

## BELFAST OUTCOMES GROUP MEETING

Via MS Teams

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

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 Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council	✓	
Mr. Declan Davey	Youth Justice Agency		✓
Ms. Marie Cavanagh	HSCB Belfast Local Commissioning Group		✓
Ms. Marie McAuley	Health Improvement Team, BHSC	✓	
Mr. Kevin Hawkins	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	✓	
Vacant	Vacant		✓
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. Maxine Gibson	CYPSP	✓	
Ms. Nichola Creagh	Department for Communities		✓
Ms. Dawn Vance	Department for Communities	✓	
Ms. Bronwyn Campbell	Regional FSH Lead		✓
Ms. Valerie Maxwell	CYPSP Support	✓	
Ms. Louise Dickson	CYPSP Support	✓	
Mr. Mark Conachy	Assistant Head of Psychology, BHSC	✓	

## Summary of Actions:

1.	Funding Pressures Scoping Exercise	Collated findings from the Funding Pressures Scoping Exercise into an anonymised report for circulation to the BAOG. <b>Complete.</b>	<b>Charlene Mitchell</b>
2.	Belfast Agenda / BAOG Shared Activity / Workshop Update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sub-Group 1 to be convened – Gerry Largey will circulate date 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week in July <b>Complete – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b></li> <li>○ Workshop to be scheduled for a date at end of August / beginning of September. <b>Complete.</b></li> <li>○ All agreed that Consultant can make contact with individuals for input on their knowledge / experience. <b>Ongoing</b></li> <li>○ Report on 'The Consequences of the Cuts to Education for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland' to be shared. <b>Complete.</b></li> </ul>	<b>Gerry Largey</b>  <b>Gerry Largey</b>  <b>All</b>  <b>Trisha McDonald</b>
3.	Belfast Agenda Consultation:	Sub-Group 2 – Conversations with Outcomes Member who are involved in Community Planning Structures to be coordinated. <b>Complete</b>	<b>Gerry Largey</b>
4.	Ray Jones' Children's Services Review Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sub-Group 3 – to be convened to begin to plan / design re: what we can do from Belfast Perspective and bring back to BAOG for final decision on running a workshop/event.</li> <li>○ If agreed, Workshop to be convened in October / November 23</li> </ul>	<b>Gerry Largey</b>
5.	Family Support Hubs	Collated quarterly summary report to be shared in July 2023.	<b>Gerry Largey</b>

## **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies are recorded in above table.

The Chair welcomed all in attendance.

The group were advised that Kelly Gilliland has moved post from BCC and wished her well. A replacement has not yet been appointed and Ms. Watters has agreed to represent in the meantime.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Kevin Hawkins to his first Outcomes Group meeting, he was in attendance at one of the recent workshops and has taken over the vulnerable person's portfolio for Belfast for PSNI in May this year.

## **2. Chair's Business**

### **• Ray Jones Children's Services Review Report Launch**

The Launch took place last Wednesday. It is a substantial report and Ms. Weatherall agreed to circulate it to everyone and asked that they take some time to read through it. Ms. Weatherall provided some detailed background information with regards the report, including the people and statutory organisation involved and met with by the Author, areas for reform e.g. unallocated cases, workforce, reducing bureaucracy, foster care etc., new workstreams to be set up including Early Help / Family Support which will likely include community and voluntary sector partners. Ms. Weatherall recapped some of Professor Jones proposals which were raised at the Launch Event. Consultation period begins September 2023.

### **• C&V Funding**

The Chair has raised with SPPG the concerns with regards impact on Children's Services. This has been a very stressful and uncertain time for all. She acknowledged that some hopeful news has been received with regards to the SureStart funding.

## **3. Actions and Matters Arising from previous meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

### Matters Arising:

C&V Funding Pressures – the LPG Coordinator has collated responses from the planning network and Ms. Mitchell will speak to this under the Update section on the agenda.

Shared Activity Workshop – nominations received and workshop convened.

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

This piece of work was scoped out following the April meeting, as agreed. 52 responses were received to the survey disseminated by the Locality Planning Groups. The findings of this review were presented to the group, however further to recent announcements, there has been some further changes to the findings. E.g. 46% will have no contract post-June, discussion re: impact on service users, impact on staff including redundancies and staff on notice, risk of closure, reduction in services, impacting on other funding stream applications, massive pressures, pause on recruitment, impact on all aspects of service delivery.

**Action: Ms. Mitchell agreed to pull all findings into an anonymised report for circulation.**

The Chair thanked Ms. Mitchell and the team for this excellent piece of work which demonstrates the significant impact on families and children.

Considerable discussion ensued with comments from members around the significant and individual funding pressures, e.g. summer scheme money and Bright Start money not out yet, late receipt of free school meals and uniform grant monies, significant holiday hunger issues, significant tendering issues, reduction in services to meet gaps in funding, lack of joined up thinking.

