

BELFAST OUTCOMES GROUP MEETING

Thursday 10th September 2024 at 2.00 p.m.

Conor Room, Greater Shankill Partnership, 331-333 Shankill Road, Belfast,
BT13 3AA at 2.00PM

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Ms. Kerrylee Weatherall (Chair)	Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
Statutory Sector			
Dr. Michael Murray	Safeguarding, Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
Mr. Gerry Largey	Hub Lead, Belfast HSC Trust	✓	
Ms. Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator		
Mr. Brian O'Kane	NIHE, Belfast Area		
Ms. Katherine Calvert	Education Authority		
Ms. Marion Mc Kinney	Education Authority		
Ms Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council	✓	
Ms Nicola Lane	Belfast City Council		
Mr. Declan Davey	Youth Justice Agency	✓	
Ms. Marie Cavanagh	HSCB Belfast Local Commissioning Group		
Ms. Marie McAuley	Health Improvement Team, BHSCT		
Mr. Kevin Hawkins	PSNI		✓
Community Sector			
Ms. Nicola Verner	West Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
Ms. Natasha Brennan	South Belfast Community Rep.	✓	
Ms. Julie Jamison	North Belfast Community Rep.		
Ms. Tracey Ripley-McElvogue	East Belfast Community Rep.		✓
LPG Chairs			
Ms. Bronagh O'Dwyer	East Belfast LPG	✓	
Ms. Deirdre Walsh	West Belfast LPG	✓	
Ms. Natasha Brennan	South Belfast LPG	✓	
Ms. Claire Allen	North Belfast LPG		✓
Voluntary Sector			
Mr. Peter Bryson	Save the Children		✓
Ms. Caroline Rutherford	Extern		✓
Vacant	Vacant		✓
Ms Ruth Ann Delija	AFC	✓	
Partnership Sector			
Ms. Roisin McCooey	Belfast Childcare Partnership		✓
Mr. Jackie Redpath	Belfast Strategic Partnership	✓	
In Attendance			
Ms. Maxine Gibson	CYPSP	✓	
Ms. Nichola Creagh	Department for Communities		✓
Ms. Dawn Vance	Department for Communities		
Ms. Bronwyn Campbell	Regional FSH Lead		✓
Ms. Valerie Maxwell	CYPSP Support		
Dr. Sarah Meekin	Head of Psychology, BHSCT	✓	
Mr. Mark Conachy	Assistant Head of Psychology, BHSCT		

Mr. Chris Marsh			

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Minutes and Matters Arising from previous meeting on 23rd May 2024
3. Chairperson's Business
4. Update Re Workstream Activity for Children's Services Reform Board
Work Stream One – Front door and waiting lists
Workstream 9 - Family Support
5. Activity Update - Locality Planning Groups Update - Family Support Hubs
6. BAOG Action Plan 2024-27- Draft Plan
7. Seamless Pathway Activity
Update
8. Any Other Business:
 - Venue for 14.11.24
9. Date of Next Meeting:
 - The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 November 2024 2-4 pm at LORAG's premises Shaftesbury Community and Recreation Centre, 97 Balfour Avenue, Belfast BT7 2EW

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies are recorded in above table and the Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes and Matters Arising from previous meeting on 23rd May 2024.

Minutes were agreed and signed off as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

Previous Actions:

- Gerry to contact CYPSP- **Completed** Jim Girvan and the council have been contacted and raised of data and other on pressures on families over the summer and drugs misuse- some discussions have been with Jim and he is keen people from the community safety team and good relations will tie as appropriate.
- Reform Board- Seamless Pathway Belfast Child shared- **Completed and on today's Agenda**
- Section 7- 3 year action plan- **on Agenda**

*Ruth Ann will be replacing Avery on the Belfast Outcomes Group- all agreed for Ms Weatherall to write and thank Avery for his contribution over the years and the value he brought to the group in his time involved. Ruth welcomed to the group.

