



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

Tuesday 5th November, 2024 at 1.30 p.m.

**Venue: The Braid Centre,
1-29 Bridge Street,
Ballymena,
Co. Antrim
BT43 5EJ**

Attending

Mervyn Rea	Chair
Margaret Purdie	Health and Wellbeing Officer (Antrim/Ballymena), NHSCT
Linda Wylie	Health and Wellbeing Programme Support Officer, NHSCT
Claire Kelly	Action for Children Family Support Hub
Wendy Burgess	Northern Connections Start 360
Sharon Doherty	RAISE Programme Department of Education
Karen Brownlow	Ballymena South Community Cluster
Sharon Caldwell	Home-Start Antrim District
Laura McCaughey	Impact Network NI
Pat Ruddy	All About Us
Bronte Mayo	Patient and Client Council
Will McDowell	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Pippa Campbell	Mae Murray Foundation
Jude McNeill	Antrim & Ballymena Borough Council

1. Welcome & Apologies

Margaret extended a warm welcome to everyone and a thanks to Jude for organising the venue.

Apologies:-

Catriona Lennox – Springboard Charity
Katie Stewart – The King's Trust
Paula McLaughlin – NICMA
Heidi Johnston – Youth Justice

Daniel McCurdy – Libraries NI
Maurice Nixon – The King's Trust
Lisa Edgar – Bytes
Sheena Morrison - AWARE

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Family Support Hub update

Claire indicated that FSH have a third of the normal amount of referrals. Some new members of staff have been employed and there is now a sole member of staff responsible for each area. They are currently recruiting for a maternity cover.

Christmas Support is available but is available only for people who are experiencing crisis and this would be a one off support.

It was suggested that some donations of toys would be very useful. Claire said they would be greatly appreciated and people should link with her to arrange for collection.

5. Member Updates

Catriona Lennox – Springboard Charity

Ongoing support for those unemployed / underemployed (working 15hrs or less) gaining life learning /transferrable skills and support into work.

A digital course is currently offered to those in the Ballymena area who require that support and one to one intervention and will be delivered 'at their pace'.

We also offer a 2 week digital course for anyone in any region of Northern Ireland.

We have amazing partners and have a high success rate helping people gain confidence to take the next step into employment.

Please contact caitrional@springboarduk.org.uk for further details or ask those who may be interested in one of these courses to sign up here at CareerScope. Happy to chat to each one on an individual basis to offer the right level of support.

[CareerScope](#)

Sharon Caldwell – Home-Start – Antrim District

1. Home support – our numbers are lower than usual with only 6 families currently receiving one to one weekly support from parent volunteers. This is largely due to volunteer capacity and families being more reluctant to engage in home support, more choosing a group environment. Ill health and personal circumstances have meant my home support volunteer team is limited.
2. Our weekly family group is thriving with over 30 families regularly attending. I have a great team of volunteers who are befriending and supporting families and there is a valuable sense of community established.
3. Antrim Baby Bank – This project is growing in strength and capacity last week providing resources for 19 families during our open sessions on Thursday. We now have Part-time Baby Bank Co Coordinator in place and she is making a big difference. We hope to have an open morning in the New Year to promote and communicate better with other services and referrers about the service we can now provide.

For any more information – Sharon Caldwell Sharon@homestartantrim.org.uk
Margaret Brennan -babybank@homestartantrim.org.uk

Katie Stewart – King's Trust

We have a number of programmes coming up before Christmas. If you have any questions or any YP aged 16-30 interested, please get in touch with me at Katherine.Stewart@kingstrust.org.uk.

Upcoming Get Started programmes:

- Nails – 18 – 22 Nov (Taster Day 12 Nov)
- Music Production – 25 – 29 Nov (Taster Day 19 Nov)
- Creative Art – 2 – 6 Dec (Taster Day 26 Nov)
- Photography – 9 – 13 Dec (Taster Day 3 Dec)

Get Ready for Digital Careers with Sentinus

Taster Day: 19th November

Programme Dates: 25th – 29th November

Digital skills including: BBC Microbit, App Development, Cyber Security and Robotics.