The Chair took on board the points raised and suggested holding an event to discuss the findings of the Jones Report and current impacts on C&V Sector which the Trust relies upon to provide early help to children and families.

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

(a) Workshop Update

(b) Potential Sub-Group Activity in July and Date for next Workshop

Ms. Weatherall stated that the workshop went well and asked if members had any comments to make. A number of the group provided feedback – went well, good first step, important to get it right, take time to be more strategic, use our own expertise, bring in experts and academic input, next sub—group to be convened before end of July and will be used to shape agenda for next workshop, work alongside Jones Report and Consultation, all agreed to have consultant involvement, fit in with Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework and align issues, need to prepare for the findings from the recent Education Report re: cuts and impact – Trisha to share. (*See Action Table*)

(c) Children and Family relevant Belfast Agenda Update

Belfast City Council is launching the refresh of the Belfast Agenda in August for consultation. Belfast Outcomes Group is the lead partner for children and young people in Belfast and our initial feedback based on previous discussions has been provided and no issues raised with same. However,

there are two sections which may be more complicated – 1. Improving Early Intervention response to SEN and CWD related matters  
2. Approach re: better pulling together expertise of people on work that cuts across silos. Both of these matters overlap work already being done by Outcomes Group and are not replacements for this. Discussion to be had with and feedback sought from Outcomes Group members re: engagement and how to better align the work we are doing. Suggestion was made to have a separate short meeting to discuss same. (*See Action Table*)

## **6. Jones Report Launch**

(a) Dissemination – as above.

(b) Discussion within Outcomes Group Structures

(c) Consultation / Engagement Activity on upcoming Jones related consultations

The Chair provided an update and advised that we need to review how this sits alongside Outcomes Group and what we want to do. The report covers a lot of areas and the Trusts are still working through it but need to keep up the momentum. The recommendations are broad because it was his view that the organisations should develop on these and take ownership of them. Considerable discussion ensued re: the report and members provided feedback, e.g.

- Children Services moving into a single separate agency, early years and family support at the forefront.
- SureStarts requiring extension and building upon, clear message from the Trust Directors provided at the launch and pushback to the Department, huge strategic weaknesses.
- C&V Funding not fit for purpose, need political support to drive this forward, C&V sector need to be central to each of the workstreams.
- The need co-production and co-design of any created services, need for a multi-agency delivery model.
- Initial details provided re: the upcoming CYPSP event to discuss report and integrated care system, growth of community planning, 'Reset and Pause'. –
- The need to ensure practical outputs in place, regional events was welcomed by all and it will be positive for the region to come together for strategic discussions re: way forward.

Discussion re: proposed Belfast Outcomes Group Event – needs to be designed and proposed for October / November time. A sub-group will need to be convened to scope out what we want to do from a Belfast perspective and timeline to be sorted, aligned with the Ray Jones report. (*See Action Table*)

## **7. LPG Update**

Discussion took place earlier re: funding cuts and Ms. Mitchell agreed to share the anonymised report.

Ms. Mitchell provided an update on the Locality Planning Groups i.e. pressing issues, e.g. Summer Scheme funding and considerable school refusal figures across Belfast. Some training is planned for September with regards Anxiety Based School Avoidance. Education Welfare also have a massive waiting list and more support is needed. Waiting Lists for support for children with additional needs and mental health services are also considerable across all 4 localities and there is concern for the summer period with an influx of referrals to Family Support Services and Community Services.

Ms. Mitchell is also completing a piece of work along with Lisa McComish Brennan, Business Support Officer, EIS Team re: BAOG funded Family Support Services and this will provide some interesting information and she will share same once complete.

## **8. Family Support Hub Report**

Mr. Largey provided an update. Four ongoing issues:

1. Behavioural support (not ASD-related)
2. Growing level re: Anxiety relating to family pressures, both Adults and Children. Linked to the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework and also links to pressures on services.
3. Financial and Practical Support, e.g. Health, Food, Uniforms, Meals, School.
4. Growing demand in 10-14 year age group. Focus is on primary school children. Gap between SureStart and Youth Services

Mr. Largey will forward the quarterly FSH update report in July 2023.

Members commented on and discussed a number of ongoing issues and lack of awareness re: same, e.g. Holiday Hunger, poverty and destitution, suggestion re: Ms. Mitchell linking in with Darren Curtis, Southern Area Outcomes Group re: their work on holiday hunger. Members report continued demand for foodbanks – now mainstream rather than emergency support, children not eating – query re: this child protection issue and confirmed referrals should be made to social services. Food vouchers still available from Hubs on a limited basis and families should be referred for these in the first instance, as these pressures often lead to other issues such as education and attendance, more families affected than before.

Members were encouraged to make contact with the Chair if any advice needed.

## **9. Any Other Business**

None discussed.

## **10. Date of Next meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm in Large Conference Room, Ground Floor, Knockbreda Wellbeing Centre.