

1. Apologies

Name	Organisation	Present/Apology
Statutory Sector		
Maura Dargan	HSCT (Chair)	Present
Tracy Magill	HSCT (Family Support)	Present
Sharon Crawford	HSCT (Disability)	Apology
Ciara McKillop	HSCT (Hub Lead)	Present
Susan Gault	HSCT (Public Health Nursing)	Apology
Hugh Nelson	HSCT (Planning & Modernisation)	Apology
Deirdre Hasson	Education Authority	Present
Nicola McCall	(MEA) Community Planning/Council	Apology
Martina Totten	(MU) Community Planning/Council	Apology
Maurice Meehan	Public Health Agency	Apology
Kate McDermott	Health and Wellbeing Manager	Present
Grainne Keane	Youth Justice Agency	Apology
Jenny Adair	Childcare Partnership	Present
Voluntary Sector		
Pamela Sweeney	Action for Children	Present
Pamela Kirk	Barnardo's	Present
Muriel Bailey	Parenting NI	Present
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI	Apology
Community Sector		
Zoe-Kernohan-Neeley	Early Year Organisation	apology
Karen Graham	Carrickfergus YMCA	present
Locality Planning Group Chairs		
Jude Murphy		Apology
Ursula Marshall		Apology
Locality Planners		
Represented by Kate McDermott		
In Attendance		
Maxine Gibson	CYPSP (Professional Advisor)	presnet
Una Casey	CYPSP (Business Support Manager)	Present
Valerie Maxwell	CYPSP (Information Manager)	apology
Bronwyn Campbell	CYPSP (Regional Family Support Hub Co-Ordinator)	Present
Kori McLaughlin	CYPSP (Children's Services Planning Support Officer)	Apology
Julie Scobie	Minute Taker	Present

Context of today`s meeting

To agree NOG priority for NOG funding allocation. Current NOG allocation of £100k on recurrent basis of which £25k is set aside for operationalisation/ admin and support to LPG in Community Health and wellbeing Division within Trust, leaving £75k available to consider priorities. Historically NOG funded an early intervention/support scheme for young people with ADHD and more recently a providing same to CWD.

Decision to be made today as to NOG priorities moving forward aligned to the regional strategic priorities and local outcomes, i.e. School Disruption, Poverty, EHWP and CWD. Provision of support to CWD remains a critical priority for NOG; however, members had been asked to consider any other priority areas for potential funding and on that basis Kate McDermott provided a brief on an existing project around poverty for consideration.

Members were advised that the organisational delivery against the priority area was not for discussion rather which areas is to be selected for funding, which will allow for a full and transparent tendering process to be progressing

CWD

Tracy Magill (attending obo Sharon Crawford) provided context regarding the current project supporting CWD i.e. the tender was developed and following a procurement process the contract was awarded to Cedar which has been in place for the past 5 years (3 year contract + two 1 year extensions). It was noted that the cessation of this service will impact on families currently using the service and will bring staffing implications which is a feature for voluntary organisations who rely upon insecure funding streams. It was noted that there has been no investment into CWD generally and more specifically to outreach support. An alternative funding source has not been found. Members further noted that the recipients of this support also experience poverty, being doubly effected and the numbers for the service continues to grow rapidly with a 12-week waiting list. The lack of social opportunities for this cohort of children and families was noted as was the increasing number of judicial reviews ongoing due to lack of respite for these families.

Poverty

Kate McDermott provided a brief overview of the poverty project delivered as a collaborative approach in partnership with local councils, Save the children, community Advice centres and the Trust. This project provided a wraparound support to families over a 9-week period, providing support and practical help to vulnerable children and families in the Northern locality. The quantitative and qualitative feedback from the evaluation has demonstrated the success of the project and has strengthened partnership working in the Northern Trust area. The procurement for the project had been through a collaborative funding initiative and

was brought to the Northern Trust SMT for approval. Hugh Nelson keen to replicate the process as a potential way forward.

General Discussion

Significant discussion progressed with respect to the members views on the two areas and the lack of opportunity to identify additional support under the CWD agenda was evident. It was felt that there was greater opportunity for organisations to get behind the Poverty agenda and Maxine Gibson highlighted the significant approach to poverty from a regional perspective. The increasing need for support for CWD was noted alongside the lack of increase in statutory funding. Should the funding resource cease the current CDW project would end, creating significant risk to families utilising the programme and families on the waiting list. The significant increase in referrals with respect to development delay in post primary and early primary children and increase in special schools places in the Northern Trust area and the continued lack of social opportunities for these families was highlighted.

It was agreed that the collaborative approach taken forward under the poverty project was very much welcomed and it would be important not to lose the focus around partnership working moving forward. It was acknowledged that the continued rise in the cost of living continues to impact on families and hardship for many, however as previously stated poverty would be high on the regional agenda and there would be a greater likelihood for potential funding opportunities. It was agreed that as a group commitment would be given to influencing discussions to support the poverty agenda.

It was considered to split the funding available but members concluded that it the CWD project would not be viable with less funding.

Following a ballot of members in attendance, it was confirmed by a majority to maintain CDW as the priority for the NOG and that a re-tendering procurement process would be initiated. Work to be progress in Trust to develop the specification for tendering process, to include potential additional referral criteria and a DAC to be developed to maintain continuity in the interim.

Maura Dargan thanked everyone for their full engagement in the process today and acknowledged the difficult decision that had to be made but appreciated the robust respectful debate which led to the conclusions drawn today

Maura Dargan
Director WCF Division