

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

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at 2.00 p.m. via Zoom**

### **Attending**

<b>Gerry McVeigh</b>	Co-Chair, Assistant Manager, YES Start 360
<b>Margaret Purdie</b>	Health and Wellbeing Officer (Antrim/Ballymena), NHSCT
<b>Linda Wylie</b>	Health and Wellbeing Programme Support Officer, NHSCT
<b>Claire Kelly</b>	Family Support Practitioner, Family Support Hub
<b>Nigel Montgomery</b>	Youth Worker, Education Authority
<b>Christina Murray</b>	Parenting NI
<b>Hannah Crawford</b>	Woman's Aid ABCLN
<b>Marie Donaghy</b>	Step Up Project NRC
<b>Lynn Kyle</b>	Turning Point NI
<b>Daniel McCurdy</b>	Libraries NI
<b>Rebecca Sylvest</b>	Northern Early Intervention Support Service
<b>Wendy Kerr</b>	South Antrim Rural Network
<b>Pippa Campbell</b>	Mae Murray Foundation
<b>Katherine Stewart</b>	The Prince's Trust
<b>Heidi Johnston</b>	Youth Justice Agency Northern Area

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Gerry extended a warm welcome to everyone and to Margaret on her first day of attending the meetings.

### **2. Apologies**

Mervyn Rea – Co-Chair  
Denise McVeigh, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
Lexie Scott, Ballymena Learning Together  
Shaun Paskin – Ygam  
Jude McNeill – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
Paula McLaughlin – NICMA  
Will McDowell – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council  
Leona Christie – Toybox  
Maeve McDonald – Education Authority

Karen Brownlow - Ballymena South Community Cluster  
Noel Gallagher – Education Authority, Youth Service  
Veronica McKinley – NICHI

### **3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Agreed as accurate.

### **4. Matters Arising**

None

### **5. Speaker – Marie Donaghy –Step Up Project NRC**

Marie brought us a short presentation on the Step Up Project ran by NRC. The project is designed for people aged 16-24 who are not in employment, education or training, people aged 24 plus who are unemployed or economically inactive, young people and adults with a Disability or Special Educational needs and Women Returners who are economically inactive.

Marie explained that the Step-Up programme aims to offer short courses (For example a 4 week course with 3 hours of teaching each week) illustrations of the courses provided being Basic Food Hygiene, Barista Skills and Emergency First Aid. The courses help develop key skills such as communication, teamwork, organisation, time management, IT Skills, decision making and problem solving. A key benefit of these courses are that childcare and travel costs are covered to allow the programme to be accessible for everyone.

Anyone who wishes to make contact with Marie for further information should e-mail her on [stepup@nrc.ac.uk](mailto:stepup@nrc.ac.uk).

Gerry thanked Marie for bringing us important information regarding this very worthwhile training initiative.

### **6. Family Support Hub update – Claire Kelly**

FSH were busy over the Christmas period and due to the earlier than usual hub cut off January is very busy. A few services are now accepting again from the Ballymena/Antrim area which were previously closed due to staffing / waiting lists.

Over December we supported families both financially and with Christmas toys. Nov and Dec there was a large increase for financial support particularly for gas/oil / electric. I supported 3 families (7 children in total) with Christmas toy support and the foodbank in Antrim provide those families with a food hamper also.

Large increase this year for the whole of the northern trust for toy support other areas had many more families requiring Christmas toy support . Large number of these families across the trust were requesting gifts for ages 8 + and a lot of teenage gifts which is difficult as donations are usually very focused on young children. This year we lost our support via cares at Christmas for toy donations however across all 5 hub areas we were able to individually source toy collections and fundraise which allowed us to support the families in need.

We are currently offering Parenting programs throughout the northern trust.

**Zoom evening programme**

Commencing Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February from 7-9pm x 6 weeks (Parenting NI will set up the zoom and forward you the zoom link to be shared with parents that will be attending)

**Face to face programme at Action for Children, Main Street, Larne**

Commencing Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February from 10am – 12noon x 6 weeks

Odyssey Parenting Your Teen programme that will be running face to face in Farranshane House.

Commencing - thurs 1<sup>st</sup> feb – thurs 21<sup>st</sup> March .

These are beginning very soon so if you have any families you feel would benefit from these please contact myself or Claire Larkin.

The next face to face hub meeting will be taking place in Feb and we will be doing the annual

## **7. Update on successful Grants**

Margaret brought us an update on CYPSP Grants and the organisations who were successful this year in gaining the Grant which is in the sum of £400.00. This sum will be used to develop and run special projects within each organisation.

**Fresh Minds Education – “Lost Voices Jamming Sessions”**

The music sessions are for young people who are experiencing loss, bereavement or emotional distress this winter and will be under the supervision of a Youth Leader and facilitated by a Musician.

**Mid & East Antrim Borough Council - “Natural Play” ECOS Nature Park, Ballymena**

This project involves two, two hour sessions of natural play in the outdoors which includes learning den building, foraging and firecraft. The event is suitable for the whole family and is supported by the Council’s Play Development Officer.

**All About Us ASD Teens – “Happy Hands project”.**

The project is aimed to provide warmth through the winter by distributing gloves to young people in the area and will also be able to provide information on

initiatives and activities within the area which may be beneficial to those struggling. This project will promote overall health awareness.

## **MAE MURRAY FOUNDATION – “All Ability Music”**

This project aims to enable families of all abilities to take part in three online workshops which allows everyone to take part from their own homes. The project will be facilitated by the Music Yard.

