

Southern Area Outcomes Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Wed 27 September 2023 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"/>	
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)	<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"/>	
Parenting Coordinator	Martina McCooey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Youth Justice Agency	Michael Heaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Childcare Partnership	Kevin Duggan		
LCG Link	VACANT		
Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership	Gary Scott Safeguarding Co-ordinator, ABC & NMD Council		
Other Partnerships	Martina McAloon, GP Federation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Voluntary Sector			
Early Years Organisation	Anne Rice/Stephanie Elliot		
MENCAP	Mikhaila Woods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Barnardo's	Monica McCann 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		
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)		
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"/>	
Referral Coordinator for EHWP Framework	Ann O'Hare		
Locality Programme Support	Joanne Patterson		

1. Introductions & Apologies

Colm McCafferty welcomed everyone to the Forum and apologies were noted.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (26.07.23)

Agreed as accurate reflection of last meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Action points from Previous Meeting:-

Peace Plus Application – Alison is liaising with Valerie and Darren to progress this.

Challenges around GP Registration – Robbie provided information, as requested. Issues around GP Registration need to be brought to the Region for agreement. An SPPG Chair has been identified for the Regional Steering Group, and Colm has been nominated to attend on behalf of the Executive Directors. This meeting hasn't taken place yet.

ACTION: Colm will follow up with SPPG.

Review of Children's Services CWD Workstream – This is chaired by Lyn Preece, SE Trust. Elaine advised there are 8 subgroups, one of which she chairs. Elaine asked members to share any information/ ideas re early intervention/help for families, and advise if they wish to join the subgroup.

ACTION: Elaine to share the Workstream TOR with group members.

Colm referenced there are a total of 10 Workstreams, across the Region, which will inform the overall strategic direction of children's services.

ACTION: Colm and Valerie will share a presentation at the next SAOG meeting, to inform colleagues about the Children's Services Reform Workstreams.

4. Family Support Hubs (FSHs) Update

Pressures continue on the FSHs and Bronwyn gave a brief overview of ongoing work. A new standardised Regional Referral Form is being drafted for use across all Hubs/Trusts and Organisations, which will be shared when signed off. Colm emphasised the importance of keeping FSHs to the fore at the Children's Services Reform agenda, which could help to alleviate pressures in other parts of the system.

Leanne shared a number of positives relating to work across the Trust. Leanne plans to do a piece of work with some voluntary agencies who've asked to join FSHs. Pilot ongoing – staff are aware of service, referrals can come directly via Hub, Gateway or Youth Justice. EA will be coming back on to the Hubs. Staffing levels in Gateway have improved, which has allowed cases to be allocated in a timely manner. Currently there are very few unallocated cases.

In relation to Public Protection, there's been a welcomed review of MARAC. Safe4U Team are fully staffed and working hard. Each child has been allocated. With regard to recovery work for victims, currently work is ongoing and it is hoped to be able to provide a service for these children in early 2024.

ACTION: Jacqueline and Valerie will link in with Leanne in relation to the lack of services for 13+ year olds. Leanne agreed to share an email which she and Michaela had circulated to staff. This is for children on the edge of care.

Michael Heaney advised Youth Justice is happy to work with children currently at home, who are in conflict with parents, before it becomes necessary to involve the police. Currently the Pilot is being tested across 2 Hubs. Colm requested an evaluation of this Pilot, and look at how it can be upscaled and resourced. Valerie and Leanne will arrange a focused Seminar to keep partners fully informed. If this Pilot is a success, Youth Justice will look at rolling out Regionally. Colm asked for this to be kept on the Agenda.

ACTION – Leanne will arrange a Stakeholders information Seminar to discuss the finer details. Michael will keep updating at Regional level. Seek to get traction across local agencies and then get Regional buy in.

5. Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) Update

Report Card has been shared with the Group and Darren gave a brief update, highlighting some of the challenges. Darren asked for partners to send through any information they have on bereavement supports. The Youth Wellness Web has contacts for HOPE, CRUISE and Winstons Wish– specific for CYP and available in NI.

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

This is not country specific, ie not limited to Ukrainian Refugees. Refugee resettlement will remain a pressure for the foreseeable future. GP registration, referenced earlier in the meeting, needs to be managed on a cross Directorate/cross Region basis. A GP Pilot is underway with the N&M MDT, to improve access to GPs. Robbie is liaising with DOH. Currently there's no standardised approach for asylum seekers.

