

Northern Area Outcomes Group Meeting – 14th April 2025 via MS teams

Name	Organisation	Present/Apology
Statutory Sector		
Maura Dargan	HSCT	Apology
Catherine Beatty	HSCT (Disability)	present
Sharon Crawford	HSCT (Disability)	present
Dr Oisin Martin	HSCT (Co-Chair) (Assistant Director CHDEW)	present
Claire Crowe	HSCT (Public Health Nursing)	Apology
Hugh Nelson	HSCT (Planning & Modernisation)	Apology
VACANT	NI Housing Executive	-
Nicola McCall	(MEA) Community Planning/Council	-
Alison Briggs	(A&N) Community Planning/Council	-
Connor Cuning	(CCG) Community Planning/Council	-
Elizabeth Beattie	(CCG) Community Planning/Council	-
Celena O'Neill	(MU) Community Planning/Council	-
Michelle Adams	PSNI	-
Maurice Meehan	Public Health Agency	present
Kate McDermott		-
Grainne Keane	Youth Justice Agency	Apology
Jenny Adair	Childcare Partnership	present
Deirdre Hasson	Education Authority	present
Michelle Gibb	CRUN	-
Voluntary Sector		
Louise Kearney	Action for Children	Apology
Monica McCann	Barnardo's	present
Muriel Bailey	Parenting NI	Present
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI	Apology
Zoe-Kernohan-Neeley	Early Year Organisation	-
Karen Graham	Carrickfergus YMCA	-
Charlene Moleria	BYTES	present
BME Sector		
VACANT		-
VACANT		-
Locality Planning Group Chairs		
	Antrim LPG	-
	Ballymena LPG	-
	Carrickfergus LPG	-
David McAllister	Larne LPG	-
Ursula Marshall	Magherafelt & Cookstown LPG	-
	Causeway LPG	-
	Newtownabbey LPG	-
Locality Planners		
Represented by Kate McDermott		-
In Attendance		
Maxine Gibson	CYPSP (Professional Advisor)	-
Valerie Maxwell	CYPSP (Planning & Information Manager)	present
Bronwyn Campbell	CYPSP (Regional Family Support Hub Co-Ordinator)	present

Julie Scobie	Note Taker	Present
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Agenda item	Discussion
1, 2 & 3	<p>Welcome to Catherine Beatty, HOS CWD within the NHSCT who is replacing Sharon Crawford at this meeting. Apologies noted.</p> <p>Minutes of March meeting agreed as accurate reflection of discussion. Mr Martin to chair today`s meeting on behalf of Maura Dargan who is currently on sick leave.</p>
4	<p>Update in relation to CWD funding</p> <p>Sharon Crawford/Catherine Beatty outlined work to date - Following the well documented Spotlight programme late 2024 the Department of Health announced a significant funding package to support CWD services across the region “The plans involve increasing short breaks capacity and expanding family, therapeutic and behavioural supports in the community.” Given the tight timeframe around this, the Trust moved to extending existing contracts and develop bespoke arrangement with respect to CWD with those contracts in place. Overarching proposal on table focusing on intervention and early support alongside developing capacity within other teams. Active Recruitment drive ongoing with the view to transition in the summer time to look at provision of short breaks, pilot currently running to try and free up space to support short breaks. Recruitment imminent within other areas of the service. Looking to develop potential extra support via mainstream services for families who are struggling, that can be approved through panel. Priority focus around the development of the early help programme, targeted intervention at an early stage. Sharon Crawford reflected on the significant level of expectation and pressure around timescales from the Health Committee, DOH and families, challenging process but very much welcomed. Monica McCann acknowledged the pressure on statutory services to deliver within timescales and dealing with the expectation of families and politicians. The group acknowledged Sharon Crawford’s work over the years in this field.</p>
5	<p>NAOG action plan 24/27 - Task & Finish groups membership – V Maxwell:</p> <p>1) Improve early intervention for Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing needs of children and families including school disruption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.4.25 positive meeting, Valerie Maxwell to meet with Sabrina Lynn to look at project currently in place in CC&G council area with a view to progressing. Sabina Lynn has made contact with MDT Causeway area to discuss further. Valerie Maxwell has met with Council reps to ensure no duplication with community planning, Antrim and Newtownabbey keen to include key areas in their plan in NOG plan, councils happy to lead on those. Due to meet with locality planning officers over the next week to share merchandise than can be used at upcoming autism café running over the next few weeks, Valerie Maxwell to share dates with J Scobie to share with the group. <p>2) Improve Early Help/access to support for CWD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work ongoing by smaller group, paper to be finalised for sign off by larger group and launch. Good progress to date with considerable work taken forward. Met with parents to look at draft paper, positive feedback and advice from parents re what works and what does not, noted invaluable input from CLDTS. Valerie Maxwell to convene large group meeting to table updated paper. Sharon Crawford expressed

