

Southern Area Outcomes Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Tues 24 September 2024 at 2:00 pm
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"/>	
	Shannon Doherty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (CYP – Health Improvement Specialist)	Jacqueline Masterson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Education Authority	Kieran Shields		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sarah Muldoon Donna Weir	<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)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Allison Clenaghan (ABC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Celine O'Neill (MU)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Alan Beggs (NMD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
PSNI	Karen Ross		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Annie Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Public Health Agency	Collette Rogers		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Kelly McCartney		
	Laura Taylor		
	Danny Sinclair		
	Dr Amanda McCullough		
	Orlaith Moley		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Lucille Lennon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parenting Coordinator	Martina McCooley		<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		
Other Partnerships	Martina McAloon, GP Federation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Voluntary Sector			
Early Years Organisation	Meabh Poacher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
MENCAP	Mikhaila Woods		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barnardo's	Michelle Harris Pat McGeough Gillian McKeown (Chair of Disability Task Group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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) Alison Slater obo Jacinta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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 McKenna (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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Banbridge LPG	Lucinda Love-Teggarty		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
Child Protection Nurse Specialist	Isobel McNamee Nesbitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Service Manager for Gateway	Shauneen Quinn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RAISE Programme	Peter Hutchinson (DoE)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. Introductions & Apologies

Colm McCafferty welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

2. PRESENTATION: The RAISE Programme – Peter Hutchinson (Interim Director of Raising Aspiration, Supporting Learning and Empowering Improvement, DOE) – 30 mins

Peter discussed the Raise program aimed at tackling educational disadvantage in Northern Ireland. The program, funded by the Shared Island Investment with the Republic of Ireland, is a locality-based initiative with a focus on every child being happy, learning, and succeeding in education. It aims to address challenges and barriers faced by learners, including those from working-class backgrounds, gender, special educational needs, and newcomer or asylum-seeking young people. The program seeks to create a holistic, place-based partnership approach, with a focus on the child at the centre. It also aims to raise aspirations and the importance of education within the wider community.

The program will be implemented across all local government districts. The selection of areas for investment was based on seven indicators, including educational attainment, income, deprivation, health, disability, crime, and antisocial behaviour. The program will focus on the most disadvantaged areas in each district, with a particular emphasis on urban and rural areas. The program will also test new approaches and interventions, with the aim of informing longer-term policy approaches. Peter also provided specific examples of localities, such as Dungannon and Lurgan, and their corresponding data.

Peter discussed the design and implementation of a program, which will be co-designed with local stakeholders, will focus on identifying needs and potential interventions, and will work closely with existing partners and structures. The program will be funded by 20 million euros over two to three years, with 17 million euros allocated to the locality-based program. Peter also mentioned the importance of collaboration and avoiding duplication of efforts. The program is currently in the engagement phase, with co-design expected to begin soon.

Peter presented a comprehensive overview of the new funding opportunity for the Southern Trust area, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and cooperation at a local level. He highlighted the need to build on existing good work and avoid duplicating efforts. Peter also mentioned the potential for further investment and the importance of measuring outcomes.

Members discussed the possibility of linking with existing groups and programs, such as the Emotional Health and Well-being Group, Locality Planning Groups and the Family Support Hubs. They also discussed the potential for leveraging other funding routes and the importance of sustainability. Peter agreed to send through a copy of the RAISE Presentation to be shared with the Group, and also will send through Colm's office a list contacts for the Community Engagement Teams.

ACTIONS:

- Peter to share RAISE Presentation, and provide contact details of the Community Engagement Team to Colm's office for circulation.
- Peter to return to the SAO group in March to provide an update on the RAISE program.

3. Minutes of previous meeting (11.04.24) and Matters Arising

Agreed as accurate reflection of last meeting.

Matters Arising

Jacqueline had agreed to liaise with Jacinta to look at progressing a proposed Pilot re education and its potential structure. Jacqueline reported the Subgroup met on 3rd May 24 where some discussion took place. This work is ongoing and will be discussed further at the next meeting scheduled for 9th Oct.

4. Draft SAOG 3 Year Plan 24-27

Colm acknowledged and thanked all for their engagement at the planning day in June, to shape and inform discussions. Valerie discussed the new 3-year plan, which was developed based on discussions from the planning day. She encouraged feedback and participation in the plan, and mentioned ongoing work to align the plan with the local council community plans and that she will present it at the next Newry, Mourne & Down Community Planning Board. The final 3-year plan is expected to be signed off by the end of October. Members were asked to forward any comments/queries to Valerie by Fri 18th Oct 24.

Valerie advised there are 3 Task groups in place to help deliver on the actions in the plan – if members are currently working on any areas of work highlighted in the plan or know someone who is, and would be interested in joining or assisting a task group let Valerie know as soon as possible.

5. Family Support Hubs (FSHs) Update

In Bronwyn's absence, Maxine provided an update on the family support hubs. Colm emphasised the importance of promoting family support hubs for early intervention and prevention. Maxine provided an update on the referral data from the Southern area, noting that parenting support was the top reason for referral, and that the request for financial support was not as high as in other areas. She also mentioned that Bronwyn was working on data for the Work Stream 9. Leanne commended the work of the hub coordinators, stating that the hubs were ahead of the game and providing exceptional services. Colm emphasized the need to keep the Hubs at the centre of future funding opportunities and to identify the need for services. Maxine agreed to share the Report Card prepared by Bronwyn, with the Group. Colm thanked everyone for their continued commitment to the Hubs.

