

## BELFAST OUTCOMES GROUP MEETING

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 2.00 p.m.

St John's Building, 91 Whiterock Road, Belfast, BT12 7PG

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Ms. Kerrylee Weatherall (Chair)	Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
<b>Statutory Sector</b>			
Dr. Michael Murray	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		✓
Vacant	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, BHSCT	✓	
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 Ripley-McElvogue	East Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
<b>LPG Chairs</b>			
Ms. Bronagh O'Dwyer	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 McCooley	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	✓	
Dr. Sarah Meekin	Head of Psychology, BHSCT		✓
Mr. Mark Conachy	Assistant Head of Psychology, BHSCT		✓
Mr. Chris Marsh		✓	

## Summary of Actions:

1.	Early Years Workstream – Education Inequalities Sub-Group	Overarching / cross-over of themes – to be reviewed in the new year. Currently parked until end of consultation process. <b>Ongoing</b>	<b>All / Kerrylee Weatherall / Gerry Largey</b>
2.	Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be reviewed. CYPSP Sub-group being convened to review processes. <b>Ongoing</b></li> <li>Mr. Largey to provide Ms. Maxwell with details of NIHE rep.</li> </ul>	<b>Kerrylee Weatherall / CYPSP Gerry Largey</b>
3.	Reduced / Amended School Timetables / lack of classroom assistants - issues raised at LPGs and FSHs	The Chair has spoken with Elaine Craig, EANI. She was unable to attend today's meeting but is happy to come to April meeting to discuss. Chair to send invitation. <b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Kerrylee Weatherall</b>
4.	Future Meetings	Schedule of future meetings was previously shared. Venue required for September and November meetings. Nicola Verner to check availability in Spectrum Centre and Marie Cavanagh to liaise with Natasha Brennan re: LORAG availability. <b>Ongoing</b>	<b>All</b>
5.	Belfast Agenda / Seamless Pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design Project to be completed in 3 months (end of May). Series of sub-group meetings to be sent out – first at end of Feb 24.</li> <li>A copy of the 'First Five' Model to be shared with the group.</li> </ul> <b>Ongoing.</b>	<b>Gerry Largey</b>  <b>Chair</b>
6.	BAOG Children's Services Review Consultation Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MLAs to be invited to attend a future BAOG meeting.</li> <li>Avery Bowser to share info and flyer from the Reimagine Children's Collective</li> </ul>	<b>Chair / Gerry Largey Avery Bowser</b>
7.	Emotional Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus at next meeting or one after re: EHWP and discuss linkage issues.</li> <li>Presentations to be tabled - from Gerard and Val</li> </ul>	<b>Chair</b>  <b>Chair / Ms. Maxwell</b>
8.	West Belfast PCSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check if heatmaps available from this PCSP and share.</li> </ul>	<b>Ms. Verner</b>

## **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies are recorded in above table and the Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Mr. Chris Marsh is joining today's meeting. Mr. Marsh introduced himself to the group and provided an overview of the ongoing partnership work he is undertaking on behalf of the Belfast City Council and Community Planning and facilitation of the BAOG Design Group work on seamless pathways.

## **2. Minutes and Matters Arising from previous meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record. All suggestions re: future venues to be sent through to Ms. McDonald.

### Matters Arising:

1. Family Support Hub quarterly report – on today's agenda.
2. EY Workstream/ Educational Inequality Sub-group – Process under review as part of the Belfast Agenda Refresh. Awaiting new 4-year strategy. Mr. Redpath advised that it is currently out for consultation and it was noted that it is on track to refresh by April 2024. Deadline for consultation comments is 20.03.24. Ongoing.
3. Membership – Membership / Interview process is being reviewed by CYPSP along with all other issues raised at the recent workshop. A sub-group is being set up by CYPSP. Ms. Maxwell advised that the recent sub-group had to be cancelled but will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Ongoing process.
4. Reduced School Timetable / lack of classroom assistants – The Chair has spoken with Elaine Craig, EANI. She was unable to attend today's meeting but is happy to come to April meeting to discuss. Chair to send invitation.
5. Future Meetings – Schedule of future meetings was previously shared. Venue required for September and November meetings. Nicola Verner to check availability in Spectrum Centre and Marie Cavanagh to liaise with Natasha Brennan re: LORAG availability.
6. Jones Report / BAOG Consultation Response – Complete and on agenda.
7. Belfast Agenda – On Agenda.
8. Extra December meeting was arranged. Complete.

