

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING  
MINUTES OF MID ULSTER LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 10.00AM  
Cookstown Community Centre

**Attending:**

Aideen McAuley - Action for Children  
Annette McGahan - Mid Ulster District Council  
Charlotte Turner - Belfast Central Mission  
Claire Murphy – Sure Start Services Manager.  
Helena Quinn - NHSCT Health & Wellbeing  
Lisa Conway - Clinical Lead, NHSCT  
Loretta Daly - Tobin Youth Centre  
Melanie Singer - NHSCT Children's Disability  
Niamh Neeson - NHSCT Health & Wellbeing (minutes)  
Nicola Brennan – NHSCT Emotional wellbeing in schools practitioner  
Sinead McMahon - Cookstown Family Support and Intervention  
Leanne Wilson – NHSCT Rise NI  
Ursula Marshall (Chair)

**Apologies:**

Denise Doherty - CWSAN  
Grainne Scullion - NICMA  
Lynette Burke - NHSCT  
Mark McCullough - Rainey Endowed School  
Shaun Paskin - YGAM  
Rosemary Sleator – NHSCT  
Leona Christie - Early Years - Toy box Project  
Gillian Boyd – Youth matters Activity Based Services – Cedar Foundation

| ITEM | DISCUSSION   | ACTION<br>By Whom |
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| 1.   | <p><b>Introductions/Apologies</b></p> <p>Helena welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from members were noted.</p>   |                   |
| 2.   | <p><b>Speaker:-</b></p> <p><b>Fionnuala Walsh – BBC Children in Need Small Grant Programme</b></p> <p>Fionnuala presented a powerpoint. This provided information on the Big Sky BBC Children in Need Small Grant Programme. Grants of up to £5k are available for organisations supporting children and young people aged 8-13 in rural, remote rural</p> |                   |

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|    | <p>communities with a focus on improving their emotional wellbeing. Big Sky grants has a delivery period up to 24 months. If members would like to have follow up conversations to discuss ideas for Big Sky, this is welcomed.</p> <p>Helena to send a copy of the presentation to members along with contact details for Fionnuala.</p>   | Helena |
| 3. | <p><b>Minutes of last meeting - matters arising</b></p> <p>The previous minutes from Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September were agreed as accurate.</p> <p><b>Proposer:</b><br/>Annette McGahan</p> <p><b>Secunder:</b><br/>Loretta Daly</p> <p>Denise Doherty (CWSAN) updated members on a range of activities happening.<br/>Leona Christie (Early Years, Toybox) also shared with members a referral form and information leaflet on the service.</p> <p>Since the last meeting, Helena had shared information on 'Speakers for School' and the CAMHs podcasts for parents, carers and young people.</p> <p>Information about the Translation hub training and the Youth wellness hub were also shared.</p> |        |
| 4. | <p><b>CYPSP Grant funding process</b></p> <p>Helena informed members about the CYPSP Small Grants Activities fund. Projects are being sought for proposals/activities that aim to target the 3 areas of need highlighted in the recent priority planning session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health and emotional wellbeing</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Addressing the impact of poverty.</li> </ul> <p>Maximum funding per application is £400. Proposals are welcomed up to <b>5pm on 11<sup>th</sup> December with confirmation of funding by 20<sup>th</sup> December</b></p>  |        |
| 5. | <p><b>Family Support Hub Update</b></p> <p>The family support hub have noted an increase in referrals from September across the whole of the Northern Trust which shows</p>   |        |

