

## Western Area Outcomes Group

### Action Planning Workshop

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Strabane Enterprise Agency

Present	Apologies
Kevin Duffy, WHSCT Valerie Maxwell, Children's Services Planning Bronwyn Campbell, Regional FSH Lead Donna Downey, WHSCT Priscilla Magee, Fermanagh & Omagh LPGs Paul Sweeney, Derry, Strabane, Limavady LPGs Rioghnach Murphy, Barnardo's Mairead McMullan, Western CCP Paul Kellagher, Action for Children Claire Lynch, Derry/Strabane Council Fiona Teague, PHA Helen Sheils, Fermanagh & Omagh Council Laura Feeney, Save the Children Alison Wallace, Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership Alison Gallagher, Child Development Interventions Coordinator	Tom Cassidy, WHSCT Chair Angela Wade, WHSCT Lisa McGrath, Mencap Dr Josephine Deehan, Deirdre Hasson, EA Mark Rogers, Extern Julie Wilson, WHSCT Clare McGillion, Parenting NI Murial Bailey, Parenting NI Brenda McQueen, Dry Arch

### Welcome

Kevin Duffy welcomed all to the workshop and highlighted this is an initial workshop based on action planning towards the new Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan for 2024-2027 and informed members that CYPSP will be meeting during March to agree priority areas that will steer ongoing work of each Outcomes Group plan moving forward.

### Review and sign off current WAOG Plan

Valerie shared the current Western Area Outcomes Group Plan 21-24 with members and highlighted a few small areas outstanding that will be carried over to the new plan for 2024-27. Kevin commended the outcomes group on the great work that has been carried out and delivered over the last 3 year

planning period. Members agreed to sign off on the current plan as at end of March 2024.

## **Context**

Valerie provided a quick overview of the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan highlighting the legislative context as a statutory requirement of The Children Order 1995 and how it links to the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy. She also highlighted the importance of members recognising that CYPSP is not an entity or agency but a partnership and each person sitting on the outcomes group are a member agency of that partnership and therefore are CYPSP. Valerie also highlighted what is expected from members in respect of collaborative leadership. (see attached presentation).

## **Review Data and Emerging Issues**

### How are Children and Young People doing in WAOG?

Valerie presented an overview of some of the more worrying indicators not doing so well relating to children and young people across the WAOG area and asked members to keep these issues in mind moving forward in respect of identifying gaps and needs. (see attached presentation).

### Family Support Hubs

Bronwyn Campbell provided an overview from monitoring as at December 23 for Western Area Family Support Hubs providing trended information from April 2022 on referrals, reasons and source of referrals and Children with Disability. (see attached presentation).

### Fermanagh and Omagh LPGs

Priscilla Magee shared progress in respect of action planning with Fermanagh and Omagh LPGs and informed members of a process they have followed to identify key priority areas for the LPG Action Plan – three areas were identified: Neurodivergence; Mental Health/Addiction; Poverty. (see attached Presentation).

### Derry, Strabane & Limavady LPGs

Paul Sweeney provided an overview of work ongoing across the Derry, Strabane and Limavady LPGs highlighting the high-level outcomes as set out in the Northern Ireland Children's Strategy and the 7 child's rights principles adopted for identifying and delivering across the LPGs. Key priority areas identified: cost of living/poverty; waiting lists and transitions; mental health

and emotional wellbeing; community erosion; Defection/knowledge drain/security of tenure within C&V sector. (See attached presentation).

### Voice of Children and Young People

Valerie informed the group that a number of consultations have been carried out with children and young people across Northern Ireland in respect of identifying key areas of need important to young people that included discussions and suggestions from young people what would make things better. Valerie shared discussion points and suggestions in relation to poverty; school disruption; emotional mental health and wellbeing; and disability. (see attached presentation).

### UNICEF update

Claire Lynch shared an update on the ongoing work happening in Derry around the Child Friendly Cities and Communities work and the importance that children and young people are central in having a say about decisions that affect them. Claire also shared the 7 key principles that members should be adopting within a child's rights approach to planning. Claire shared a number of example actions and recommendations from the ongoing work for members to consider. She also shared some key areas identified by children and young people highlighted under Articles of UNCRC. Members noted the same key areas being highlighted that had been highlighted through the work Valerie had presented from voice of young people. (see attached presentation).

### **Overarching CYPSP Priorities 2024-27**

Valerie shared priorities identified to date in respect of the new plan moving forward based on continuous consultations being carried out with children and young people, parents, LPGs, outcomes groups and family support hubs. They are: Early Intervention/Early help family support for all; Early Intervention mental health and emotional wellbeing; school disruption; poverty/cost of living; and all to be inclusive of minority ethnic families, children with disability/neurodiversity; young carers; parents/carers; LGBTQIA+

### **Focus Groups/ Action Planning**

The group split into 2 to look at a number of key questions based on the information shared above and the priority areas identified. Members were asked when answering the questions that they should think about their own organisational priorities for 2024-27 and how the WAOG as a CYPSP multi-agency partnership could add value and support.

