to the need and the impact of any work done. Need to enable aligned spend and develop work but not make this overly onerous, investment in services in necessary and need to remove burdens on families, alignment of priorities and fill in gaps – based on LPG intelligence and data and need to ensure spending is in the right place. Two-tiered approach required. Ms. Diffin thanked everyone for the feedback.

Paper to be amended accordingly and title changed.

## **5. BAOG and Community Planning Interfaces**

Ms. Diffin noted that the last meeting unfortunately did not take place before the Living Here Board Meeting. We had agreed to deliver the position for some of the Children and Young People focus under Living Here Board and across Community Planning for Belfast. An Outline Plan was completed and shared with the group and workshops were convened. Most were content with this. The paper was shared for this meeting and there are 4 main areas of work:

1. Design an integrated model of work
2. Effective Structure at Leadership Level
3. Test Delivery / evidence of FSH / Needs
4. Engagement

Mr. Largey advised that today we need to take views re: way we have captured the main elements of the workplan. Also included in the paper is the summary prepared for the Living Here Board.

We will need to develop actions using the Community Planning language of 'strategic intent' in relation to the refresh of the Belfast Agenda to advance this key joint working area. Children and Young People are included as cross-cutting themes of the Belfast Agenda and therefore have much wider with links to a whole range of initiatives. Each Action Plan within the Community Planning structures will need to look via the lens of Children and Young People at their activity. And how we will meet their needs in that area. The Belfast Area Outcomes Group will need to agree on how to help that delivery via the proposed Senior Leadership Group.

The 'Strategic Intent' and actions required were outlined for the group, i.e. establishing the leadership group, decision re: who will lead on actions, participation pilot required, engagement with children and young people, role for BAOG. Next LHB is 05.09.22 and next Community Planning Partnership is 08.09.22. We need to have a robust Action Plan in place to ensure a focus on the needs of families and Children for these Boards. Mr. Largey suggested 31<sup>st</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> September or 2<sup>nd</sup> September for the proposed Workshop. BHSCT and BCC agreed to pay for an external facilitator for the workshop. There was some discussion with regards the timeframes for completion / inclusion in Belfast Agenda. Ms. Taggart will ask Community Planning colleagues to attend the workshop. The plan will need more detail which will hopefully include relevant stretched targets and will therefore be more robust. The workshop will be used to agree and finalise the draft proposal and allow us to present same. Mr. Redpath warned that the timeframes may be too tight and we do not want to rush this work as CYP are so important, we need to get it right and that it may be useful to suggest to the September meetings that work is in progress and to ask for time to review and to align all of this work.

	<p>Ms. Taggart agreed to feedback re: our challenges and other high level pieces of work are ongoing (e.g. CS Review etc.) and to advise that work is progressing, workshop is planned and something will be produced.</p> <p>Workshop to be convened with external facilitator.</p> <p>Draft SPOC re: facilitation work to be shared for comment.</p>
	<p><b>6. Locality Planning Group Update</b></p> <p>Written report provided by Charlene Mitchell for perusal, including links to programmes, patterns of activity, pressures already discussed etc.</p>
	<p><b>7. Family Support Hubs</b></p> <p>Annual Report Card shared prior to meeting. Ms. Diffin commented that the figures were considerably above the pre-pandemic level. Mr. Largey commented on the high levels of referrals and demand for services, particularly primary school age and BAME. He gave credit to the providers who have sustained availability of services throughout the pandemic. There continues to be high levels of self-referrals (1/3) and together with referrals from C&amp;V sector, accounts for half of all activity around the hub projects.</p>
	<p><b>8. Children's Safeguarding All Ages Consultation</b></p> <p>Ms. Taggart shared this consultation for the group's information. All information and link to consultation available on the letter and closing date is 22.08.22. Ms. Taggart would encourage completion by members as this will help to inform BCC's new Safeguarding Policy.</p>
	<p><b>9. Contracted Services</b></p> <p>Mr. Largey informed that there had been high levels of demand in the first 6 months of this year with pressures on families and communities continuing at the current rate. If this trajectory remains, there will be significant pressures for the coming winter period and we will need to keep an eye on that.</p> <p>Ms. Wilson enquired as to when the Contracted Services will be reviewed re: what delivering. Mr. Largey responded that the procurement exercise was due at the end of the year but this date will likely not be met. We may need to refocus activity with organisations and services areas in line with any shift to early help models and that things will become clearer next Spring following Professor Jones' Review. He added following further query that they were last reviewed 6 years ago and Ms. Wilson noted that there is a lot more evidence and data available now. Ms. Diffin added that we will need to review our data and Professor Jones also has that data to inform his review.</p>
	<p><b>10. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Ms. Diffin wished to thank all members in respect of their commitment and support over the last number of years. She recognised the huge progress and developments made and stated that it has been a privilege for her to chair this group. She wished everyone well.</p>

## 11. Dates of Future Meetings

Date:	Time:	Venue:
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	2pm	MS Teams
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	2pm	MS Teams