10. Chairpersons Business

Actions short of strike affecting Children's social services-

Belfast just experienced strike action when they last met. The SE Trust had strike action a few days ago and the next due to strike is the Northern Trust. This is a regional issue- NIPSA and trade unions met with the Department and Trust directors- this is to negotiate and discuss on the supply of SWs, workforce pressures and high caseloads. They are still in negotiations with NIPSA on the constraints of action short of strike. Updates will be shared as happen.

From Covid there has been a growing shortage of SWs and the Department are trying to recruit and retain SWs in FCC. Work on this continues- the department have established a number of work streams looking at Service Reform and Safe Staffing and they hope to arrive at outcomes in a timely manner.

Civil unrest occurred in the summer.

Ms Weatherall commended hub leads and chairs in supporting families throughout this; stating that this has been a challenging time for families, particularly migrant

families and unaccompanied minors known to the trust, with some vulnerable young people, having to relocate due to threats.

There has been increased visits to support families and YP and food parcels provided where appropriate. It was reported, that YP are often presenting as frightened, as are families.

Kerrylee highlighted in particular, the tremendous amount of work that has been done, to support, parents, adults and YP from other ethnic backgrounds, across communities in the city.

Children's community Services have been involve in meeting other agencies, community organisations, voluntary and statutory to look at supporting communities affected by the unrest, especially those who live in impacted areas.

A discussion followed in relation to the justice/Policing dimensions of the unrest with contributions from arrange of members who were in attendance. Kerrylee reported on the fact that with YP arrested by police and brought to BHSCT attention there isn't a blanket approach taken.

Many parents have acted appropriately in trying to get their children home and it is important at multi agency level to acknowledge that while there are some examples of parents supporting and encouraging poor behaviour at times, most others haven't and PSNI have indicated to the Trust they are not using a broad brush approach.

It was reported that the Children's Commissioner was keen to continue conversations on these matters and will seek further engagement. It was felt that all agencies at the table were keen to explore any more that can be done, collectively to support YP and families.

Action- *community leads to meet and discuss strategies surrounding racial tensions in community*

Ray Jones Review and reform board- from they last met Ray Jones has met with the minister, around 1 month ago. The minister has been briefed on the consultation and accepted recommendations for consultation and this will be published and based on funding available- 34 recommendations have been accepted to date.

Proposals relating to the establishment of an Arm's Length Body - The minister wrote to both the education and justice minister and the feedback provided was that there are positive indications from the Justice Minister. The education minister needs more time to look at these matters. As issues impacting children's services, health and social care and education are quite interlinked.

Professor Jones has apparently indicated an intent to write to the NI executive to seek resolution on cross cutting issues. They want specific funding streams for family support across the department.

There was discussion on this point with Outcomes Group members indicating they felt there was an urgent need to supporting families more holistically through the development of a more coherent family support approach. There is a big piece of work being undertaken, scoping where current funding is aligned.

The minister is expected to make an announcement soon, it had been expected in September, though no target date has been given by the Reform Board Chair.

11. Update Re Workstream Activity for Children's Services Reform Board

Work Stream One – Front door and waiting lists

Work Stream 9 - Family Support

The chair reported on the establishment of a cross agency senior leadership group within the Cities Community Planning structures. There is a specific group looking at children and YP and the Seamless Pathway work is a core part of this. Ms Weatherall reported meet with Chris Marsh from this group to explore education coming on board with the Seamless Pathway. The 1st restructuring of the board meeting will be 21st September and they will have some information to report at the next meeting.

Ms Weatherall proposed at the next meeting looking at specific board work streams to give clear purpose- they will have a conference in November and this could be preparation beforehand so people are aware of what each work stream entails- this is a fluid situation.

There is a network stream developed in family support. This is looking at family support and early intervention and what is required, this is on the back of Ray Jones and exploring funding. They don't have the full information at this stage as this has only emerged- 2 chairs of the work stream had a sub group meeting with members as this went out for expression of interest and was circulated around the outcomes group for the voluntary sector recruitment process.

Mr Largey noted work stream 9 is family support and Tracey has a seat on this.