ACTION: Maxine to send the FSH Report Card to be circulated to all members.

6. Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) Update

Darren's Report for Locality Planning, and also the Action Plan Report for 2021-24 which contains links, for all the work carried out during this period, has been circulated to the Group. Darren reported on the successful community and youth events held over the summer, with positive feedback and plans for future events. He also mentioned the upcoming awareness session on gaming and gambling, and the successful application for funding to incorporate self-care into locality planning group meetings.

7. Partner Updates – Issues/Challenges/Opportunities

Not required for this meeting but will be kept on the Agenda

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

Previously Colm had expressed challenges regarding the lack of a clear regional approach to addressing emerging pressures. However, a regional meeting was held last month, coordinated at Department level and a further meeting has been scheduled.

Robbie updated on the increase in refugees and the opening of a hotel in the SHSCT locality for short-term accommodation, with a coordinated response involving representatives from various organizations. Colm advised Robbie to link in with him if there is anything he feels children's services can contribute.

Darren referenced his involvement in the Asylum Seekers Dispersal Scheme, with Robbie and Valerie. They met recently and found it useful to link in and share information. Alison advised that ABC Council were happy to link in and support where they can.

9. Updates from Task Groups

Emotional Health & Wellbeing – Jacqueline Masterson

Jacqueline reported that the task group hasn't met since the last meeting, apart from the subgroup which met in May. The group is due reconvene on 9th Oct 24, where they will look at the information from the planning day, and review and refresh who needs to be round the table. Education Welfare Officer for N&M area has been invited and is keen to attend.

Colm emphasized the importance of continuous communication and collaboration outside of formal meetings.

Ethnic Minority – Robbie McCague

Robbie shared an update on the digital translation devices pilot. Initial feedback has been very positive, despite some initial teething problems.

The cultural competency e-learning resource is now in its final stage, and will be finalised in the next week. Robbie advised this will be launched, dispersed over C&V colleagues. Other priorities will be agreed at the next meeting. Valerie and Robbie will agree a date for same.

Our Journey Through Disability – Gillian McKeown

Valerie reported they are currently arranging a date to meet. Valerie, Gillian and Elaine plan to meet with Mikhaila Woods (MENCAP) in relation to the “Treat Me Well” program, which they are keen to pilot. Another area they are keen to take forward is the relaunch of the “All About Me” booklet for older young people.

Valerie referenced the good commitment and buy in from parents on this group. Colm suggested getting an update on “Our Journey Through Disability”, to see what has been progressed. Valerie agreed to link in with Elaine to get an update at the next Meeting.

ACTION: Valerie to discuss with Elaine Mooney about providing an update on the progress of "Our Journey Through Disability" initiative

Colm referenced the BBC Spotlight program, due to be aired tonight, focusing on children with disabilities and the lack of support, particularly in relation to overnight short breaks. He highlighted the Southern Trust's efforts in maintaining a focus on providing short breaks for complex children with disabilities and emphasised the need to continue to develop and offer a continuum of support to relevant families.

Poverty & Family Support – Valerie Maxwell

Valerie and Alison Beattie discussed the Council's poverty forums and the Family Support Hub coordinators, emphasizing the importance of linking with these groups. They also mentioned the potential for a similar pathway for the upcoming winter season. Valerie will link in with Alan (NMD) and Celene (MU) also. Alison further discussed the ongoing work with the ABC Council, the development of the Anti-Poverty Action Plan, and the connection with the interagency group. She also mentioned the need to continue the work despite reduced funding and the potential for a meeting with Peter Hutchinson.

ACTION: Alison to liaise with Valerie to set up a meeting with family support hub coordinators to discuss linking with the council's anti-poverty work.

Colm referenced the ongoing issues of poverty and family support, emphasizing the need for a medium to long-term preventative strategy.

10. Ray Jones Review

Colm reported that in advance of the Children's Social Care Review Report findings, the DOH established 9 Workstreams to address issues, one of which is the Family Support Workstream.

Workstreams very relevant to the Outcomes group

- **Family Support Workstream**

This is co-chaired by Jacinta Linden. Colm asked that Jacinta provide an update at the next meeting.

ACTION: Jacinta to provide an update on the Family Support Workstream of the Children's Social Care Review at the next meeting.

- ***Reimaging Collective***

Colm highlighted the importance of the reimaging collective regarding how the C&V Sector can be shaped moving forward. Though in the early stages, it is important that we feed into this to help shape the direction.

Colm mentioned that a ministerial announcement regarding a decision on the establishment of another social care trust for children is expected soon.

11. Update on ICS (Integrated Area Planning Board)

No update for this meeting, but will be kept on the Agenda.

12. AOB

Robbie added that the department has commissioned a report on mental health services for women and young people seeking international protection, and they are seeking engagement at locality levels.

13. Date of Next Meeting:

Thurs 12 Dec 24 at 10:00 am