



**Notes of Western Area Outcomes Group**  
**held on 30 August 2023**  
**at 10 am via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:**

Mr Tom Cassidy, Director of Women & Children's Services, Western Trust [Chair]  
 Mr Kevin Duffy, Assistant Director [Children's Health & Disability], Western Trust  
 Mrs Donna Downey, Service Manager [Early Intervention]  
 Ms Claire Lynch, Children & Young People's Co-ordinator, Derry City & Strabane District Council  
 Mrs Brenda MacQueen, Dry Arch Children's Centres  
 Mr Paul Ryan, Area Manager - Foyle Office, Youth Justice Agency  
 Ms Aileen McGuinness, Chair of Derry Locality Planning Group  
 Ms Una Casey, Regional Co-ordinator for Locality Planning  
 Ms Muriel Bailey, Director of Family Support Services, Parenting NI  
 Mr Paul Sweeney, Locality Planning Co-ordinator  
 Mrs Monica MacIntyre, Department for Communities  
 Ms Bronwyn Campbell, Regional Family Support Hub Co-ordinator  
 Ms Julie Wilson, Acting Head of Service [Gateway, Public Protection and Early Intervention], Western Trust  
 Ms Laura Feeney, Save the Children  
 Ms Rachel Armstrong [on behalf of Shane Breen, Assistant Director]  
 Mr Pat Armstrong, Head of Service [Governance Lead for Family & Child Care], Western Trust  
 Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Ms Lisa Storey, Childhood Development Interventions Co-ordinator, Western Trust          Ms Sarah-Jane Goldring, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council          Mr Shane Breen, Assistant Director [Integrated Care Systems], Western Trust          Mr Mark Rogers, Programme Manager Children &amp; Family Services, Extern          Ms Rioghnach Murphy, Barnardos          Ms Fiona Teague, Head of Health Improvement, PHA          Mr Paul Kellagher, Children's Services Manager, Action for Children          Mrs Angela Wade, Directorate Business Manager, Western Trust          Ms Edel Fox, Omagh Women's Aid          Mrs Priscilla Magee, Locality Planning Co-ordinator, Western Trust</p>
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2	<p><b>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 28 June 2023</b></p> <p>Notes of the previous meeting were approved.</p>
3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Update on Membership</b></p> <p>Mr Cassidy highlighted the issue of inconsistent attendance from a small number of members, particularly from statutory agencies, who were mandated to attend. Ms Casey said this issue had already been raised at the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and was to be discussed again at a workshop in October 2023.</p> <p>Mr Cassidy apprised members of recent changes to membership:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr Shane Breen, Assistant Director [Integrated Care Systems] who had replaced Mrs Elizabeth Campbell. Mr Breen was unable to attend today, so Ms Rachel Armstrong was attending on his behalf.</li> <li>▪ Ms Sarah Jayne Goldring would attend from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council from the next meeting.</li> <li>▪ Ms Julie Wilson who was covering Mairead McGilloway's Head of Service post in the Trust, as she was on secondment.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Chairman's Remarks</b></p> <p>Mr Cassidy thanked Mr Armstrong for Chairing the previous meeting on 28 June 2023. He noted that the financial situation remained the same and the knock on impact of this for many families who were already under stress.</p>
5	<p><b>Task and Finish Groups &amp; Locality Planning Groups - Updates</b></p> <p><u>Task and Finish Groups</u></p> <p>Ms Casey reported that the Task and Finish Groups hadn't met over the summer period. She said she had been chairing these groups, but it was imperative that Chairs were now appointed as she was moving to a new post for six months. She referred to the updated Action Plan 2021-24 which was sent out this morning and said good progress had been made with most actions now coded green. She said the Poverty T&amp;FG hadn't identified any actions yet, but members were finding the meeting useful.</p> <p>Mr Cassidy asked Task and Finish Group members to consider taking on the role of Chair and to let Ms Casey know. Ms Lynch proposed that the role of Chair be rotated every two months. She agreed to be a Chair, if the role was rotated.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Members to consider Chairing the Task and Finish Groups.</li> </ul> <p>Mr Cassidy, Mr Duffy and Ms Downey thanked Ms Casey for her contribution to the Outcomes Group and acknowledged her work outside of the meetings. Members wished her well in her new post.</p>

	<p><b><u>Locality Planning Groups - Updates</u></b></p> <p>Mr Sweeney reported that gaps in the system remained the same. He said the community and voluntary sector were working really hard to meet the needs of refugees/asylum seekers/unaccompanied minors. Mr Sweeney said further Autism Social Cafes were planned. He said the FACT programme had a successful event highlighting the evaluation of a community based intervention supporting young people in schools.</p> <p><b><u>Action</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mr Duffy and Ms McGuinness agreed to meet regarding the good model of practice of the FACT programme, with the aim of trying to have a regional approach.</li> </ul> <p>Mrs Magee's report was available in the meeting pack as she was an apology for today's meeting.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Work of MAPS [Money &amp; Pensions Service]</b></p> <p>Mr Cassidy welcomed Ms Margaret McCloskey, Partnership Manager, Money and Pensions Service, to the meeting.</p> <p>Ms McCloskey said her role was to work with both employers and the community and voluntary sector, to bring about changes for young people. She said she worked well with staff in the WHSCT and wished to replicate this with stakeholders. She said MoneyHelper was the easiest way for everyone to get clear, free, impartial money and pension guidance.</p> <p>Ms McCloskey reported that 43% of children aged 7 - 17 in NI had received a meaningful financial education at home or in school. She advised that MaPS had developed a range of financial education guides and practical toolkits for leaders, managers and practitioners working in CYP services. She said the programme had City and Guilds recognition. Mrs Campbell advised that these resources were also available on the Translation Hub in over 100 languages and the Hub could narrate in English and any other language.</p> <p><b><u>Action</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms Downey to link with Ms McCloskey to roll this out across Family and Child Care teams, Locality Planning Groups, Hub Co-ordinators and MDT teams.</li> <li>➤ Ms Lynch said this would help young people plan for their future and this had linkages to the Council's Poverty Strategy. Ms McCloskey said she would welcome the opportunity to link with Derry City &amp; Strabane District Council.</li> <li>➤ Mr Armstrong agree to link with Ms McCloskey in relation to the Trust's Corporate Parenting role in preparing young people to face financial challenges.</li> <li>➤ Ms McGuinness suggested that the Task and Finish Groups also explore this resource.</li> </ul>