## **3. Children's Services Review Report Update**

The Chair provided a general update – approximately 135 responses were received to the Children's Services Review Consultation. SPPG has commissioned SCIE to undertake an analysis of the responses. Since our last meeting, the Chair explained that there had been agreement for the BAOG to write to MLAs across Belfast to provide an overview of the BAOG response. A copy of the final letter was shared at the meeting.

Mr. Largey provided further feedback and explained that no firm responses have been received as yet from the MLAs with regards the contents of the letter or in

relation to the offer to meet with them. The Chair thanked Mr. Largey and the members for pulling together this excellent correspondence which clearly sets out the views of the BAOG. She added that the BAOG is an excellent voice for the community and voluntary sector across Belfast and suggested that the MLAs are invited collectively to a future BAOG meeting rather than individual meetings and the members agreed with this proposal. Need to ensure all parties / sectors are represented.

The Chair informed that Ray Jones will be returning to Belfast on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to meet with partners from the community and voluntary sector, Union representatives, the new Children's Commissioner amongst others. Mr. Bowser also apprised of a meeting with the new Permanent Secretary recently also, with regards to funding, service issues, partnerships and a paper is currently being drafted. He agreed to share information and a flyer from the Reimagine Children's Collective with the group.

#### **4. Workshops on Seamless Pathway Update**

Mr. Largey fed back on the series of workshops which have been convened re: the Belfast Agenda and the BAOG development of a seamless pathway for children and young people in Belfast from 0-8 years old. There has been considerable evidence gathering and a number of excellent sessions held, including input from academics, psychology and other stakeholders. A catch-up session was recently held in the Spectrum Centre with paths allocated and more detailed info provided on the 2-3 approaches. A sub-group is planned by the start of March to hold discussions re: principles and values and feedback will be provided to the April BAOG meeting for agreement and sign-off. The workshops have been very well attended with excellent input and this work dovetails into the Council's Refresh work.

Mr. Marsh updated that this has been a valuable experience. We have worked through the discovery phase and had examples of practice, what's going on and what is possible. It is clear that we now need to get on with the design work, i.e. principles; basis of pathway; milestones; success – what looks like?; Moving parts – what looks like?. Need to test locally and connect with regional government with regards potential piloting. Mr. Marsh informed re: his ongoing work in respect of the wider community planning agenda – action plan to identify small number of priorities for leadership support, meetings planned to discuss same, need collective action. He advised that there 6 areas for discussion at meeting last Monday and that the work around seamless pathways has been agreed as one of the priorities and in practice, this will hopefully mean reduced barriers for the design group. Mr. Marsh invited any comments or questions.

The Chair thanked Mr. Marsh for all of his work so far. She acknowledged that the seamless pathway work is now on the agenda for leadership teams across Belfast and will be good coverage and momentum for us.

Mr. Redpath also welcomed this good news, and added that we need to ensure our community groups are fully briefed on this work and also need to ensure we are aware of all relevant Boards being set up and ensure appropriate representation at these.

Considerable discussion ensued with regards the various Boards, creation of a partnership delivery model, the development of leadership clusters, putting the focus in the right place, the various other identified priorities and potential overlap and cross-cutting themes, linkages between BCC and CYPSP, need for partnership working.

Ms. Maxwell updated re: the new CYPSP vice Chair, the plans to ensure better ties between CYPSP and Community Planning and planned piece of work from the sub-group. The new CYP 3 year Plan is also due to renewal on 01/04/2024 and all of this work will be timely to ensure linkage and connection.

With regards to the design project, it was agreed to move forward as quickly as possible with this work, to convene the sub-group and get a series of meetings in the calendars, with a clear focus on delivery. Proposed timeframe of 3 months until the end of May. First sub-group planned for end of February to look at vision, values, objectives and to set out a work plan.

Further conversation followed re: appropriate representation at leadership stage, and anyone significant missing from the design workshops. NIHE were mentioned as needing to be involved in this work and Mr. Largey agreed to provide Ms. Maxwell with the details of the current NIHE BAOG rep. Other social landlords were also mentioned. In relation to children at risk of CSE, PSNI would also need to be involved in this piece of work. G.P.'s were also suggested. Ms. Maxwell feedback that the other Outcomes Groups have good attendance from G.P. / NIHE / PSNI and MDT members and suggested that review of Belfast membership list may be needed. Other services such as Child Health and Ante-natal were mentioned.

