

Southern Area Outcomes Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Tues 24 June 2025 at 2:30 pm
Via Zoom

Agency/Sector	Statutory	Present	Apology
HSCT (Chair)	Colm McCafferty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (Family Support; Hub Lead; Safeguarding)	Leanne Spratt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
HSCT (Disability)	Elaine Mooney		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HSCT (Public Health)	Gerard Rocks (Promoting Wellbeing)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HSCT (CAMHS)	Denise Carroll		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HSCT (CYP – Health Improvement Specialist)	Jacqueline Masterson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Education Authority	Kieran Shields	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Sarah Muldoon Aileen O’Callaghan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NI Housing Executive	Michelle Hazlett		
Community Planning/Council	Patricia Gibson (PCSP)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gary Scott (ABC/NMDDC) Alison Beattie (ABC) Allison Clenaghan (ABC) Celine O’Neill (MU) Alan Beggs (NMD)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
PSNI	Karen Ross Aine Campbell		
Public Health Agency	Collette Rogers Kelly McCartney Laura Taylor Danny Sinclair Dr Amanda McCullough Orlaith Moley Lucille Lennon		
Parenting Coordinator	Martina McCooey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Youth Justice Agency	Michael Heaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Childcare Partnership	Kevin Duggan		
LCG Link	VACANT		
Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership	Gary Scott Safeguarding Co-ordinator, ABC & NMD Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other Partnerships	Martina McAloon, GP Federation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Voluntary Sector			
Early Years Organisation	Meabh Poacher		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MENCAP	Mikhaila Woods		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barnardo's	Paul Millar Pat McGeough Gillian McKeown (Chair of Disability Task Group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NIACRO	Ciara Corrigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Clanrye Group	Dara O'Hagan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bolster	Jacinta Linden (Also LPG chair)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HSCT (Inequalities & Inclusion)	Robbie McCague (Chair of Ethnic Minority Group)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BME Sector			
Craigavon Intercultural Programme	Stephen Smith		
Locality Planning Group Chairs			
Craigavon LPG	Deborah Millar (Home-Start Craigavon)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Armagh LPG	Michael McKenna (Youth Action)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Armagh LPG	Annie Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Newry LPG	Jacinta Linden (Bolster)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Banbridge LPG	Lucinda Love-Teggarty		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dungannon LPG	Loraine Griffin (COSTA)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
In Attendance			
Locality Planning Officer	Darren Curtis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Planning & Information Support	Valerie Maxwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
CYPSP	Una Casey Louise Dickson		
Administrator for Outcomes Group	Ruth Alexander	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Family Support Hub Co-ordinator	Bronwyn Campbell		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Child Protection Nurse Specialist	Isobel McNamee Nesbitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. Introductions & Apologies

Colm welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (08.04.25) and Matters Arising

Minutes were agreed as accurate reflection of last meeting.

3. Family Support Hubs (FSHs) Update

Bronwyn met with FSH Leads yesterday. Valerie reported on a new initiative to collect information on unmet needs through FSHs, on an agreed template and this will be used to inform future planning and action plans. Valerie and Darren have met with Alison Clenaghan and Nicola Mahood from ABC Council, to share information and look at how to collectively meet unmet needs.

Colm referenced the very successful pilot run by the Armagh & Dungannon FSH some years ago, where a support worker was placed specifically for CWD. Unfortunately lack of funding did not permit this to continue. Funding has now been made available and ring fenced for a CWD Support Worker in each of the 3 Hubs. Colm said it would be useful to get a brief synopsis from Elaine Mooney on the referral pathway to help colleagues understand the role and remit of these workers.

Leanne highlighted the effectiveness of the Southern Trust Hubs and their proactive approach to addressing community needs

4. Locality Planning Groups (LPGs) Update

LPG Report has been circulated. Darren presented updates on locality planning group activities, including a successful community networking event and ongoing efforts to address issues such as loneliness and online safety among children and young people. The group discussed the need to prioritize support for children with disabilities and sensory impairments, with plans to enhance services in this area.