Ms Weatherall noted Michelle Janes from Barnardo's is head of work stream 6- Reset and Rebalance looking at arriving at more stable funding streams for the Community and Voluntary sectors. It was noted that this has only emerged and if they can get terms of reference they could share at the next meeting.

In response to a query in relation to the procurement implications of any such approach and how it might impact upon current activity within BAOG Mr Largey

noted people in Belfast who are doing current and piloting type work with the Trust wouldn't be impacted for a few years.

2 Sub-groups within the work stream 9 –one for early help and one dealing with the funding landscape around hubs.

Mr Murray noted terms of reference for work stream 9 had been recently agreed. Ms Gibson agreed this was agreed a while ago and she felt this would have went to the reform board. There are 2 streams looking at an audit of early intervention services and explore what is out there and get a sense of what happens before Gateway and Maxine is the co-chair.

Another task and finish group is looking at early help models and are gathering data and looking at data and information from various national/international landscapes for family support and there is the expectation they feedback progress in October. Maxine indicated that she feels after there will be more objectives set from the information gathered. These are wide ranging pieces of work at this stage with lots of fact finding.

Ms Weatherall agreed and noted these work streams will not deliver at a rapid pace and people are having to do a lot of data and evidence gathering, they need a base line for these work streams and need evidence to inform next steps. Members were assured that things won't happen that they won't know about. Any this will happen in a staged evidence based way and they will share information as it comes.

Mr Largey noted there across the Reform Board as a whole there are 3 'strap lines', 9 work streams and up to 3 task and finish groups per workstream. This is a large enterprise and is about establishing the workforce, reset for family support and ensuring sufficient supply of service to meet the needs of children in care- within these 3 broad headings there is a large agenda.

Action- *for the next meeting- further information on some of the work streams, those of particular reference; they will hear from Mr Largey and Mr Murray and their sub groups.*

12. Activity Update - Locality Planning Groups Update - Family Support Hubs

. There are 2 sets of report cards- Regional and a Belfast Level report. Both are substantial documents.

Hubs continue to provide services in areas of high demand. .

Belfast accounts for under 20% of the child population in Northern Ireland, though is in the high 30s percentage wise for regional activity. This is due to the profile of hubs, community services and their accessibility, combined with the level of deprivation and need in Belfast.

Ms Milligan noted over 1400 families were supported with vouchers for food, winter fuel allowances and bedding from hubs and there was a knock on of additional support sought for families. The hubs are a central part of low level responses.

Other pressures were around children with additional needs- these will be reflected in the action plan piece, if families have a child with additional needs, the requirements often expand. Many families have repeat referrals, which are 'hidden' in figures who, although they are doing reasonably well, seek support repeatedly due to the evolving needs of their child.

Belfast minority families- page 4 They have low levels of interpreters required, though this doesn't reflect the need as presented by Hubs. There is a pilot to assess the need in hubs, and leads will have the ability to access translation devices to assist with sign posting.

Mr Murray agreed this approach is being piloted and there are a range of issues, with data protection and they aren't there to replace interpreters, though to help in emergency situations.

Mr Murray noted that it appears that unofficially, the home office have a welfare service going out initially to people who have been dispersed for accommodation and have meetings with them. This will be the initial support only though and after a period of time and settlement they will look to people to access FS hubs. This could increase demand in the future- Mr Largey agreed and noted hub leads are reporting an increase in such contacts.

Ms Milligan agreed and noted the hubs are saying they are inundated with referrals for help. One key metric is if an interpreter is required- if people self-refer or are community referred they cannot access interpreters- a HV can refer with these details and they can source this. Though, the vast majority of hubs are working outside of them, and they can't reach interpreting services- the figures don't reflect the reality of the demand.

Hubs are looking up information on Google for translating support, they are seeking creative ways to plug the gap to avoid turning the families away. For hub leads they are looking at equality to try give the same level of service. When families go to service providers, staff are creative in their approach.