The Chair remarked that there has been huge progress made since work commenced last year and the process is working really well, led by BAOG and she encourage members to keep up the momentum. There are strong working relationships and a joint vision. The BAOG was commended on this One Style Vision approach at the recent CYPSP workshop. The Chair thanked everyone involved for their commitment and thanked Mr. Marsh for all of his support to the project.

Mr. Marsh mentioned that the model from ROI - 'First Five' – has previously impressed the sub-group in relation to the well mapped out pathway. This model has been looked at in detail and is a combination of local delivery and also a series of policy interventions at a national level. Ms. Maxwell noted that CYPSP are looking at how to influence policy going forward and all of the relevant government departments will be represented on CYPSP. The Chair asked if a new structure is available and Ms. Maxwell responded that this is being looked at as part of the

ongoing review and will come out from the Steering Group. A copy of the 'First Five' Model will be shared electronically by Ms. Weatherall.

## **5. Locality Planning Groups Update**

Ms. Mitchell shared a written update with Ms. Largey prior to the meeting and Mr. Largey spoke to some of the key notes and issues.

- Rising complexities but availability of services declining.
- Family Support Services commissioned via BAOG – some anxiety re: potential procurement model.
- Seamless Pathway – will raise commissioning issues.
- Some discontent with Family Support Hub Q2 figures – Q3 now disseminated and reflects position.
- School attendance – difficult to obtain accurate information due to varying reporting methods within schools to EANI. Ms. Maxwell advised that she can share a related Research Paper from Northern Area with the group. Members would welcome work re: this serious issue. Other LPGs completing school networking piece of work.
- Funding – a lot of uncertainty re: funding and huge anxiety for providers. Clarity awaited from new assembly.
- East – access to counselling continues to be a big issue and sub-group convened.
- North – FS Project: funding ending in September 24 – will create a considerable gap in provision. Commissioned for 60 families per year and currently seeing 89 families per year.
- West – Training – lack of available services.
- Child Tax Credit / Universal Credit – significant impact of 5 week wait, surge in demand as a result.

In relation to previously discussed counselling services / schools, Ms. Maxwell informed re: the rolling out of the new Emotional and Wellbeing Teams in schools, linked to the Trust via CAMHS under the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Framework. A suggestion was made for a presentation to be made to BAOG by this service. The service undertakes specific group work with pupils and teachers, identifying needs and delivering sessions. The pilot of this programme is rolling out in Belfast and Ms. Maxwell agreed to share the names of the schools currently involved and to arrange for a future presentation to the BAOG by Teresa xxx and Gerard xxx.

Conversation then followed in terms of some families being on multiple waiting lists for multiple services. There was feedback from the Trust EHWP group where it was agreed that they would try and identify those waiting lists. The Chair informed that there are 2 strategies, one within EA and one within Health/CYPSP and discussion followed re: the different pieces of work being undertaken, e.g. iThrive, Val Rowan's work, need for significant C&V sector funding, proposal re: presentation from Val Rowan. The Chair agreed to liaise with Sarah Meekin and rep for EHWP.



Some discussion took place re: the specific issues re: cessation of funding / lack of community counselling services in East Belfast. Members also raised concern re: the lack of clarity re: the various EHWP Services and how to access these and suggestion made re: the need for a piece of work re: mapping mental health services. It was agreed that a more focussed discussion on this topic should be table for the April or June meeting with presentations from Gerard xx and Val Rowan.

With regards the issue raised by LPGs re: the Q2 report which shows a decline in numbers, Ms. Campbell responded that this is a factual report and is not a criticism on the Hub and going forward will be able to reflect any patterns and trend in respect of the data per Trust area. They will be able to use the data to inform identification of funding and gaps. With regards the increased recorded in Q3 figures, Ms. Ripley McElvogue enquired if this is related to finance, and Ms. Campbell responded that 43% was related to an element of finance and 45% was in relation to Christmas period. She highlighted that the figures are very significant and they show that Western Trust and Belfast Trust are at the top of the table in relation to poverty, with the top 18 out of 20 areas of poverty are within these two Trust areas. We can use this evidence to identify our priorities. Ms. Weatherall added that evidence is the key for writing the bids. Ms. Campbell ran through some of the figures for the group. It is important that this evidence is fed back to and from key partners in respect of Hub work. Ms. Campbell highlighted that there is more flexibility in the Belfast Hub Model which is more needs-led rather than services-led. Some of the ongoing issues facing the Family Support Hubs were raised and discussed.