Get Hired Health & Social Care

Programme Dates: 27th & 28th November
Free event to meet and interview with H&SC employers.
Aged 17-30

Explore Programme

- 4 days a week over 4 weeks with 6 months post-programme support
- Support to progress into employment, education, training or volunteering
- Work on qualification units, build a CV and develop interview skills

Travel costs paid for all programmes in our Belfast Centre.

Karen Brownlow – Ballymena South Community Cluster

Karen mentioned they have obtained funding to establish a Community Choir and would be very keen for young people to join same. Anyone who knows of young people who would be interested please make contact with her. They will hold a concert on 20th of December at Slemish College.

Sharon Doherty – Department of Education – RAISE programme

Sharon introduced herself to the members. She was employed as a Family Support Hub Co-Ordinator in Londonderry and has been seconded to the Department of Education to lead a new programme called “RAISE”. This is in the consultation stage and will feed into a larger strategic plan. The first information session will take place on the 20th of November and will be community led. There will be a Nursery Schools and Early Years interest towards the programme.

Pat Ruddy – All About Us.

Pat indicated that the club caters for 8 year olds to 75 years.

Pat mentioned that the Club organises a lot of Fund Raising. They recently visited Jungle NI through PSNI in Antrim and did a course in Paediatric First Aid.

A film crew will be calling to the Club and they will feature in the forthcoming BBC's Children in Need programme.

Jude McNeill – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Jude gave us a rundown of the remit of her work which includes:- managing Drugs & alcohol, Community Centres, Community Development, Funding Applications, Policing, ASSERT, Inter Ethnic Programme and Good Relations.

Jude said their budget has been cut by 50%.

She made reference to the Multiply Programme which is run by Community Development. Attendees have the opportunity to learn mathematical skills while playing darts.

Jude is an Autism Champion and covers the Braid district area.

Small Grants are available which close on 31st January. For further details please contact Jude.

Will McDowell – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Will highlighted the Toy Scheme which this year takes place on Tuesday 3rd of December 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in Muckamore Community Centre. There will be a small charge for the toys.

Another Toy Scheme will also take place in Ballyclare Town Hall on Thursday 5th of December.

REACH Scheme takes place on the Thursday 5th December 2024 2 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. with a budgeting programme.

Finally, Will mentioned a Small Grant which is available in partnership with NHLP. Constituted groups or organisations can apply and the theme for same is “Women’s Health”. A link to Application Form will appear on Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council website next week.

Wendy Burgess – Northern Connections – Start360

Dry January – January 2025 – Wendy indicated PHA wish to run a campaign with movement and nutrition included. More details to follow.

There will be forthcoming training regarding mental health & substance abuse via a webinar. Wendy will forward details.

An event may also be run in Newtownabbey area, again will provide further information.

Bronte Mayo – Patient Client Council

The Parent Client Council provides individuals and groups with information and advice regarding queries with Health Care. Advice and signposting is offered re: health inequalities to people who are often afraid to raise concerns. Bronte also explained that Children are able to attend alongside Mum's and Dad's and they can signpost on.

Margaret Purdie – NHSCT

Margaret highlighted Autism Cafes starting next year:

2nd April 2025 – Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre

29th May 2025 – Cookstown Leisure Centre

8th October 2025 – The Atrium in the Braid Ballymena

3rd February 2025 – East Antrim Venue TBC

These will be informal events designed for sharing information and signposting. Margaret will share more information nearer the time.

Autism small grants – to be confirmed if going ahead this year.

CYPSP Small Grants. Please submit Application Forms by Friday 8th November, 2024.

Attended Fresher's Health Promotion fairs at NRC Ballymena and Greenmount College Antrim.

6. Review of Membership

30 people have responded to date. If anyone has changed job role please let Margaret know.

7. Small Grants 2024/25

Members can apply for funding (approximately £400.00) for a specific project. Criteria – Projects/ activities that aim to target any of the 4 areas of need highlighted in our action plan and member has attended at least one meeting in the last year. Please submit Application Forms before Friday 8th November, 2024.

8. Any Other Business

Np other business at this time

9. Date, time and venue of next Meeting

Tuesday 21st January, 2025 Venue in Antrim TBC

10. LPG Action Plan Discussion/Group Work /

Members formed two groups and discussed the following topics:

Poverty / cost of living

Disruption at school