

Antrim/Ballymena Children's & Young People's Strategic Partnership Locality Planning Group minutes

**Tuesday 21st May, 2024 at 2.00 p.m.
St. Joseph's EY Centre,
90 Doury Road,
Ballymena,
BT43 6JE**

Attending

Gerry McVeigh	Co-Chair, YES Start 360
Margaret Purdie	Health and Wellbeing Officer (Antrim/Ballymena), NHSCT
Linda Wylie	Health and Wellbeing Programme Support Officer, NHSCT
Claire Kelly	Family Support Practitioner, Family Support Hub
Leona Christie	Early Years – Toy Box Project
Tina Gregg	Ballymena & Littlesteps Surestart
Daniel McCurdy	Libraries NI
Jacqueline Bingham	Libraries NI – ANBC
Karen Brownlow	Ballymena South Community Cluster
Lexi Scott	Ballymena Learning Together
Gerry McVeigh	Start 360
Kate Stewart	Prince's Trust
Sheena Morrison	AWARE
Will McDowell	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Christina O'Neill	All About Us

1. Welcome & Apologies

Gerry extended a warm welcome to everyone.

Apologies:-

**Paula McLaughlin – NICMA
Veronica McKinley – NICHI Project
Maureen Nixon – Prince's Trust
Laura McCaughey – Impact Network NI Ltd
Denise McVeigh - Mid & Antrim Council
Heidi Johnston – Justice NI**

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Speaker – Katie Stewart (Prince's Trust)

Katie brought us a presentation on the Prince's Trust which works with young people aged 16-30. Their mission statement is "every young person should have the chance to succeed". Katie highlighted a snapshot of the programmes including the "Get into" programme which takes the form of a work placement in businesses such as M&S. Katie explained M&S usually offer at least six months temporary contracts once trained.

Katie also highlighted the "Get Hired" programme which will take place on the 24th of July at the Braid Centre, Ballymena, again for 16-30 year olds with numerous job opportunities within Ballymena companies.

Tina Gregg – Ballymena & Littlesteps Surestart

Tina explained that Surestart works with children 0-4 years old and covers 8 ward areas throughout the Ballymena area. Surestart currently runs five developmental programmes in and around Ballymena.

Tina highlighted "Dad's Voice", an informal, relaxed and friendly group which is proving very popular and is open to all Dad's and significant male role models in a child's life living in the Northern Trust area.

Tina also highlighted Surestart's partnership work with Toybox for Roma families.

She explained Surestart receives a lot of referrals from families who have additional needs and indicated that they are fortunate to have a Speech and Language Therapist and Health Visitor employed within their team. She indicated that she holds referral forms and any partner organisation requiring same should make contact.

Tina also highlighted a grant of £50.00 which is available for School Uniforms and if any family known to the partners could avail of same they should make contact with Tina.

5. Family Support Hub update – Claire Kelly

Claire indicated that the Hub is quieter this month with around 30 referrals. She explained that she is receiving more and more referrals for Equine Therapy and they are on the lookout for funded places. They ran 3 parenting programmes this year with Parenting NI but there was a very poor update.

6. Member Updates

Daniel McCurdy – Libraries NI

Daniel highlighted the ICT Support which can be offered in Libraries and that Libraries NI wish to broaden their demographic. He requested that we please point others to these services. Daniel also circulated an evaluation for completion by the partners regarding making use of local libraries.

Jacqueline Bingham – Libraries NI

Jacqueline was officially welcomed to our LPG and she gave us a brief overview of events which will be upcoming within libraries in the Antrim and Newtownabbey area and circulated a handout to all partners.

Leona Christie – Early Years – Toybox

Leona explained she works with Surestart and she runs the Roma Hub once per month. She is happy to take on referrals for children 0-4 years.

Leona indicated Toybox hope to run a Fun day on the 26th of July and if any partner wishes to provide an information stand for same please let her know.

Will McDowell – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Will made reference to the Duke of Edinburgh Bursary Scheme and handed out a flyer in this regard.

“Have your Say” – Will highlighted an Open Public Consultation re children and young people which is being carried out and circulated a flyer about same.

Karen Brownlow – Ballymena South Community Cluster

Karen highlighted the 40th Anniversary of Volunteer’s Week (3rd to 9th June) and explained that an evening had been organised for volunteers at Galgorm Manor.

There are currently 40/50 spaces available and if anyone wishes to nominate someone to attend they should make contact with Karen on cdo@ballymenasouth.com.

Sheena Morrison – AWARE

Sheena highlighted “Mood Matters” workshop being delivered via zoom on 13th June. This is a free workshop targeting mental health and resilience. Please contact Sheena to obtain details of further up and coming events.

Gerry McVeigh – Start 360

Loneliness Awareness Week Chatty Cafes
Thursday 13th June 10.30am-12.30pm
Ballymena – Start360. 2-6 Wellington Street
Carrick – Pop Up Shop High Street
Larne – Inver Hall, St. Cedmas Church

Alcohol Awareness Week NI 17-23rd June
To get involved or find out more contact connections@ndact.info

DAISY & VOICES services - support for any drug & alcohol related issues with young people – either directly using substances (aged 11-25) or impacted by someone else’s use (aged 8-18).

Connections service – Drug & Alcohol Awareness sessions free of charge for groups of young people (schools, youth groups, churches etc) and adult groups (organisations, community groups etc).

Targeted Life Skills service – free Life Skills programmes for young people aged 11-21.

Youth Engagement service – Drop In for young people aged 11-18
Tues/Wed/Thurs 3-5.30pm at Start360 in Ballymena

C Card – FREE condoms and lubrication for young people aged 16-25

Lexi Scott – Ballymena Learning Together

Drug & Awareness programme has taken place via ASCERT. PSNI have also come on board.

Fresh Minds Education are coming in to talk with a sub group re young people’s mental health.

Carers Fayre has been rescheduled for February.

Margaret Purdie – NHSCT

Review of memberships – members present agreed this was a good idea.

Planning for the year ahead – action plan to be reviewed and agreed that the small grants and time frames worked well the last few years, moving forward with the same for this year. Encouraged members to apply.

Updated the members that CYPSP are currently reviewing their standards.

Updated members on Pantosaurus visits in Antrim area went really well and the children really interacted and enjoyed the visits.

Discussed new and present members speaking at meetings and if any members have any suggestions on speakers they would like to hear from to please let Margaret know.

Discussed summer break and agreed next meeting would be September in Antrim Area (venue tbc).

7. Planning Budget/Small Grants 2024/25

It was decided that we should continue with Small Grants along the timeframe of previous years thereby targeting winter projects.

8. Any other Business

None.

9. Date, time and venue of next meeting

Tuesday 17th September at 2.00 p.m. Venue to be confirmed??