Michael Murray had to leave at this point but wished to discuss issues around the Asylum Seeking Families and Dispersal Programme. Noted under AOB.

## **6. Heat Maps**

Mr. Largey spoke to this ongoing piece of work. They are running a pilot looking at data from all of the wards across Belfast and trying to map out community needs. Belfast is top of the region for LAC growth, which has doubled in past two months from 32 to 64. The team are looking at data around these children and engaging with community partners – they are commencing with 2 local areas: Upper Springfield and Whiterock. They will present to this group in the future.

Ms. Walsh noted that drugs continue to be a significant issue across Belfast, and that she felt it was important that NIHE attend this group as this cohort of people can be housed in the one place and there is considerable community concern when new housing developments are being developed.

The Chair noted that all LAC figures have increased across Northern Ireland. However Belfast Trust and Western Trust areas are the highest with 137 LAC per 10,000 in Belfast (27%) and 88 per 10,000 in Western. This figures are strongly linked to deprivation and the two ward areas above are being tested initially following advice from QUB to commence with 2 areas only. The Team will feedback on information and findings to this group as they have it. The aim is to understand the profile and also understand from the perspective of Social Services – we want to turn

the curve for LAC and ensure we are designing the right service for children, young people and families.

Ms. Maxwell provided an update in relation to the CYPSP Thematic Map of 110 population indicators which is an interactive dashboard and will be available in the next 4 weeks.

Discussion continued on the various issues and complexities involved with this LAC / LCAC population, e.g. drugs, homelessness, lack of training/education, need for rehabilitation support, disability etc. Mr. Largey advised that PARIS system is being used as the platform to pull this data and that a Data Analyst has been employed to carry out this piece of work. Ms. Verner sits on West Belfast PCSP which also covers the areas mentioned above in this pilot. The PCSP is attended by a range of statutory agencies, including EANI, PSNI, NIHE, YJA and they discuss all of the emerging complex problems across various hotspots in the community including all of the issues outlined above. She proposed linking in with the group re: ongoing work. Nicola Verner agreed to check if any heat maps available from the PCSP and share if appropriate. Mr. Largey advised that the EIS team are only at the beginning stages of this piece of work and explained the focus and goals for same. They will also be reviewing Gateway data alongside.

## **7. Family Support Hubs Update**

As above under LPG Update.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- Asylum Seeking Families / Dispersal programme out of hotels and into communities – Dr. Murray raised this point before he had to leave the meeting. Mears Housing are accessing a lot of community accommodation to facilitate the dispersal programme across NI. This is going to be a growing concern – families with trauma integrating into communities, these families being moved from place to place, dispersal is accelerating, a lot of the dispersal accommodation is in areas already in deprivation therefore chances to integrate and of employment is limited. Dr. Murray wished to make members of BAOG aware of all of these issues and asked that they are also shared with the Family Support Hubs who may be impacted by developments. There is also an issue for the Trust in respect of those families with children who do not receive leave to remain as there is no deportation policy and the Trust will be required to provide support.

Members also discussed their own experiences and provided examples of families being given short amount of time to leave Mears Housing and also being moved far away from original home which leads to children having to move schools / missing school. Members were also concerned re: the lack of information sharing and tracking of these families who can be known to multiple community, voluntary and statutory sector agencies and they highlighted concern re: 'losing' some of these high-risk families.



Ms. Maxwell advised that this matter is being raised on all of the Outcomes Groups' agendas, dispersal is speeding up all across NI and the biggest issue being raised regionally is the lack of information sharing. The Chair noted that services such as G.P.s, and Mental Health are losing knowledge of these people / families. She asked members to ensure they shared any concerns of a safeguarding nature. She also advised that SPPG, Louise McMahon, is in the process of setting up a regional group to enable information sharing.

Dr. Murray wished to note that there have been some good news stories as well. A number of schools have been producing a Good Practice Guidance and there is some direction within for us all re: good guidance on how to support these families. The guidance will be launched soon and once this happens, it will be shared with the group and added to the agenda for discussion.

- The Chair thanked everyone for the very informative discussions today and advised that there will be a focus on Design / Education at the next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

## 9. Dates of Future meetings

Date and time:	Venue:
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 2pm	Carew Family Centre, Tamar Street, East Belfast
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 2pm	Action for Children Northern Ireland, Loughshore House, 10 Heron Road, Belfast, BT3 9LE
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 2pm	TBC
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 2pm	TBC