Members noted that this and other activity are recorded across 2 forms and this is a lot of data collection-they collect for the trust and the regional reporting and asked if they can look to merge this to reduce the number crunching- this is taking staff's time away from supporting families.

Mr Largey noted the trust have a monthly requirement and CYPSP run quarterly reports. They have the trust contracts which was designed to capture all the trust commissioned activity.

Ms Verner noted family hubs have a vast amount of referrals and they want to be full facing with families, though the admin is taking their time away from this and they are losing data in the middle of collecting information in 2 reports separately.

Mr Largey agreed and noted the hub will rarely send a family away and although some of the reporting on the need of the child is missed, they try to offer every family a service, though it may not be the service requested to directly meet the need of the child. An example of this is with a mother with a child with challenging behaviours/needs, staff may not have provision to meet the needs of the child though may offer some minding of the child to help the mum out for short breaks; though this doesn't show as a child with an unmet need who is not getting a service.

Ms Watters agreed and it was noted by Maxine that Bronwyn is trying to explore this, they have managed to combine the western returns and regional returns.

Ms Waters feels they have made headway across the other trust areas and need to explore the Belfast Trust. Ms Weatherall agreed they want to collect data for purpose and reduce bureaucracy.

Action- *Mr Largey to link with Bronwyn and contracts to explore amalgamating reporting.*

Ms Watters noted in the meeting with hub leads they discussed referral forms and could explore this. Mr Largey agreed the contracting frameworks can vary with the trust and Belfast have a history of being proactive across all areas, though they can go back and there have been changes in personnel and that hub leads could tie in to explore this in a structured way.

Mr Largey noted regarding that based on both report cards the other thing which remains the same is referral sources. Around 40% of all referrals are self-referrals, nearly twice as much as elsewhere. Gateway encourage people to hubs and only send referrals if there are issues with service pick up.

Families will do this and make connections themselves, there levels of self-referral are substantially higher- firstly there are better community networks to filter in and secondly, the HV and Gateway team will encourage self-referral rather than send forms in. If they are genuinely wanting help, social services don't need to make referrals and families will be happy to contact themselves.

Mr Murray noted there are system with other trusts which almost require a referral to be done first.

Ms Weatherall noted 40% is substantial for parents actively seeking help; and agreed the Belfast Trust are encouraging self-exploration and self-referral.

Ms Gibson agreed people don't see hubs as social services and are happy to contact the hubs which appear stigma free.

The GP levels of referral are going up, but they have been impacted with the MDT roll out- Northern Trust are the next area for this and this encourages more contact with hubs.

AOI- Belfast report card or regional

Ms Gibson noted Bronwyn reflected there is huge drop in the number of children referred on the whole region- down by almost half. She feels this is potentially correlating to an increase in financial support referrals which are up from 7 to 8%- with requests including counselling for YP.

There are rises in the % of YP with disabilities referrals.

The biggest unmet need is counselling and this was in the top ten reasons for referral, this is stats for this year from April last year to March this year (Annual review).

Ms Weatherall confirmed there has been an almost 50% drop across regions, except Belfast which has increased.

Ms Gibson noted the families seeking financial support too, though the number of children with additional needs has gone down.

Mr Largey agreed there is a stable cohort who repeatedly present, and is stable and wouldn't increase, though correlates.

There are a rising number of children and families seeking financial help, due to how people count things. The levels hubs have hit from families in distress is huge. This could also be the model they feel comfortable to refer themselves.

Ms Weatherall agreed the work is invaluable and they need to build on this, they need to get their head around the regional decline and explore why Belfast is still up and look to the data analysis.

Ms Walsh noted they have a lot of word of mouth too, if someone gets a voucher they will share this. In other areas information may not be as wide spread. When they go to city council volunteers they are reporting their phones are non-stop. It was noted that leads in Belfast are good in looking at families and members commented that vouchers can be a Gateway for showing people reaching for support is ok.

The family could initially make contact for financial aid and then realise they can get support for other issues and link in again.

Ms Weatherall agreed presenting issues are often never the issues families need help with. This brings a lot more work to the hubs, though this is invaluable support.