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|    | <p>the need for support trust wide. We are now fully staffed with one Family Support Practitioner in all 5 Trust areas.</p> <p>The FSH is winding down for Christmas the week of the 18th December and will be closed from Friday 22nd December to Tuesday 2nd January .</p> <p>Our November Hub meeting was held face-to-face in Magherafelt and the next face-to-face meeting will be in February when we will also be starting our annual evaluations and partnership agreement renewals .</p> <p>We have been working hard to partner up with and establish Christmas support this year. The Hubs have partnered with the local communities to source Christmas support such as toy donations, pop up toy shops and food hampers for local families who are in need this Christmas. In the Mid-Ulster area, there is a need for specific support at Christmas. The council are not currently delivering Christmas support, though it is something that they may consider and discuss for next year.</p> <p>Cookstown/Magherafelt Hubs were able to secure a partnership with Blooming Kids NI, who have been running a toy appeal for the donation of NEW toys.</p> <p>The toys are being donated to various drop off points and will be distributed by the Hub to families in need in the Mid-Ulster area this Christmas.</p> <p>Although we have this type of support, please be advised that toys are limited and only for families who are in real need. The referrals for Christmas support follow the usual referral pathway and criteria – and cannot be accepted if open to CAMHS or Social Services. If you do know a family in circumstances of real need, the referral will need to be submitted as soon as possible to allow enough time for collection and delivery.</p> <p>In terms of need, there is an increase in the volume of referrals coming through for support around anxiety and we have noted an increase in CAMHS referrals, however, unfortunately there is very limited community and voluntary support services to address this need outside of AFC Choices.</p> <p>As always, any upcoming events that are running – community days / fun days / information events etc we would love to attend.</p> |  |
| 6. | <p><b>Member updates</b></p> <p><u>Denise Doherty - CWSAN</u><br/> Free Upcoming Workshops<br/> Sleep Hygiene 18/01/2024 Online<br/> Relax Reflect &amp; Recharge 18/01/2024 @ 10.00am in Granaghan Resource Centre<br/> To register email: <a href="mailto:register@cwsan.org">register@cwsan.org</a></p> <p><u>Gillian Boyd – Cedar, NHST</u></p>  |  |

Our Activity Based services which provide 12 week programmes for young people with disabilities are now open to referrals from Family Support Hubs.

Lisa Conway, Clinical Lead, Cookstown

Lisa advised of current work priorities. The service is currently short staffed. Lisa advised of the school nursing flu programmes and advised that a significant amount of the work is around safe guarding

BCM - Charlotte Turner

Charlotte advised of Mental Health awareness week 'Be kind to ourselves' for staff - work life balance.

Charlotte is currently Working in Magherafelt, Dungannon and Armagh area. They are currently Focusing on Food Hampers, Toy appeals and Supporting Local Families and Youth during the Christmas period.

In the local area, we are prioritising Christmas dinners and other initiatives to ensure that families and young people have everything they need during the holiday season. For young people who live independently and are struggling to make ends meet, we have received donations and funding to help with essential costs such as oil, electricity, and Tesco vouchers. Additionally, we provide emergency temporary accommodation, including hotel stays, for those who cannot access other housing options. We are also working with energy providers to explore opportunities like the Bryson Energy Living Initiative. Our goal is to help young people access the resources they need.

Mid Ulster PCSP - Annette McGahan

Annette updated on several PCSP activities and programmes including the Youth Engagement Programme (YEP) which is currently being delivered in Holy Trinity College, Cookstown - supported by PCSP and delivered by EA Youth Services.

PCSP is also supporting Internet Safety, Cyberbullying and Positive Relationships programmes which are being delivered in local schools. Also, an outdoor advertising campaign '**The Cost of Your Night Out**' will run over the Christmas period. This campaign highlights 'fixed penalty fines' for various offences such as Disorderly Behaviour, Anti-Social Behaviour and Urination in Public Places.

NHSCT - Melanie Singer

No new update, the team link in to see what is available and happening in the community that might be a benefit to the families we support.

Nicola Brennan – Emotional wellbeing in schools

Nicola advised of the new team of 5 - CAMHS Emotional Health & Wellbeing in schools:

They are Supporting 56 Secondary Schools with 3 Years funding. Nicola is working with two schools in the local area - support is provided to each school around emotional wellbeing. Workshops are run e.g. suicide prevention. The service connects schools with their local communities.

This new initiative aims to deliver bespoke programs to students and staff, providing early intervention strategies for emotional health and wellbeing. This is an excellent opportunity for schools to learn about effective ways to manage emotions and access community support. The program operates on a first-come, first-served basis, with schools required to apply by expression of interest at the start of each school year.

The BASE @ Tobin - Loretta Daly

Currently 191 families registered. 207 children & 223 siblings being supported by the base.

2 Sensory Singing Santa days organised for 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December - 51 families booked across 2 days.

Running a Successful Youth Club and Parent Support Initiatives.