Margaret explained that during forthcoming meetings she will be asking the recipients of the Grants to explain in more detail about their projects.

## **Member Updates**

### **Rebecca Sylvest – NEISS (Northern Early Intervention Support Service) Barnardo's Choices Family Support Service**

Offers in-home based early intervention tier 2 support for families in Antrim, Ballymena, Larne, Carrickfergus and Newtownabbey. Support is up to 12wks. Referrals received mainly by HUB partners, but can take self-referrals.

Choices: Community based support for YP 10-17, with issues in home, school and community. Funding only until end of June 2024. Not accepting any more referrals until we find out if extension of funding is granted

### **DENISE McVEIGH – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council**

Free natural play sessions at ECOS on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 3 February, 2024 if there is any other families that want to sign up.

Contact [play@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:play@midandeastantrim.gov.uk) for more information.

### **PIPPA CAMPBELL - MAE MURRAY FOUNDATION**

**URGENT:** We are seeking organisations who have a focus on inclusion (other than disability – inclusion in wider sense) eg LGBTQ, Ethnic minorities to contribute to our Inclusive Playground guide and to get in touch if interested! Also very welcome to join in all our free beach activities in the summer!

Blue space therapy events at half term – show the beach some love

A community event open to everyone, litter picking, beach art and yoga/mindfulness warm up at Portstewart Strand and Portrush East Strand

Inclusive beaches. All litter picking equipment provided, all abilities welcome, all-terrain wheelchairs available.

[Love the beach litter pick - morning session Portstewart - Mae Murray Foundation - Tickets \(eventcube.io\)](#)

[Love the beach litter pick - afternoon Portstewart - Mae Murray Foundation - Tickets \(eventcube.io\)](#)

[Love your beach litter pick - morning session Portrush - Mae Murray Foundation - Tickets \(eventcube.io\)](#)

[Love your beach litter pick - afternoon session Portrush - Mae Murray Foundation - Tickets \(eventcube.io\)](#)

Other activities: Music event round St Patrick's day, ongoing music, drama, teen chatty sessions, all free to members and free to join.  
[www.maemurrayfoundation.org](http://www.maemurrayfoundation.org)

### **Katherine Stewart – The Prince's Trust**

We have a number of programmes coming up for young people aged 16-30, both for personal development and employability skills.

Get Into Security with Eventsec (19<sup>th</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> March) – opportunity to secure SIA license and work with Eventsec. Some training in Belfast and some online. For 18-30 only.

Get Hired Health & Social Care (5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March) – 2 day programme covering employability skills, and interviews with employers with opportunities for employment across NI (18-30).

Get Into M&S (4<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> March) – 4 week programme including work placement in M&S Ballymena (2 spaces available). Opportunity for employment with M&S upon completion.

Unlock Skills for Work (8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February) – 2 day employability programme covering applications, CVs and interviews. In-person in PT Office, Belfast.

Mental Health First Aid (30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January) – 2 day course in PT Office, Belfast.

Explore and Explore+ programmes – personal development programme focussed on confidence, life skills and team building, run from our Belfast Prince's Trust centre.

*Travel costs covered for all programmes!*

If you have any questions or any young people interested, feel free to contact me at [Katherine.Stewart@princes-trust.org.uk](mailto:Katherine.Stewart@princes-trust.org.uk).

## **Gerry McVeigh – Start 360**

**Start360: 2-6 Wellington Street, Ballymena BT43 6AE | Tel: 028 2568 9356.**

Providing the following services face to face across the Northern Trust:

- **DAISY service** - Therapeutic interventions for young people aged 11-25 with substance misuse issues (Counselling, Key Work and Family Support)
- **VOICES service** – Therapeutic interventions for young people affected by parental/family substance misuse (Counselling, Key Work and family Support)
- **Targeted Life Skills** – targeted group work programme for young people aged 11-21 on issues such as Relationships, Dealing with Emotions, Decision Making, Risk Taking, Energy Drinks.
- **Youth Engagement Service** – Drop In for young people Tue/Wed/Thurs 3-5.30pm in Ballymena, Young Men's Football every Thursday 7-9pm Ballymena Showgrounds. Outreach to schools and youth groups with programmes. 1-1 Youth Work Mentoring.
- **Connections service** – Drug & Alcohol Awareness sessions for young people and for adults/professionals. Providing information and support for Dry January/Feel Good February/Spring Into Wellness campaigns.
- **C Card Sexual Health service** - providing free condoms and lubrication for 16-25 year olds, providing sexual health information and signposting to services.

## **Daniel McCurdy – Libraries NI**

Daniel from Libraries NI mentioned a few activities taking place within libraries. War Hammer Gaming Club is taking place in Carrickfergus Library and is hoped to be rolled out in a number of larger libraries.

Ballymena is holding Dungeons and Dragons sessions for adults which they hope to introduce for children in due course.

February Daniel explained is "Give it a go Month" and Broughshane Library will hold bucket drumming sessions with "Broughshane Drum Lad".

## **Lynn Kyle – Turning Point**

Lynn mentioned they had taken part in a "Blue Monday" event on Monday which had been very successful with lots of information passed on.

Lynn indicated they are very busy with 86 on Waiting List at present.

## **Nigel Montgomery- Youth Service**

Nigel explained that the Youth Cubs have re-opened after the Christmas Break with fantastic numbers attending. 65 Young people attend Waveney and 75 Ballykeel. The Clubs are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Nigel explained that staff are focused at present in engaging with P7 pupils.

### **7. Any Other Business**

None.

### **8. Date, time and venue of next Meeting**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 2.00 p.m. Venue to be confirmed.