13.AOG Action Plan 2024-27 –

Education was a cross cutting theme, in the proposed plan with early intervention for children with additional needs, people saw this as a link to education, the CYPSP framework also highlighted children impacted upon by restricted timetables and a more general perceived lack of support services.

Ms Milligan noted on vaping or drugs misuse they feel they should support with any campaigns- how to liaise with statutory initiatives to add value to core activity rather than do things with crossing over.

Ms Walsh raised ROI are banning disposable vapes which YP are buying.

The PHA fund cancer focus and they could be good to link in with on the vaping concerns.

There appeared an appetite to look at things Belfast wide, though also look at areas with these issues and differences with youth justice indicating they are involved in considerable amounts of activity in this regard.

Partnership of agencies Looking at good practices going on and building on this, towards common purpose activity as opposed to starting over- examples such as the hub network and some neighbourhood renewal activity where referenced which appear to have good models which can be lifted and scaled.

Mental health and Emotional Well Being—

Mental Health strategy there was a plan to have mental health teams in the community sector- Mr Largey agreed these don't exist yet, though it is planned for. The primary school model is being rolled out, the infant mental health partnership has been in existence for a considerable time and delivery on those aspects of the emotional wellbeing strategy to develop community links and networks is beginning.

Mr Murray noted there is flare up in the delivery of the mental health strategy and there is a perceived need to formulate an action plan. Mr Murray noted they have been asked to link in and bolster this roll out. This is driven mostly by health, Ciaran Eastwood sits on SE trust and asked that each trust has a lead to help roll this into the community.

The emotional wellbeing strategy has also been issued in education, they plan to have a joint approach. The emotional wellbeing approach here is defined is a stage 2 CAMHS service and CAMHS are aligned. It is not the same as primary school. The target group here are more neuro-diverse children. CAMHS have a developed model and are willing to help. Links at these early stages with the hub are described as strong. Although, they aren't there in the same way with the mental health teams or post primary services.

The PHA are leading on the mental health strategy and the piece that will most impact their world are recommendations 1 and 2 early intervention and mental health. Their implementation plan has a range of multiagency sub groups, the partnership are already involved in early intervention and want to link in. Though, in the interim mental health strategy is linked with the PHA.

Maxine updated the meeting that In the Northern outcomes group they looked at infant mental health and feels there is suggestion this may sit under the remit of the outcomes groups, although this may need to be further explored.

The primary school age is health driven and easier to align with what they are doing in education.

Vaping-

Mr Davey noted he mentioned before in terms of justice's point of view children as young as 10yrs old are in possession of vapes/THC and have been referred in on justice schemes and they have been delivered a one-off session. As of last week police have extended criminal offences under the CRN scheme, if children are suspected to be in possession of THC a CRN (fixed penalty notice) will be administered for that offence.

This is a big issue and YJ reported that their hands are tied as THC use is a criminal offence. This is class B drug. It is difficult to detect as there is no smell and PSNI k9 dogs can't detect this. It was reported that it is unusual behaviours by YP that brings this to police attention. YJA often get calls from schools regarding YP under the influence of this. . They want an educational approach to make YP aware of dangers of substance misuse and the impact to their future and mental and emotional health and are trying to engage YP through their schools programme. The PHA are rolling this and they are linking with schools and YP.

Mr Largey noted Locality Planning Groups and hub members are taking feedback and looking at supports for YP and families impacted by vaping. They are not a justice agency and can only look at drugs and alcohol support services and doing sessions. Youth workers are saying it is hard to keep up with trends and they are constantly trying to update focused interventions- Families are seeking support with YP with drugs or vaping issues with a minimally intrusive approach.

If people are picked up with THC in a vape they will receive a CRN, if they have a low level penalty notice YJ/PSNI are looking if there is need for an educational support role. Though, the outcomes group don't have a role in shaping the face of this. If the family are present they need to be linking more with Mr Davey and the YJA as this is an offence.

Ethnic minority families- translation, hubs link, sign posting, inclusion and barriers.

