

**Southern Area Outcomes Group**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on Tues 8 April 2025 at 2:30 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

<b>Agency/Sector</b>	<b>Statutory</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Apology</b>
<b>HSCT (Chair)</b>	Colm McCafferty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Family Support; Hub Lead; Safeguarding)</b>	Leanne Spratt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Disability)</b>	Elaine Mooney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Public Health)</b>	Gerard Rocks (Promoting Wellbeing)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>HSCT (CAMHS)</b>	Denise Carroll	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (CYP – Health Improvement Specialist )</b>	Jacqueline Masterson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Education Authority</b>	Kieran Shields Sarah Muldoon Aileen O’Callaghan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NI Housing Executive</b>	Michelle Hazlett		
<b>Community Planning/Council</b>	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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>PSNI</b>	Karen Ross Aine Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Public Health Agency</b>	Collette Rogers Kelly McCartney Laura Taylor Danny Sinclair Dr Amanda McCullough Orlaith Moley Lucille Lennon		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Parenting Coordinator</b>	Martina McCooey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Youth Justice Agency</b>	Michael Heaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Childcare Partnership</b>	Kevin Duggan		
<b>LCG Link</b>	VACANT		
<b>Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership</b>	Gary Scott Safeguarding Co-ordinator, ABC & NMD Council		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other Partnerships</b>	Martina McAloon, GP Federation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Voluntary Sector</b>			
<b>Early Years Organisation</b>	Meabh Poacher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>MENCAP</b>	Mikhaila Woods	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Barnardo's</b>	Michelle Harris Pat McGeough Gillian McKeown (Chair of Disability Task Group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>NIACRO</b>	Ciara Corrigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Clanrye Group</b>	Dara O'Hagan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Bolster</b>	Jacinta Linden (Also LPG chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>HSCT (Inequalities &amp; Inclusion)</b>	Robbie McCague (Chair of Ethnic Minority Group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>BME Sector</b>			
<b>Craigavon Intercultural Programme</b>	Stephen Smith		
<b>Locality Planning Group Chairs</b>			
<b>Craigavon LPG</b>	Deborah Millar (Home-Start Craigavon)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Armagh LPG</b>	Michael McKenna (Youth Action)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>South Armagh LPG</b>	Annie Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Newry LPG</b>	Jacinta Linden (Bolster)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Banbridge LPG</b>	Lucinda Love-Teggarty		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Dungannon LPG</b>	Loraine Griffin (COSTA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>In Attendance</b>			
<b>Locality Planning Officer</b>	Darren Curtis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Planning &amp; Information Support</b>	Valerie Maxwell		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>CYPSP</b>	Maxine Gibson Una Casey Louise Dickson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Administrator for Outcomes Group</b>	Ruth Alexander	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Family Support Hub Co-ordinator</b>	Bronwyn Campbell		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Child Protection Nurse Specialist</b>	Isobel McNamee Nesbitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

## 1. Introductions & Apologies

Colm welcomed everyone to today's meeting. Members were encouraged to table Agenda items, whether for information, to raise awareness of challenges faced, or something that could be collaboratively addressed by the group. Colm reminded members their input is valued.

## 2. Minutes of previous meeting (18.02.25) and Matters Arising

Agreed as accurate reflection of last meeting.

### Update on Matters arising:

- Gillian and Elaine were to explore organising a seminar/event during the latter part of 2025 to review progress on the *Our Journey through Disability* initiative. This is on the Agenda for today's meeting.
- Denise Carroll was to provide an update on the CAWT application. Denise happy to provide a brief update at today's meeting.

## 3. Family Support Hubs (FSHs) Update

Jacinta attended a meeting this morning in Dungannon, with 25 - 26 Hub Coordinators. She highlighted variations in Hubs across Northern Ireland and referenced the success of the Southern FSHs, which has largely been built on the trusted partnership model between the Trust and Hub coordinators.

Jacinta referenced the unmet need which has been flagged for years at strategic level but has not resulted in resources been invested/shared back down. The new Family Support Strategy will be in draft form by October. Currently there are over 4k children in care in Northern Ireland today, and 126 more children being added to the child protection register every month. Jacinta highlighted the need for more resources in early intervention services. Our Hubs are delivering more with less, and dealing with very complex cases. Jacinta acknowledged the work of Gateway and Social Services colleagues, noting the integrity and trusted partnerships has been the reason for the success of FSHs in the Southern area. Colm acknowledged the brilliant work done by the FSHs, and other initiatives that is having a positive impact, and stressed the importance of looking for opportunities to develop, expand and strengthen FSHs and early intervention.