	Mr Cassidy thanked Ms McCloskey for her informative presentation and members agreed it was very timely in the current economic climate.
7	<p><b>Hubs Update</b></p> <p>Ms Downey said she had been visiting Hubs across the Trust to introduce Ms Julie Wilson in her new role as Acting Head of Service, as Ms McGilloway was on a secondment. She reported that all Hubs remained extremely busy.</p> <p>Mrs Campbell gave the following highlights:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase from 16% to 25% in children/young people with disabilities - 173 on waiting list.</li> <li>▪ Main reasons for referrals was parenting support and training.</li> <li>▪ 46% of all referrals for parenting support were from WHSCT.</li> <li>▪ Unmet need - 89% parenting support.</li> <li>▪ Self referrals remain the most prevalent source.</li> <li>▪ MDT's teams account for 9% of referrals, across 6 MDT's in WHSCT.</li> <li>▪ Increase in referrals in 11 - 15 age group.</li> <li>▪ Financial support was the second highest referral reason in WHSCT.</li> <li>▪ 32% of referrals for financial support across the region were from WHSCT.</li> <li>▪ WHSCT &amp; BHSCT had the highest level of requests for financial support, compared to the other three Trusts.</li> </ul> <p>Mr Armstrong said the high number of referrals for parenting support was quite stark and said resources for parents varied across the Trust. He said an integrated approach was required to prevent input from statutory resources. Ms Downey acknowledged the provision of a range of online supports, but said parents generally liked face-to-face contact which allowed them to learn from others in a similar situation.</p> <p>Mrs Bailey said quite a number of Parenting NI's programmes were online which allowed parents in different geographical areas access, but said she would bear in person programmes in mind. Ms Lynch suggested the option of a blended approach by having groups in different locations linking to online training.</p> <p>Ms McGuinness said face-to-face programmes allowed for trust to be built up and this was the best way to support families. She said it allowed for staff to delve down into their needs to better understand how to support them, and one-to-one support was the most beneficial for people to move forward.</p> <p>Mr Duffy said a blended approach should always be considered. He said it was a massive challenge to support families whose children were on a waiting list for assessment and commented on the positive feedback received from parents who had engaged in bespoke support, whilst being mindful of capturing the whole group.</p>

8	<p><b>UNICEF</b></p> <p>Ms Lynch reported on the six monthly progress review reports with the next one due in January 2024 and thanked members for their co-operation in completing same - currently awaiting feedback from UNICEF. She reported that a training audit was to be completed on Outcomes Group members who had undertaken the online Child's Rights training. It was agreed that Ms Lynch would share future training dates.</p> <p>Ms Lynch reported that new political champions had been appointed following the election - one from each political party, including independents.</p> <p>Mr Sweeney said it was new phase in the UNICEF journey and there was a need to embed a child's rights approach narrative in the Trust, Council, Education Authority, Youth Justice etc. He said this narrative should be kept alive via supervision, induction process, procurement process, Outcomes Group, and every forum involving children and young people. Mr Sweeney said linkages were being made with Queen's and the University of Cork to get a model of participation.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms Lynch to forward online training dates so members could participate in collective training.</li> <li>➤ Mr Armstrong to speak with Ms Lynch and Mr Sweeney.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Review the Action Plan for the remainder of the Planning Cycle</b></p> <p>Ms Casey recommended that the group should begin to prepare the next action plan 2024/27 and suggested an in person planning workshop in the New Year to look at priorities for the next three years. She said the workshop could also consider whether financial assistance would be provided for a two or three year period to allow for financial sustainability of projects.</p> <p>Mrs MacIntyre proposed that the training referenced by Claire under agenda item 8 be planned for the same date in the afternoon when members would already be in attendance.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In person action planning workshop for 2024/27 to be arranged for the New Year which would incorporate collective UNICEF training on the same date, if possible.</li> </ul> <p>Mr Duffy &amp; Ms McGuinness withdrew from the meeting.</p>
10	<p><b>Issues to be raised to Regional Partnership</b></p> <p>Mr Cassidy agreed that the following issues should be raised at the Regional Partnership:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attendance of statutory members at Outcomes Group meetings.</li> <li>▪ Joint funding.</li> <li>▪ UNICEF &amp; Child's Rights Approach [presentation].</li> </ul>

<b>11</b>	<b>Community Planning</b> Ms Lynch advised that a reporting cycle was in place and information on improving the wellbeing of children, Hubs, child poverty, advocacy etc, were included. Report is in draft format, but will be forwarded for inclusion at a future Outcomes Group meeting.
<b>12</b>	<b>Safeguarding</b> Ms Wilson reported that the Gateway teams continued to be very busy with staff continuing to deal with complex cases. Mr Armstrong advised that Gateway had received 1,445 referrals in July 2023. He said work was being undertaken to revamp the Red Team.
<b>13</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b> Mr Cassidy thanked members for attending today's meeting.
<b>14</b>	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b> 25 October 2023 at 10 am via Microsoft Teams