Under each priority the groups were asked; What are the main gaps in provision? What would you propose to do to address this priority? Who can Help? How can we best deliver actions?

## Feedback from Focus Groups

### Priority: Early Intervention/Early Help Family Support for All

<p><b>What are the main gaps in provision?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible funding for localised projects to deal with need – different in each area</li> <li>• Small scale accessible local services</li> <li>• Cuts to services/ funding</li> <li>• Impact on family support hubs</li> <li>• Practical supports</li> <li>• Demand exceeds supply</li> </ul>
<p><b>What would you propose to do to address this priority?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pooled budgets – consensus in grant making within existing localised structures</li> <li>• Network Clinics</li> <li>• Autism Café model</li> <li>• Protect time</li> <li>• Review spend of WAOG to find more practical support services instead of small grants.</li> <li>• Looking at best practice, what's working and how this could be spread</li> <li>• Community plans for children joined up through WAOG NI CYP plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who can Help?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective approach/ partnership working</li> <li>• Data to drive funding to improve service provision</li> <li>• Family support hubs shaping future direction of services based on need identified.</li> <li>• Management</li> <li>• Investment from other statutory agencies not just Health</li> </ul>

**How can we best deliver actions? ( ie Task Groups/ Lead Agency / Champions?)**

- Where existing partnership exists no need to create a new group within WAOG structure – join resources/time/effort.
- Looking at different groups
- Link with groups already existing eg Best start in life
- WAOG need to explore
- Creative approaches

**Priority: Early Intervention Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing**

**What are the main gaps in provision?**

- Links between health and social care and education
- Spread of support across rural areas
- Demand -v- capacity
- Physical Health – obesity – healthy eating - anxiety all connected
- Sure start model not universal
- Preventative approaches
- Ante-natal - teens

**What would you propose to do to address this priority?**

- Work back from CAMHS – what works earlier
- Stronger links with education and PHA
- Promote what we have/ what is there
- Practical help and support
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing framework
- Primary school children included in funding for youth clubs
- More youth provision

**Who can Help?**

- Bring data/need to commissioning workstreams
- Drive service provision
- PHA identify what is currently commissioned
- Promote PHA small grants programme

**How can we best deliver actions? ( ie Task Groups/ Lead Agency / Champions?)**

- Are there other groups in place – linkages with WAOG plan
- Linkages to actions 1&2 Mental health Strategy being led by PHA – WAOG link to their action plan

**Priority: School Disruption**

**What are the main gaps in provision?**

- Better connection with EA and EWOs in WAOG to ensure joined up thinking
- Outreach services
- Parental support

**What would you propose to do to address this priority?**

- What is education currently doing to address issues
- Community based services
- What training, supports are schools being offered
- Outreach and one to one support for pupils to build confidence
- Parenting support

**Who can Help?**

- EA / Youth Service
- Peer support
- Sharing best practice examples for schools, programmes, projects to share learning and expand.

**How can we best deliver actions? ( ie Task Groups/ Lead Agency / Champions?)**

- Collective responsibility- EA, Health, PHA, statutory bodies
- Tap into existing work and make connections to WAOG
- Lead agency – Education?

**Priority: Poverty/Cost of Living**

**What are the main gaps in provision?**

- Core funding to C&V sector
- Working poor
- Cost of childcare
- C&V losing experienced staff

**What would you propose to do to address this priority?**

- Can we build on small scale solutions to address some of the issues/need
- Explore best practice and share learning via WAOG up to CYPSP to help influence Policy
- Anti-poverty strategy
- Connect with Council forums to offer support from WAOG members and provide unmet need information

### **Who can Help?**

- Use data to drive service provision
- Councils Poverty forums/networks

### **How can we best deliver actions? ( ie Task Groups/ Lead Agency / Champions?)**

- Link Councils Poverty Action plans with WAOG
- Councils – Lead Agency for Poverty

### **Next Steps**

Valerie to collate information from Workshop to be shared with Outcomes Group members. Information will also be shared from CYPSP on agreed priority areas and any other steers in respect of new plan.

Outcomes group to identify 1 – 2 outcomes per priority area to take forward in new WAOG delivery plan based on outcome of workshop and CYPSP.

Develop new WAOG Action Plan 2024-27 and delivery model.

New plan and delivery to be agreed and signed up to by Western Area Outcomes Group members.

A further short workshop may be required to progress steps above.