Jacinta advised that in relation to Family Support Workstream 9, a new set of surveys are going out in April and May to professionals, practitioners and parents, to gather data for the draft Family Support Strategy by October, which will go back to the Reform Board. Colm asked Jacinta to give consideration to providing an update presentation on the Family Support Workstream 9 in the autumn. Colm clarified that the number of children on the Child protection register remains relatively static, and that there are considerable numbers of children added to the register, however due to work of partner agencies, considerable numbers are also removed from the register each month. Colm highlighted concerns re the continued increase in numbers of children coming into care.

**ACTION:** Jacinta to provide a detailed update on the Family Support Workstream during an autumn Outcomes meeting.

Elaine advised on the addition of dedicated children with disability workers to each FSH since January 2025. Colm emphasised the importance of the work being done through the FSHs and early intervention, despite limited new investments.

He also emphasised the importance of this new additionality having a focus on reducing unallocated family support cases in respect of CWD and this will be monitored re impact of the investments.

#### **4. Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) Update**

Darren's report has been circulated. Darren provided a brief update on Locality Planning Groups and noted feedback on unmet need hasn't been included this time, as usually FSH coordinator provides an update. Darren discussed the need for more awareness regarding online safety, particularly for children and parents, and the potential for the Emotional Wellbeing Team to provide this. He also mentioned the successful "Take 5" self-care program and the upcoming Feel Good Armagh community event on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Colm expressed interest in the school uniform initiative and its progress. Isobel highlighted the successful bereavement in schools program "Seasons of Life" and its potential for expansion with funding. Colm asked Isobel to give a more detailed presentation at an Autumn SAOG meeting.

**ACTION:** Isobel to schedule a presentation on the bereavement in schools program for an autumn SAOG meeting.

#### **5. Partner Updates – Issues/Challenges/Opportunities**

Nothing noted at today's meeting

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

At the last meeting, Robbie had highlighted a couple of issues in different Trust areas, where concerns were being identified re increasing levels of risk for people being dispersed into different areas, without the right information being shared. This was shared back to Mears (appointed agency) and DoH, as a regional group, to ensure it is kept on the radar. No further update in terms of forthcoming information and changes to the data sharing agreements.

Robbie referenced the awareness raising video being produced by the Trust to capture the journey/traumatic experiences of refugees/ asylum seekers, more commonly referred to as people seeking international protection, to the Southern Trust area. This project has been ongoing for the past 8-9 months, and is at the final stages of production. It is hoped to give people a better understanding of what these people have been through, and evoke a more empathic response to peoples' individual experiences.

Colm suggested Robbie think about having a standalone seminar under the auspices of the SAOG around Cultural Competency to better inform staff and agencies about the issues facing asylum seekers, ethnic minorities etc. Robbie agreed to consider for the latter part of September, and suggested sending a poll after today's meeting to generate appropriate audience.

Michael reported due to the rise of young people from minority and ethnic backgrounds into the criminal justice system, they have been exploring cultural competence training. He has liaised with Robbie in relation to developing a bespoke online training package for YJA and also sharing with criminal justice partners. Michael acknowledged and thanked Robbie for his assistance.

## 7. Updates from Task Groups

### Emotional Health & Wellbeing – Jacqueline Masterson

The EHWP Forum has not met since the last meeting. By way of update, 2 subgroups have been established:-

- Review language used in terms of MHEW in young people – One meeting of the subgroup has taken place, and members are completing a survey with young people to view what is negative and positive language. The survey will take place in the new school year.
- The Establishment of a Parent's Reference Group – This is in partnership with Children in NI and will support the outcomes for this group from a parent's perspective.

Design Pilot in respect of filling the gap for 13-16 year old services, for young people that are hard to reach and isolated on a step by step pathway approach. Outcome has been identified and shared with the Forum. There is interest from Newry & Mourne Council around delivery on pooled resources. The link with Area learning group in Newry/Mourne/Down is Maria Hamill. We are waiting on contact details of other Area learning groups. EWO representation on the Forum has been agreed, which will support the development of the pilot project.

Family Support task group and actions identified in the SAOG action plan have now amalgamated into the Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing Group moving forward.

### Ethnic Minority – Robbie McCague

Robbie and Martina discussed the regional user involvement project for people seeking international protection, particularly women and children. Robbie highlighted the key areas of culture, language, and navigation issues, with mental health services being a major concern. Martina advised the group on the project's use of translator devices, which were found to be helpful and easy to use. The devices were distributed to GP practices and community settings, and the project received positive feedback from service users. The team is now working on a review of the Mental Health Toolkit for Ethnic Minority Communities and plans to share the report and other resources with the group.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- Robbie to share the regional user involvement report on access to services for people seeking international protection once published.
- Robbie to share the updated Mental Health Toolkit for Ethnic Minority Communities once ready.

## Our Journey Through Disability – Gillian McKeown

Work has commenced with children and young people to develop a new “All About Me” passport for young people, primarily adolescents. Co-production work has been undertaken with Barnardos and Mencap to design the new document.

