



**Notes of Western Area Outcomes Group**  
**held on 18 December 2024**  
**at 10 am via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:**

Mr Tom Cassidy, Director of Children & Families, Western Trust [Chair]  
Mrs Valerie Maxwell, Children's Services Planning & Information Manager  
Mr Kevin Duffy, Assistant Director [Children's Health & Disability], Western Trust  
Ms Ciara Burke, Programme Manager, Derry & Strabane District Council  
Mrs Margaret Taggart, Acting Directorate Business Manager, Western Trust  
Ms Clare Maguire, Children & Young People's Co-ordinator, Derry City & Strabane District Council  
Ms Catherine Cooke, Reform Change Co-ordinator  
Ms Laura Feeney, Senior Programme Manager, Save the Children  
Mrs Brenda MacQueen, Executive Director, Dry Arch Children's Centres  
Ms Muriel Bailey, Director of Family Support Services, Parenting NI  
Ms Bronwyn Campbell, Regional Family Support Hub Co-ordinator  
Mrs Julie Wilson, Head of Service [Governance Lead for Family & Child Care], Western Trust  
Mrs Priscilla Magee, Locality Planning Co-ordinator  
Ms Pearl Coalter, Strategic Planning & Performance Officer, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council  
Mrs Lisa Storey, Child Development Interventions Co-ordinator, Health Improvement, Equality & Involvement Department  
Ms Rachel Armstrong, Integrated Care Systems Senior Support Manager, Western Trust [attending for Shane Breen]  
Ms Aideen Kelly, Head of Service [Gateway, PPANI, Early Intervention and Moving On and Recovery Team]  
Mrs Monica MacIntyre, Department for Communities  
Ms Alison Wallace, Strategy Manager, Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership  
Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

1	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Ms Donna Downey, Service Manager [Early Intervention]  Ms Helen Sheils, Head of Community Services, Fermanagh &amp; Omagh Council  Mr Paul Sweeney, Locality Planning Co-ordinator  Ms Sheena Pierce, Child Care Partnership Manager  Ms Kerrie Flood, Interim CEO, Fermanagh Women's Aid  Mr Mark Rogers, Programme Manager Children &amp; Family Services, Extern  Ms Deirdre Hasson, Education Authority  Mr Paul Kellagher, Children's Services Manager, Action for Children  Dr Josephine Deehan, Western Local Commissioning Group  Ms Suzanne Mahon, Assistant Director [Family &amp; Child Care]</p>
2	<p><b>Chairman's Remarks</b></p> <p>Tom welcomed members to today's meeting. He said it had been a very busy year, which had been made more difficult due to funding issues. He thanked everyone for their hard work in providing services in one of the most deprived regions. Tom advised of the following membership changes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Paul Kellagher, Children's Services Manager, Action for Children, was leaving to establish his own mountaineering and adventure business. Members wished Paul well in his new endeavour.</li> <li>➤ Sheena Pierce, Child Care Partnership Manager, replacing Mairead McMullen.</li> <li>➤ Pearl Coalter, Strategic Planning &amp; Performance Manager, Fermanagh &amp; Omagh District Council, replacing Kim Weir.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 28 August 2024</b></p> <p>Tom apologised that the meeting scheduled for 30 October 2024 had to be cancelled. Members approved notes of 28 August 2024.</p>
4	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>No new issues.</p>
5	<p><b>Agree Funding in Relation to the WAOG Children &amp; Young People's Action Plan 2024-27</b></p> <p>Valerie advised of a remaining WAOG funding balance of £60,118 which had to be spent before the end of the financial year. She said Donna had put forward a proposal regarding unmet need in relation to parenting support [in particular, one-to-one support]. Document shared with members during meeting.</p> <p>Kevin said the Western Area Outcomes Group was in a different position for the first time ever, as funding could now be allocated for a three year period commencing 2025/26. He said relevant workshops had taken place, data and needs assessments were available, and strategic priorities were aligned with regional priorities. He said the extended contract period would make a sustainable difference to groups.</p>

	<p>Tom said he wished to be fair to everyone and said funding would be allocated in an open and transparent process. Following lengthy discussion, the following way forward was agreed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Task &amp; Finish Group, being aware of any potential conflict of interest, to meet to agree a spending plan for the remaining balance of £60,118 for 2024/25, and to agree a proposal on how best to allocate money for a three year period from April 2025 in relation to identified priority areas.</li> <li>➤ Following members agreed to join T&amp;FG - Valerie, Bronwyn, Alison, Donna, Margaret, Priscilla, Paul, Ciara, Pearl, and Jonnie McDevitt from the Trust.</li> <li>➤ Valerie agreed to Chair T&amp;FG.</li> <li>➤ T&amp;FG members agreed to meet online on 10 January 2025 at 10 am.</li> <li>➤ Representative from WHSCT Contract's Department to be invited to join the group - Margaret to action.</li> <li>➤ Task &amp; Finish Group to be provided with a list of groups with SLA's.</li> <li>➤ T&amp;FG to give consideration to areas devoid of services and areas with service gaps, and determine whether funding in these areas this would have be a bigger impact instead of diluting the remaining allocation amongst a number of groups.</li> <li>➤ T&amp;FG to give consideration to the extension of funding for Autism.</li> <li>➤ Elaine to send email to members who were unable to attend today's meeting to see if other members wished to join T&amp;FG.</li> <li>➤ T&amp;FG to email Tom with their decisions. Tom to share with all members.</li> <li>➤ Tom and members of WAOG agreed to endorse decisions of T&amp;FG.</li> </ul>
6	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Valerie reported that two Task and Finish Groups had met and both had positive actions on the new plan moving forward.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Valerie to share notes of these meetings. Additional members willing to participate in the Task &amp; Finish Groups to let Valerie know.</li> </ul> <p><u>UNICEF</u></p> <p>Ciara advised that an amber rag rating had been achieved at the last UNICEF progress review. She said work was ongoing in relation to how evidence was presented to UNICEF, and the lead organisation were in discussions with other partners.</p> <p><u>Autism Funding</u></p> <p>Priscilla enquired if Autism funding would continue on in the new three year funding cycle. Tom said this would be for the T&amp;FG to discuss and decide on.</p> <p>Tom thanked everyone for contributing to today's discussion. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.</p>
7	<p><b>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>26 February 2025 at 10 am via MT.</p>