Suggestions- already commitment in the agenda- 'Belfast is a welcoming city' to families.

A lot of good activities relate to the civil unrest. In the South and West they convened round tables to explore practical support for families. Rather than related to a one off for trouble, they aim to facilitate this in a more structured way with locality planning.

They discussed simple things such as having strap lines in email signatures 'Belfast is a welcoming city' to build on this.

They are having issues in some areas there are pressures on local services- such in some areas if they were to run a Sure Start 2yr programme and doing allocation in a balance of need, this will cause issues in a particular area.

Funding is also limited in terms of promoting more inclusive approaches.

Children with Additional Needs-

Speciality support and changing criteria. There are large levels of differing need under this heading that Outcomes can make only a limited contribution to addressing.

Suggestion- Defining what the agenda is and how the outcomes group can support. They can look to where to lend support. Develop evidence of need- under reporting /if unmet need.

Data required to narrow focus on the need.

Affordable childcare- the department for the economy released large scale funds, though if this is not done with focus to the quality of child care on offer, this could become a barrier to inclusion. They have a trend to report a range of childcare provision and they want to maintain a high quality child care.

Poverty-

This exists all the time and a number of members confirmed large numbers of families presenting as under considerable pressure. Outcomes and Locality planning have done a lot of work on this hubs are a centre piece of tackling poverty and sourcing support in Belfast. There is continuing work to build this out, including a welcome for education related work on money management.

Education:

Key things emerging from hubs and CYPSP school were avoidance, transitions and SLT.

Actions to progress plan

Power point to be shared.

Convene sub-group with 4 locality planning chairs to see if people can pitch broadly an action plan and narrow format.

Draft action plan to be cleared in next few weeks.

Ms Verner noted a lot of work has went into this and they wouldn't disagree, though feels there needs to be room for plan to be fluid in response to shifting needs.

For example MS Verner referenced that locally over 50 YP were identified to be involved in racist behaviour and from speaking with a police officer she was told all these YP come from homes with previous PSNI DV responses. Although still at an early investigations, she felt that PSNI are reluctant to go down criminal route, as the language used is around early support. AMS Verner felt that most of the issues already discussed go back to what Ray Jones, stated, which is the importance of is not looking at one issue in a linear way and that agencies need to look at where these children are coming from and what will develop if families are left unsupported.

Violence Women and girls DV- There has been a high level of public interest in this issue regionally. With a broad welcome from Outcomes Group members on any practical activity that could be added to a plan.

In Belfast trends often emerge first here. Kerrylee and other members highlighted the linkages above for example children coming from homes with DV , members felt it would be worth exploring the police data against what the trust has to explore how to respond more effectively.

Mr Murray noted when there is one action, there are a range of connections, such as asylum seeking minors a having a multi-agency forum and sharing information on where they are going. They are hearing there are strains of services on communities and this is preventing people seeking this support.

Even with heat maps, police are saying they know areas with a surge of DV and anti-social behaviour and a lot of asylum seeking families' have been moved to these areas and it's how this all joins up.

Maxine Gibson provided an update re regional CYPSP activity

One of the things agreed yesterday at the regional CYSP meeting were actions linked to pause and reset workshop last October. There was a set of actions to take forward. The recommendations from this will be amalgamated into a regional plan, that CYPSP will come together annually to review if plans need managed, or is they are missing something by way of response. This will be a whole day workshop with partners. They want to cut the number of formal partnership meetings and bring other agencies in.

Outcomes groups can be trust focused and they want to ensure agencies are equal partners. They will change CYPSP meetings in the year and this may help address specific issues.

The Seamless pathway is linked to this approach. Though, nothing being discussed as a priority for Belfast in the plan sticks out as something that can't be taken forward and measured on annual basis too. There may be things which relate to Belfast and which are not regional.

Ms Weatherall agreed there may be activities they bring in throughout the process; such as DV being an important feature and they should cater to this. Ms Verner agreed, and noted she is interested in the lives of children and YP; though, when she hears something is significantly impacting their lives, this needs named somewhere.