	<p>her thanks for the support from those involved. The Early Help family support group hasn't met to date, Valerie Maxwell to review representation and try to get a meeting established, however given demand on schedules and in an effort to utilise peoples time the best way possible this piece of work may feed into a pre-existing group to take forward.</p> <p>3) Poverty/cost of living:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valerie Maxwell met with Mid Ulster and Antrim/Newtownabbey councils to discuss adding value to each other's work (community planning and CYPSP) to ensure key areas of work are aligned. Councils to lead on poverty piece, currently looking at this and how they will feed back into this group. Progress to date will be captured in plan and will be shared routinely. Elizabeth Craig SW lead MDT agreed to join meeting on a regularly basis. Valerie Maxwell meeting EA reps to identify rep for task and finish group to ensure collaborative working with EA
6	<p>CYPSP update – ValerieMaxwell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further update - plan had been circulated across the network for consultation which has now closed, feedback being reviewed and plan will be finalised and hopefully launch within the next 4/5 weeks. Outcomes monitoring report CYPSP and CINI strategy due to be published in the next few weeks, will be shared with all members, will provide a break down across LPG and Trust geographical areas, will highlight work to date and direction of travel. Will be tabled at Next meeting in June, which is a full day workshop.
7	<p>Update from LPG's:</p> <p>Deferred</p>
8	<p>CSR update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further update from last meeting. Bronwyn Campbell provided brief update re workstream 9 family support. Dr Donna Kernighan has been engaged and as part of the work of the workstream has developed a short survey for completion to help understand the current family support services and gather views on their future direction. Consultation has been issued to all practitioners, hubs and networks, ask out to encourage individuals to complete to ensure voices are heard in the area of early intervention. Dr Kernighan will meet with Bronwyn Campbell to consider data collated by hubs to consider what will be useful, may be associated asks coming out.
9	<p>FS Hubs – Bronwyn Campbell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarter 4 data not available as yet, will include detail about referrals once allocated to various services Voluntary/community and statutory, this will be circulated once available. Deirdre Mahon, chair of work stream 9 attended last week regional collective meeting of regional coordinators to review the model and CYPSP structure. Noted the increase in referrals as a result of poverty coming to the hubs, engaging money matters to look at providing training for hub members to gain an OCN qualification to be able to provide quality assured advice and support to families rather than just continually handing out vouchers. Continuing to work with

	<p>Sarah Fielding and Nora Sullivan from Co-Operation Ireland re: “Our Generation Project”, self-compassion resources shared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing lives initiative, Northern hub involved in ongoing conversation. • CiNI formally launched 'School Anxiety and Distress: A Best Practice Guide for Schools' to support the sharing of resources, tools and best practices across our education system, good resource for families/professionals, to be shared.
10	<p>Any other business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muriel Bailey parenting focus – raised substantial issue in the Antrim locality – families not being able to use foodbanks due to paramilitary pressure, PSNI have been made aware. May be control aspect. • Jenny Adair, Childcare partnership – awaiting confirmation re 25/26 budget, will still require uplift similar to last financial year given ongoing financial pressure. Recruitment remains challenging. Working with DOH re Childcare strategy, draft hopefully available June. • Charlene Moleiro - BYTE – moving into summer period Drugs/Alcohol and poverty remain significant issue for young people. Service continues to provide safe places and access to essential resources, awareness raising programme ongoing. • Monica McCann, Barnardos - recruitment remains an ongoing issue alongside poverty, family support, access to mental health services and internet exploitation of children. • Deirdre Hasson, Education Authority – work ongoing re Special needs provision for September, working on development of specialist units in mainstream school to ensure adequate places. Also experiencing paramilitary pressure/ influencing in Causeway Coast and Glens Council area. Highlighted confirmation of funding to support extension of Rise into keystone 2. Oisín Martin noted that confirmation may have come too late, given staff have returned to their substantive posts, further information to follow. Essential moving forward that Health and Education work collaboratively given ongoing themes/trends. • Maurice Meehan, PHA – With regards to the issue raised re Paramilitary pressure by Muriel Bailey and Deirdre Hasson, Maurice Meehan advised that the DOH have a senior community safety network, may be useful to table there to see if there is a systemic level response. Bronwyn Campbell happy to follow up as no mention made a last meeting of the network. To link with Muriel Bailey and Deirdre Hasson. • Changing lives Initiative programme – Approach made to Maurice Meehan by David Simpson, regional manager re potential of identifying office space in the Ballymena area for a small team to develop network and communication pathway in the Northern area with a view to support ongoing conversation with DOH/SPPG re consistent regional strategic pathway. The Initiative delivers an Early Intervention Neurodevelopmental Support Programme directed at the parents/carers of children who present with neurodevelopmental conditions – with a particular focus on Autism and ADHD-consistent behaviours. Maurice Meehan would welcome any response to this ask. Oisín Martin noted recent discussion with NHSCT ASD service, may be some opportunity to use one of the centres where teams are based, however further discussion required around this ask, welcomed as a positive development for the over 4,000 children and young people on the waiting list for ASD assessment. Maurice Meehan thanked Oisín Martin and asked that if any of the V & C partners would have any capacity in the interim could this be confirmed. Oisín Martin is due

	<p>to leave the Trust, Mrs Nadine Kane will take up the vacated post and lines of communication will be through the Ads office in the first instance, however initially through Maura Dargan`s office during the transition period. Charlene Moleiro noted available space in BYTES accommodation in Dunclug shopping centre that is underutilised during the day and could be used in the interim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maurice Meehan recorded his thanks to Hugh Nelson and team for agreeing continuing support to the Roots of Empathy programme, DE and DOJ keen to look at how to increase infrastructure. • Take 5 support programme in Northern area attracting regional interest, additional funding will be through PHA if up scaled. Useful if Selena Ramsey could provide an overview of the programme at the next meeting to support the scale up/regionalisation of this piece of work.
11	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30th June 2025

Oisín Martin

Dr O Martin
Assistant Director of Child Health, Development and Emotional Well-being