

## BELFAST OUTCOMES GROUP MEETING

Via MS Teams

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 2.30 p.m. in Girdwood Community Hub**

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Ms. Kerrylee Weatherall (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 Kelly Gilliland	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 McCooey	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		
Ms. Valerie Maxwell	CYPSP Support (obo Una Casey)	✓	

## **1. Welcome & Apologies**

The Chairperson apologised for the disruption to the Outcomes Group's planned meeting schedule, explaining that unavoidable operational pressures had left BHSCT unable to support meetings on the scheduled dates.

The combination of issues that led to this inability to deliver the scheduled meetings of Outcomes include:

- Current Service Pressures within Children's Services.
- Work associated with the imminent Jones Report launch.
- Impact of Funding decisions for Community Services and Projects in the city.

Outcomes Group members acknowledged the acute pressures being faced by all partners and after discussion it was agreed to reorder the agenda to provide space to discuss the funding pressures engagement on these themes.

## **2. Actions and Matters Arising from previous meeting on Thursday 18 January**

Previous actions and matters were updated upon. All were progressing although pressures in relation to services required for hotel accommodated displaced persons e.g. interpreting etc. were reported and remain as pressures going forward.

## **3. Chair's Business**

The Chairperson provided an update in relation to the pressures on funding faced by our community and voluntary sector partners from a HSC perspective to set the scene for the substantive Agenda point. It was confirmed that BHSCT has renewed all Children's and Families related contracting activity for a 12 month period and the Chairperson confirmed that the contractual uplift of 3.5% would be applied to all contracts. This approach was warmly welcomed at this meeting.

A rationale surrounding any anxiety that may have been inadvertently triggered the round of contracting meetings held re BAOG services was provided. Being clear on budget and activity commissioned while encouraging providers

In regard to the pressures within BHSCT the Chairperson indicated that the intense pressures had triggered a corporate response from the Trust. A Regional risk summit was called by the Chief Executive of BHSCT, Cathy Jack.

This involved BHSCT presenting to the Dept. of Health SPPG SBNI etc. on the perceived vulnerabilities in terms of workforce availability, demand pressures and potential supports being requested for BHSCT. This was felt to be a

successful meeting with some risk mitigations being made available. However welcome the support, the scale of crisis was felt to be above this threshold of help.

An update was provided to the meeting on the imminent launch of the Ray Jones review and the options appraisals that were associated with the review process. The scale scope and potential impact of the review was flagged to the meeting. The Chairperson indicated that it was hoped that a scattering of Outcomes Group members would receive invites to the launch. A commitment was offered to create space and time for engagement on the review themes going forward.

Driven by the Jones Report the Chairperson outlined a series of responses already being put in place through a HSC Improvement & transformational Board and DOH workstreams. The point was made that the range of outward facing activity and engagement associated with this work isn't clear at this point.

#### **4. Funding Pressures on Community and Voluntary Sector**

The meeting was provided with a range of perspectives relating to funding cuts that had been announced by a range of government departments and public bodies. Particularly those DE prompted cuts that impact upon sure start, extended schools, the youth work sector etc. which are so important for service in the Belfast Trust area. This was a substantive discussion with clear alerts being signalled to CYPSP/ Outcomes about the scale of service retraction/service collapse potentially at hand. The challenges of sustaining workforce and service continuity in this hugely challenging environment, as well of progressing the BAOG/Belfast Agenda areas of work was clearly reflected.

**Action: LPG Coordinator will use the planning network to collate responses to funding pressures and cuts we will circulate a pro forma and report to next meeting.**

#### **5. Impact of Covid on Children and Families in Belfast CCS Trends / Presentation**

A short presentation, covering **initial** work commissioned by the Chairperson within BHSCT, taking an area based data approach, inspired by previous Outcomes Group activity (ASD) was delivered.

This involved juxtaposing Family Support Hub referrals on a ward based basis, alongside the other key indicators such as Gateway contact rates, transfers to teams, CP and LAC levels were reproduced on a consistent basis.

It prompted a broad discussion amongst the members present. Feedback was that this was an approach that had great potential in it to enable Belfast Area Outcomes and BHSCT in particular to have a more granular approach to demand pressures and to aligning area based community resource with

emerging patterns of need. It was reported to the meeting that CYPSP was undertaking a hub focussed initiative that was similar in focus.

Particular issues re the use of drugs by young people and any potential alignment with the data patterns being highlighted were made by the Youth Justice Representative on the Outcomes Group.

Representations were made in the meeting for the Chair to continue encouraging focus on this approach because of its broader utility alongside requests for broader sharing of the information at the earliest opportunity. A commitment to make this work available at an early opportunity was provided.

## **6. Update on Belfast Agenda / BAOG Shared Activity**

An update was provided to the meeting, setting out the range of activity being undertaken to support the objective jointly set with the Belfast Community Planning structures.

In the discussion that followed. Community and Voluntary Sector partners indicated that the uncertainty facing the sector made effective delivery on this agenda even more urgent.

A date for a sub group meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May to set the agenda proper for the workshop was agreed.

**Action: Names of members interested in attending the workshop above to be forwarded to Gerry by Monday.**

## **7. LPG Update**

An update on current LPG activity was provided in writing. The funding crisis and the uncertainty it was generating in and across the sector was the main subject referenced across the planning groups. Following a discussion on the report content, it was duly noted by the meeting.

## **8. Family Support Services Contract Update**

Continued high usage of available Outcomes Group Services were noted. Anxiety about the sustainability and demand pressures that may be triggered by the current funding approaches were again voiced by members.

## **9. Family Support Hub Report**

A report was provided and the meeting discussed the continued strong trends in terms of demands for supports for those families presenting seeking support with the management of challenging behaviours

## **10. Any Other Business**

The meeting was closed