The police taking a child home is potentially an inroad for a parent to say they are struggling with their child's behaviour and asking if they can help. This could possibly give an inroad for the person to mention the DV they need help with too.

Ms Weatherall asked if the YJA were looking at early preventative work with the YP involved in the civil unrest and agreed they need other groups to feed in. They know some children were there by mistake, though others were with parents encouraging poor behaviour and these are the families they need in with.

Ms Walsh noted she feels they need to prioritise the main issue here, people are traumatised, there could also be alcohol abuse, the list is never ending- though people are scared to leave West Belfast and go into the town. She reported many families from other ethnic backgrounds are afraid. Ms Walsh noted this isn't the responsibility of the community sector to deal with on its own, there are core agencies and they can only support to a point.

They have to be realistic of what they can achieve, some of these families are traumatised for a long period of time.

Mr Largey noted some council staff have linked via BHSC Early Intervention Support Team and the hubs to explore what education they could explore in this regard and they have given a commitment to have more interagency working in this regard.

Mr Redpath noted there is a new show in town with the 'Raise programme.' They want to give a 'whole community approach' to all parts of Belfast and are having this programme roll out. This is a way of landing some of the Fair Start agenda and its priorities into community and locality planning group- chairs could look at this. In various parts of Belfast identified a lot of areas these problems exist, partnerships will be formed around families and YP.

There is significant funding for this and this could be a way of landing this. The danger of Raise, like anything, is its principles are good, though this is moving from

design to implementation and this may be different. They could get smash and grabbed from a range of agencies this could come from schools. Though this is a whole child, school and community approach. They can't take this agenda into these groups and the locality planning groups could be one mechanism to bring this to the table when these are formed- North, South, East, West and Belfast. This could go a miss, though it's about to be live.

Ms Walsh noted she spoke with children in need and they are advocating for this and pulling their work. She was shocked as she can't imagine there will be billions of pounds funding for this. Ms Weatherall noted this is across NI and they haven't another group up and running yet; she feels there is 20 million pounds, though agreed this could be good opportunity at a local planning level to try explore this wrapping around this action plan.

They are keen to link with existing local planning.

Clare Humphries has been appointed as coordinator for the project and will contact Ms Milligan about this.

Action- locality planners have meeting with Raise.

Action- Work to progress Action Plan

14. Seamless Pathway Activity- Update

Design group meeting by end of the month. Sub group was locked down, though they are keen for broader group feedback with this document.

There will be another design sub group meeting to review comments and get the finished document with next steps and review what done to date with milestones for next year's activities, which will be building plans for what they plan to do.

Mr Largey noted they have enough people for the sub group at the moment, and if under represented from any group they will ask for volunteers from that area.

They are nearly there with the Seem Less Pathway overall design. After the design sub group the next stage in the plan is for a finalised blue print to feed in for community planning structures and the senior leadership group to sign off on.

They have the baby piece and toddler piece and are keen to work with Miriam McKinney for the key stage 1 in school piece, and this will take to end of the year with the action plan to go along. Ms Weatherall noted this work begins when the blue print signed off.

Locality planning group update.

Financial support raise today- it is unusual this was raised at this time as is usually later in the year- this was school uniform support and appeared to be a reflection of the continuing pressures many families are reporting.

Recent achievements- BCC hardship fund supported 1140 families and 1187 families' benefited from winter food support.

Upcoming events include training around DV sessions and parenting sessions.

Child in need advocacy committee- Charlene presented to support newcomer families and the BHSC HV team.

Audit activity on the anti-poverty activity including the hardship fund which was used for food vouchers.

Ms Weatherall noted that the inter agency links established through this work were hugely beneficial for families and that the work involved in delivering the Hardship fund and food supports has been phenomenal within the 4 month period and commended all involved on this work.

15. Any Other Business:

- The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 November 2024 2-4 pm at LORAG's premises
Shaftesbury Community and Recreation Centre,
97 Balfour Avenue,
Belfast BT7 2EW