

Southern Area Outcomes Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Thurs 11 April 2024 at 10:00 am
Via Zoom

Agency/Sector	Statutory	Present	Apology
HSCT (Chair)	Colm McCafferty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (Family Support; Hub Lead; Safeguarding)	Leanne Spratt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (Disability)	Elaine Mooney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (Public Health)	Gerard Rocks (Promoting Wellbeing)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (CAMHS)	Denise Carroll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (CYP – Health Improvement Specialist)	Jacqueline Masterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Education Authority	Kieran Shields Sarah Muldoon Donna Weir	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NI Housing Executive	Michelle Hazlett		
Community Planning/Council	Patricia Gibson (PCSP) Gary Scott (ABC/NMDDC) Alison Beattie (ABC) Allison Clenaghan (ABC) Celine O'Neill (MU) Alan Beggs (NMD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PSNI	Karen Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Public Health Agency	Collette Rogers Kelly McCartney Laura Taylor Danny Sinclair Dr Amanda McCullough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parenting Coordinator	Martina McCooey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Youth Justice Agency	Michael Heaney		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Childcare Partnership	Kevin Duggan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LCG Link	VACANT		
Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership	Gary Scott Safeguarding Co-ordinator, ABC & NMD Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other Partnerships	Martina McAloon, GP Federation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Voluntary Sector			
Early Years Organisation	Meabh Poacher		
MENCAP	Mikhaila Woods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barnardo's	Michelle Harris Pat McGeough	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

	Gillian McKeown (Chair of Disability Task Group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NIACRO	Ciara Corrigan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clanrye Group	Dara O'Hagan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bolster	Jacinta Linden (Also LPG chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (Inequalities & Inclusion)	Robbie McCague (Chair of Ethnic Minority Group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BME Sector			
Craigavon Intercultural Programme	Stephen Smith		
Locality Planning Group Chairs			
Craigavon LPG	Deborah Millar (Home-Start Craigavon)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Armagh LPG	Michael Mac Cionnaith (Youth Action)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Armagh LPG	Annie Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Newry LPG	Jacinta Linden (Bolster) Allison Slater	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Banbridge LPG	Lucinda Love-Teggarty		
Dungannon LPG	Loraine Griffin (COSTA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
In Attendance			
Locality Planning Officer	Darren Curtis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Planning & Information Support	Valerie Maxwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
CYPSP	Maxine Gibson Una Casey Louise Dickson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Administrator for Outcomes Group	Ruth Alexander	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Family Support Hub Co-ordinator	Bronwyn Campbell		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Introductions & Apologies

Colm McCafferty welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (06.02.24) and Matters Arising

Agreed as accurate reflection of last meeting.

3. Family Support Hubs (FSHs) Update

Colm emphasised that the FSHs are critical to the work of the Outcomes Group, in relation to delivery and coordination of early intervention and prevention services. Everyone is well aware of the benefits and rationale for FSHs, but also of the challenges faced in relation to increased activity and referrals, and increasingly has moved to more critical interventions rather than early intervention. There is commitment to the FSH model but we need to find a way to increase capacity.

There is very little funding that the community and voluntary sector can access. Jacinta acknowledged the good cross sector approach to referrals and resource sharing, and good partnership across the Southern Trust to get things done at Hub level, supported by Leanne and colleagues around the table.

An action from the last meeting, was that Denise and Bronwyn would meet with Hub coordinators. Denise advised they are conscious of a number of children coming through, who have a diagnosis of ASD /ADHD. Following the meeting it was agreed that Michelle Grimley and Judith Nellins will join the Hubs, covering the 3 areas, for a more joined up approach. Jacinta advised this has been well received, and the coordinators are looking forward to this integrated approach.

Denise and colleagues have put in a substantive CAWT application in relation to ASD/ADHD, and if this materialises it could provide another opportunity for early intervention for children with needs. It is hoped to receive clarity during the year and Denise will keep colleagues updated.

Annie advised Forum members that the National Academy for Social Prescribing have a webinar next week looking at examples where they have used social prescribing for children on a CAMHS waiting list. **ACTION:** Annie agreed to share the link with Ruth for circulation to the Group.

The quarterly FSH meeting took place earlier this week. Leanne advised they have lost some Hub members and she has asked for Hub Coordinators for a list of members, which she will review to identify gaps. There have also been recruitment challenges for some of the voluntary agencies trying to recruit staff into post. Referral numbers remain high. The main referrers this quarter are Education and Gateway, with some referrals from psychology.

As part of the Children's Disability Workstream 5, Elaine has been working on a Regional paper on early help and community based supports. She has agreed to share with members when ratified at the next Regional meeting.

As part of Early Intervention & Family Support Workstream 9, Bronwyn is working on a paper regarding the importance of investing in the community and voluntary sector. Jacinta has been asked to be the C&V representative on this Workstream and will keep Outcomes group informed.

At the Planning Day in June, Colm advised he wanted to take some time to focus on the Hubs – looking at the challenges, what works well, and plans for the way forward over the next few years.

4. Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) Update

Darren's LPG report has been circulated. In preparation for the Workshop, Darren and Joanne are pulling together a report on work done over the past 3 years, for the last action plan, and will circulate prior to the Workshop.

In relation to unmet and emerging needs, Darren referenced the struggle to attract/recruit staff and volunteers, which many organisations are facing.

Vaping – remains an issue, first raised by Locality Planning about 7 years ago. The PHA is now providing guidance on their website. Darren advised he and PHA colleagues were looking at what practical guidance they could provide for schools and youth clubs, in relation to practical sessions.

Online safety / sextortion interagency group – Darren advised they had a meeting with Art OHagan (Safeguarding Board). Orlaith is promoting the online Safety Hub, and Darren agreed to share the link with Outcomes Group members.

Launch of emotional wellbeing resource – Darren thanked all who attended and gave presentations at the Launch on 7 Feb 24. Discussions are being held about creating a short video to promote and let people know what supports are available for emotional health and wellbeing.

Darren advised he will be meeting up with the locality planning group Chairs over the next couple of months, to work on the Action Plan. Ongoing work across all LPGs is feeding into the new NI Children & Young People's Plan. Maxine has escalated to CYPSP some key issues raised by Darren and his peer Locality Planning Co-ordinators across NI. Valerie will liaise with Darren to plan for the Workshop.

5. Partner Updates – Issues/Challenges/Opportunities

No issues noted.

Colm reiterated the importance of partner agencies contributing to the Agenda, and contributing to the plan for shaping the SAOG over the next couple of years. Members were asked to give some thought and let Valerie/Colm know areas to factor in regarding the forthcoming planning day.

6. Refugee Resettlement and Contingency Accommodation Proposals for Asylum Seekers (for information)

Colm reported that from a 'looked after' child perspective, over the past year, the SHSCT receive approximately 20 – 25 young people, under the age of 18, who are unaccompanied minors, and are then afforded looked after child status. This in turn creates challenges in terms of placement capacity, housing, accommodation etc. This is an area of service that will continue to grow.

Robbie highlighted the challenges faced by a family in the Newry area, who had been granted refugee status and were subsequently left destitute due to their inability to secure social housing. This will likely encroach in different areas. Colm reiterated the importance of treating them as service users and if there are particular issues in relation to protection or family support etc, these should be escalated.

Kieran reported that the Education Team is a regional team, based in Belfast. They have taken on an additional 2 teachers on a temporary basis to cope with the increasing demand. He described the situation as highly disruptive for the families, causing significant trauma, and complicated by multiple moves and short notice periods. Kieran also referenced the difficulties in finding education for unaccompanied minors and the Team's efforts to support them.

Colm advised that Directors had been having conversations with DoH and SPPG colleagues. Brendan Whittle will be chairing a Regional Meeting, which will be helpful for escalating issues.

Colm and Robbie have been meeting with Trust colleagues, and it has been decided to set up an interagency local group to collectively deal with issues and share information. This meeting will be made up of people from the Trust, across Directorate levels, with key people in the locality from other statutory and voluntary sectors. Donna Murphy (AD) will be Chairing this group, which is hoped to be established before the summer.

7. Updates from Task Groups

Emotional Health & Wellbeing – Jacqueline Masterson

Jacqueline advised that the Emotional Health & Wellbeing Network met yesterday. Meetings have been well attended with lots of information sharing. She referenced the document on supports available for young people age 13+, living in the Southern Trust area. This has been made available to the FSHs and will also be put on the Youth Wellness Web and made available to other statutory and voluntary agencies.

Jacqueline referenced the difficulties raised by young people, aged 13+, absent from school and not engaging in social activities or training, whose emotional health is affected by being isolated. The Group are hoping to run a pilot in the Newry area for these young people, if they can identify additional funding. They are also in the process of completing focus groups with parents of young people who were in need of this help in the past and looking at gaps in service.

Valerie referenced the challenges with regards to funding. If sufficient money could be identified to run the Pilot, and then bring the learning back to SPPG, DOH, it is hoped to secure uplift in funding moving forward. Valerie has written to Education and other partners. It was suggested exploring opportunities with local housing associations and sustaining tenancy funded programmes.

ACTION: Jacqueline will liaise with Jacinta after today's meeting to look at progressing the Pilot.

Ethnic Minority – Robbie McCague

Robbie reported that the cultural competency eLearning and booklet resource, is progressing well and on target. The eLearning will only be available to the wider HSC family, but the booklet will be available to others.

The Welcome Hub continues to operate in Newry on Monday, people can drop in and talk to support staff regarding a range of issues. This approach has been very successful. The plan is to continue to run it for another 2 months, and then review and maybe drop back to fortnightly.

The Community Inclusion post which had been out for recruitment, has a final offer and it is hoped to have someone in post in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Robbie reported they were successful in getting some funding from Radius Housing Association, to run a further 12 week ESOL language support programme in St Patricks School, Dungannon. Feedback is that this is very successful, with 3 cohorts of students attending.

Robbie advised that a request was received yesterday from DOH. Some money is available and they are looking for people to participate in a PPI project, targeting women, children and young people with mental health needs. If anyone is interested in participating or contributing contact Robbie. It is hoped to get a meeting next week, and Robbie agreed to share details/meeting invite when available.