A meeting has taken place in February to look at “Treat Me Well” training for professionals with the possibility of rolling out to new staff through Elaine’s team. There will be two parts to the training one for professionals and another on ‘know your rights’ for parents/carers – a number of actions have been identified and work will commence soon on pulling all together.

A small working group is being established to develop and update a new community tool kit/guide to include community access officers to assist services to make their events/services more accessible – this will be co-produced with parents also.

Colm suggested organizing a standalone seminar to reset and update the "Our Journey" document, involving parents and staff to maintain its profile across relevant services and incorporate new developments in support for children with disabilities.

**ACTION:** Darren will talk with Valerie and Gillian, and liaise with Elaine to plan a standalone seminar on "Our Journey" for staff and parents, potentially in autumn.

## Poverty & Family Support – Valerie Maxwell

The **Family Support Task group** is now amalgamated into EMHW group going forward.

**Poverty** is being led by Council Forums, and Valerie and Darren attend through ABC Council. Valerie has requested updates from all Council representatives on ongoing work for circulation to Outcome group members. A new section on Cost of Living has been set up centrally on the Translation Hub signposting to services, advice and resources, and can be accessed via the link below:-

<https://cypsp.hscni.net/cypsp-resource-links/translations-cost-of-living-crisis/>

Colm asked Darren if something could be sent separately, for circulating to adults also.

The group discussed the need for better coordination and collaboration between various initiatives addressing similar issues in schools and communities. Alison shared information about the RAISE program, which focuses on areas like school attendance, parental engagement, and poverty - topics that overlap with existing task groups. Colm expressed concern about potential duplication and emphasized the importance of maximizing collaboration and coordination among different programs. The group agreed to explore opportunities for further discussion and alignment to ensure resources are used effectively and avoid confusion for schools.

Discussion took place on the need for strategic and operational collaboration, and the need to understand existing parameters and remits of services already in place. They mentioned an interagency conversation led by Aidan Nugent (PHA) to influence and shape resource allocation. There was also a discussion about community events and the need for coordination to maximize

benefits for vulnerable children and disadvantaged families. The team agreed to meet with other organizations to ensure no duplication and to maximize impact.

**ACTIONS:**

- Darren to attend the RAISE program community event in Newry and report back to Colm on the collaborative approach.
- Following this, if required, Colm to contact Aidan Dawson (PHA) regarding coordination of the RAISE program with existing initiatives.

## 8. Ray Jones Review

Colm referenced the Children's Services Review and the potential for a standalone arm's length body. However, the decision on this is not forthcoming at the moment. The review's relevance to the Family Support Workstream was emphasized, with a more detailed update to be provided during an Autumn Outcomes meeting.

## 9. Update on CWD Investments as announced by the Minister last year

Elaine provided forum members with a brief overview of plans moving forward in relation to funding from the CWD investments. The Spotlight Program aired last autumn has received significant traction across the region, particularly with the Health Committee and the Minister of Health. The additional investments announced aims to provide support for children with high complexity disabilities and their families.

The 3 priorities identified for application of funding include:-

- Increasing residential provision
- Increasing short breaks, and
- Providing family support including behavioural and therapeutic supports

The Southern Trust has been ambitious in respect of proposals and developments, which will be provided via statutory, independent and voluntary providers. Elaine emphasised the need to work in partnership to help provide services for children with disabilities.

**ACTION:** Elaine agreed to provide an update later in the year on the progress of children with disability investments.

## 10. Update on ICS (Integrated Area Planning Board)

The meeting also touched on the Integrated Care Systems, particularly around supports for frailty and mental health. If mental health is agreed as their second priority, it was agreed to keep on this Agenda. Colm said he wanted to use the experience of the Outcomes Group and FSHs, to try to maximise collaboration with this Group.



## 11. AOB

Denise reported under the CAWT application they have been successful in securing £2m in Peace Plus Funding and this is called the EASY Project (Early Intervention, Support, Youth Project). There are 3 themes:-

- One to one individual support for families;
- Parenting Programmes and group based interventions for families and young people;
- One to one support for young people.

This is derived from the EHWP framework, exploring the needs of the child.. Children that have a need will be sign posted to this Project, which has been piloted within autism and ADHD services. The Project is scheduled to commence in April 2026 and funding has been secured for 3 years. Denise agreed to keep the group updated on the progress of the EASY project as it moves towards implementation.

**ACTION:** Colm asked Martina McAloon to provide an update on the multidisciplinary primary care team expansions in the Dungannon and Craigavon GP Federations at some stage.

Colm noted it was a privilege to Chair a group like this and acknowledged the amount of work that takes place. He finished by encouraging members to keep collaborating and sharing ideas.

Colm asked Darren and Valerie to plan the most appropriate time for a face to face Outcomes Group meeting, later this year.

## 12. Date of Next Meeting:

Tues 24 June 25 at 2:30 pm – Virtual Meeting