Robbie has been engaging with Mears, commissioned by the Home Office, to identify accommodation. There are advanced plans to progress resettlement to the Southern area. Martina McAloon referenced the interpreter/translation device, currently being trialled, and this is going well.

7. Updates from Task Groups

Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Valerie provided an update in relation to Youth Wellness. The Communication Network met on 12 Sept, looking at services for 13+ age group, who've previously disengaged. This work is part of a Pilot being run in the N&M area alongside Newry MDT. The subgroup held in Newry recently, was well

supported. A scoping exercise of services available was carried out in the Southern area to be shared across SHSCT area, Family support hubs and Outcomes Group partners. This links to the work which Michael and Leanne are doing in respect of learning and outreach work

Ethnic Minority

Valerie provided an update on work ongoing by Robbie. The evaluation on the ESOL school pilot has been very successful. It is hoped to replicate similar programmes in other areas. Valerie briefly referenced the Welcome Centres running in the N&M area and transport costs were identified as a barrier.

Our Journey Through Disability

Gillian reported they are due to meet again on 10 October to review the recommendations and look at next steps. The Guide has been downloaded 7,000+ times. They continue to look at opportunities to promote and reach out to as many parents as possible. Looking at “All about me” for 18+ age group, going to University. Gillian will provide an update at the next meeting.

Poverty & Family Support

Alison reported ABC Council are preparing for the winter period. Food and Fuel support will be available again this year, on a referral basis ie not advertised, as don't want to overwhelm the service. They are working closely with the Foodbanks, SVP etc. Advice Services have reopened in Banbridge area, which provides services for the Armagh area also. A Debt Management Programme with Advice NI, is available for families experiencing difficulties managing their finances.

Colm acknowledged the great work going on, especially around the Poverty Task Group, and reiterated the importance of communicating information across agencies, to signpost families and ensure they get the support they need.

He referenced that use of Food banks is unfortunately, a reflection of the challenges faced by some families.

8. Evidence Based Parenting Programme

Martina referenced a number of Parenting Programmes available. In spite of the limitations with funding, they currently have 25+ Programmes taking place. Martina is happy to circulate the flyer with programmes available and online courses. In the past funding was secured to run Sleep Support workshops. Partners were asked to let Martina know if they were interested, as they are currently exploring running a further workshop.

Colm advised members if they wanted any information circulated to the SAO Group, to send to Ruth for circulation via his office.

9. Update on AIPB/ICS

Valerie and Colm recently attended the AIPB Meeting and shared a video presentation on the work of CYPSP/SAOG. The focus was on early intervention and prevention, and challenges in relation to lack of funding. ICS recognised that action plans and links to networks were already in place. It was recommended that SAOG Chairs should sit on the AIPBs. Consideration to be given to someone from IPS sitting on SAOG. The CYPSP Workshop is scheduled for next week. Co-chairs for AIPB are Dr Frances OHagan and Dr Maria O’Kane (CE). It is important to ensure that early intervention, prevention and community based services are kept on the Agenda

ACTION: Colm will share the Presentation with SAOG members. He acknowledged and thanked Valerie and Colette Rogers for their input.

10. Children’s Social Work Review Consultation

Prof Jones Report on the Children’s Social Work Service Report launched on 20 June 23. The public Consultation period commenced on 8 September 23 and is due to close on 1 December 23. Colm advised all partners to read the report and take the opportunity to respond, ie it’s not just for statutory services.

11. AOB

Jacinta referenced in relation to the FSHs, parents mental health and social anxiety was an issue. They have noticed an increase in referrals requesting support for single parents, and bereavement counselling. Another issue referenced was an increase in the number of drug overdoses, and PSNI have agreed to advise staff how to handle/support. Jacinta will share details of training with partners, if they would like to avail of it. Annie Clarke advised the Southern Area Drugs & Alcohol Team have some training available. Promoting Wellbeing Division are running Workshops in October 23 in Lurgan, Dungannon and Newry.

ACTION: Annie will forward Flyer to Ruth for circulating via Colm’s office.

Michael McKenna advised he has been working with VOYPIC and SBNI on a programme for young men. This is due to launch next week, and Michael agreed to share with partners when officially launched. Michael referenced the increase in referrals for mentoring services for young men and the challenges due to lack of funding. Colm suggested Michael make contact with Gerard Rocks, PHWB, to see if he’s aware of any funding due to become available.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 29 Nov 2023 at 10.00 am – 12:30 pm.

Venue: Seagoe Parish Centre, Portadown