Our Journey Through Disability – Gillian McKeown

Valerie briefly reported a number of areas the Group are hoping to take forward:-

Self-care for parents and siblings – it is hoped to reconvene the Parents Focus Group and scope what is currently available across the area, look at how this information could be shared with parents and

could then be shared on the Family Support NI Website. They are hoping to design a wallet card to promote “Your Journey Guide”, for sharing widely with frontline staff.

Communications campaign for the “Our Journey Guide” produced by the parents – Valerie has met with Tracey (Commissioning Lead in SPPG), who is very keen to help promote this Guide. It is also hoped to promote it through the Trust and other partner communications Teams.

“Treat Me Well” Training Programme – an area continually highlighted by parents and children, regarding discussions with clinical and professional staff is a lack of sensitivity and compassion. Valerie, Elaine, Michaela and Gillian are exploring running a pilot to look at this piece of work, how to deliver and ensure service user involvement in providing this training. It is hoped to include this work in the new plan going forward.

Another project the Group are hoping to take forward, is to produce an older version of the “All About Me” booklet which was designed for younger children to provide key information all about them for other family members and professionals. It has come to the Group’s attention, that young people with disability, aged 18 – 25 years, would benefit from an older version of this booklet.

Significant work has been taken forward in relation to the consultation process through CYPSP. One of these areas has been in relation to children and young people with disabilities. Louise has been out with young people and will be linking in with various organisations, to get feedback from young people. Valerie agreed to share this with the Group and keen to take forward at the planning workshop in June.

Poverty & Family Support – Valerie Maxwell

Valerie plans to meet with Council representatives going forward, to look at aligning work undertaken with children and young people, to their community plan, and work collectively together. The Councils have been leading on poverty forums and are the main conduit for any funding coming from the Department of Communities. Valerie has had significant discussions with Alison Beattie from ABC Council and will link in with Alan Beggs regarding N&M area. Keen for the Council to take the lead as CYPSP partners, in relation to poverty affecting children and young people. Valerie advised that following discussion/meetings with Council colleagues, she will feedback to the Group at the Workshop and factor into the Action Plan going forward.

The Cost of Living Resource has been updated last week and Valerie will send to Ruth for circulation to members.

Jacinta referenced the good work happening in the Newry & Mourne Hub, supporting a number of families, providing oil, gas, food, electric etc.

Colette advised that the full Partnership Board for ABC Community Planning is meeting next week. She currently Chairs this Board and they are doing a refresh of the Community Plan at present, looking at the different work streams and poverty is front and centre. She will add this to the Agenda, and welcomes better connections and links.

8. SAOG Planning Workshop for new 3 Year Plan

The current date for the Workshop needs rescheduled and it is planned to fit in before the end of June 2024. Members were asked to consider their key priorities going forward, looking at how this partnership can assist and identify gaps. Valerie reminded members that she and Darren were not CYPSP, it was a partnership, of which members were partners.

Valerie advised that following the Pause & Reset Workshop, CYPSP identified some very high level priorities/themes for the new NI Children & Young People's Plan:-

- Early Intervention, early help and support, inclusive of minorities, ethnic families, CWD etc;
- Early Intervention for mental health and emotional wellbeing, tying into DoH and Mental Health Strategy;
- One of the key areas identified by FSHs is children and young people refusing to go to school due to anxiety, bullying issues etc. Non school attendance has tripled since before Covid.

Other areas referenced include:-

- Poverty/Cost of living – there is a significant increase in referrals;
- Vaping – Colette advised that the Regional Task & Finish Group, involving PHA and a number of Community & Voluntary sector and strategic partnerships, have developed a landing page on the PHA website, which includes a number of new resources on Vaping. Colette agreed to circulate this for sharing and will also send the link to Valerie for the Youth Wellness Web.

Colm and Valerie will meet and draft a proforma, which will then be shared with members before the Workshop, for their input.

9. Prof Ray Jones Review

No further update. The review by DOH colleagues of the consultation feedback is complete and awaiting publication. It is being considered in terms of advice to be sent to the Minister.

10. Update on ICS (Integrated Area Planning Board)

It was agreed to keep this item on the Agenda. Some of the priorities identified by the Southern Trust Pilot include frailty and mental health services. At present, it doesn't have any significant bearing on the work being done by SAOG. Colm, Valerie and Colette were very involved in discussions and are keen to ensure it doesn't duplicate or replace work being done here. Colm will keep on the agenda with the CE, who is Chair of the Southern Group.

Valerie and Colm will have a conversation and explore if there is any benefit to having a member of the Board sitting on the Southern Outcome Group.

11. AOB

Martina advised members that planning is underway at present for all their evidence based programs for the Autumn. There are 3 programs commencing in the next few weeks. Martina is working with organisations to plan for programs starting in September, and she will be sending out information early in the summer about program activity.

Colm thanked all for their contributions to today's meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting:

SAOG Planning Workshop has been scheduled for Tues 25th June 24 at 2:00 pm – [Seagoe Parish Centre]