Youth Club:

Our youth club continues to run fortnightly, welcoming 45-50 children. To further develop the social skills of our Year 8 Group, we organize monthly trips. This Saturday, we're going to Thrive with Evolve in Loughmacrory for older children with additional needs. Activities include a social space and a 10-seater cinema, with a Christmas trip also planned.

Parent Support:

Our candle making self-care sessions continue with Rebecca McCullough Eden, continuing with two more sessions. Unfortunately, the session planned for this week has been postponed to next week.

Fundraiser:

We are currently raising funds to match DAERA's grant of 100k for our sensory room. We expect to receive an official letter of offer soon, and hope to begin work in the new year. Our goal is to build the sensory room at a cost of 138k, using 13k from our reserves. So far, we have raised over 75k. Tobin is leading the fundraiser at Crumlin Road Gaol.

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|    | <p><u>Claire Murphy - Surestart</u></p> <p>The Service Development team relocated the sensory equipment to the Magherafelt Women's Centre Learning Lodge, where it is now available for families to use free of charge, 96 children already benefiting from it.</p> <p>It was reported that a lot of referrals are coming through – Although Surestart provide emotional support, they are not a mental health service. Encourage those who would like to make a referral to contact Claire to determine if it is an appropriate referral. Over 1200 families have already registered for this service.</p> <p><u>Sinead McMahon - Cookstown Family Support and Intervention Team</u></p> <p>Family Support and Intervention Team</p> <p>Belfast toy appeal open to us. Grants in September were up to £50 per child. Parents got this in the form of cash or vouchers.</p> <p>We can refer low-income families to the Buttle Grant, which provides up to £2400 for various expenses such as leisure centre memberships, clothes, toys, bedroom furniture and more. This grant must be spent within 8 weeks of receiving it.</p> <p>We also offer support for education and leisure activities such as rugby, football, and laptop fees. Our team is here to provide help and support to ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need.</p> <p><u>RISE - Education , NHSCT</u></p> <p>The referrals nursery pilot program for P1-P4 will continue to be supported until the end of March, while it is unlikely to be extended beyond March for KS2 P5-P7. Junior end of primary school will continue to run as normal.</p> |        |
| 7. | <p><b>CYPSP Meeting Feedback</b></p> <p>The regional CYPSP meeting that was to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> November did not go ahead as planned so no update available at present.</p> <p>Members were advised that Valerie Maxwell will be taking over Una Casey's CYPSP role whilst Una is on secondment.</p>   | Helena |
| 8. | <p><b>CYPSP Group standards</b></p>   |        |

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|    | <p>Members were informed that the next meeting will include a session on reviewing the 8 CYPSP Group Standards. The purpose of this is to reflect on progress against certain standards and identify areas that need to be worked on. This is important work in contributing to achieving the best outcomes for children, young people and families. More information to follow on this.</p>   |        |
| 8. | <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Key Nutritional and Lifestyle Messages for Primary School Aged Children</b></p> <p>Helena shared a powerpoint presentation with members which explained the piloted NHSCT resource: 'Key nutritional and lifestyle messages for primary school aged children.' This resource is being piloted 23/24 by the NHLP (Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership) partners. Sandra Anderson is happy for LPG members to access the first draft. If any organisation would like printed copies and wish to support the pilot, can you please forward Sandra an email using the contact details below and she can discuss this in more detail.</p> <p><a href="mailto:SandraL.Anderson@northerntrust.hscni.net">SandraL.Anderson@northerntrust.hscni.net</a></p> <p>Helena to share the powerpoint presentation with members</p> <p><b>NICHS Vaping Session and Vaping campaign</b></p> <p>Helena informed members about this session and is to share link and info with members.</p> <p><b>Community Planning Pooling Initiative Update.</b></p> <p>Members were updated that the Community Planning Strategic Board are planning a workshop to look at problem solving and resource pooling. It is hoped that a facilitated session will take place in February and the three proposed ideas will be discussed at this</p> <p><b>New Cubbie Unit in Cookstown Leisure Centre</b></p> <p>Lee-Ann Wilson informed members about the new Cubby station that is located in Cookstown Leisure Centre. This is an accessibly space/Sensory box for neurodivergent adults and children.</p> | Helena |
| 7. | Date & time of next meeting  | Helena |

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|  | Date to be arranged. Helena to circulate Doodle poll for end January. Venue will be in Magherafelt. Likely, Magherafelt Youth Centre. |  |
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