Darren shared the link for “Service Resource for the Armagh Area” –

https://cypsp.hscni.net/wpfd_file/feel-good-armagh-services-resource-2025-live-version/

A copy of this can be located on the CYPSP website, and paper versions are also available.

In September Darren advised they plan to meet with each of the groups to review action plans, taking into account emerging needs raised, and look at with the SAOG Action Plan and also take into consideration CYPSP priorities.

In relation to activities for children with disabilities over the summer months, Colm advised Darren to link in with Mark Irwin from the CWD Team.

5. Partner Updates – Issues/Challenges/Opportunities

Additional investments were announced last autumn following the Spotlight programme highlighting the challenges being faced by many families relating to children with disabilities. Colm provided updates on the expansion of services in the Southern Trust, including increased short breaks fostering provision and having dedicated workers in each of the FSHs. He noted that while fostering capacity is challenging to increase, the Trust is committed to expanding it over the next 8-12 months. This is being promoted on social media, and Colm asked that partners promote and share.

Colm highlighted ongoing challenges in children's social work, including staff shortages and potential strikes, but expressed optimism about improvements in the autumn with the addition of newly qualified social workers joining the service.

Martina mentioned the development of new parenting programs starting in September, which will be promoted through various channels. Martina will send information through to Ruth for circulating to the group, and any queries, give her a call.

The group discussed several positive developments, including the success of the Roots of Empathy celebration event and the recent award for Mellow Parenting, both of which highlighted effective early intervention and collaboration between health, education, and parents.

Alison Clenaghan shared news about the Peace Plus Program 1.1 Council Local Action Plan, which received a letter of offer for £5.5 million in funding over four years, with £2.5 million allocated for community-focused revenue programs. The group agreed to set aside time at the next meeting for a more detailed presentation on the program. Alison mentioned that Claire Weir (Council's Access & Inclusion Officer) could provide additional support for summer provision. Darren will link in with Claire.
ACTION: Alison will provide a more detailed overview of the Peace Plus programme at the next meeting (15 mins)

Michael provided feedback from the CYPSP Regional Offending Subgroup, and highlighted issues in relation to an overrepresentation of children from minority ethnic backgrounds and residential care in the criminal justice system. Michael presented findings from a research study on ethnic minority children in the justice system, highlighting the need for better data collection, awareness raising, staff training, and better communication. Michael advised they were able to give people the opportunity to look at the translation hub and some of the translation devices Robbie had talked about. Colm emphasized the importance of early intervention and prevention for children in residential care.

Kieran updated colleagues on the recent incidents of racism and intimidation affecting Roma families and migrant workers in Ballymena, and their subsequent displacement to other areas, raising concerns about their integration and access to services. Kieran advised they were a small team, but will be trying to support as many families as possible.

Aileen provided an update on youth work services' planning cycle and their focus on creating safe spaces for newcomer youth, while also addressing emerging unmet needs in their local Assessment of Needs Publication.

Colm reminded members if they want information shared with the group, or any items placed on the Agenda for discussion forward to Ruth.

6. Refugee Resettlement and Contingency Accommodation Proposals for Asylum Seekers (for information)

Robbie highlighted the relocation of a number of asylum seekers due to safety concerns, emphasizing the need to counter misinformation and address local tensions.

7. Updates from Task Groups

Emotional Health & Wellbeing – Jacqueline Masterson

In Jacqueline's absence, Valerie provided a comprehensive update on the Emotional Health & Well-Being task group's activities, including:-

- the youth wellness web;
- scoping exercise of organisations supporting young people, which has been shared with EHWP network members and schools;
- review of language used in terms of MHEW in young people;
- the Parent Participation Team Children NI (commissioned by CYPSP) Conference held on school avoidance (25 March);
- The network together with Parent Participation Team are working to bring together a SHSCT parents participation and support group;
- Pilot program in respect of filling the gap for young people aged 13-16, that are hard to reach and isolated.

The group discussed collaboration with various stakeholders, including NMD Council, to enhance service delivery and avoid duplication.

Ethnic Minority – Robbie McCague

Robbie presented updates on recent community initiatives, including a successful intercultural cricket program and a project engaging Irish travellers through music. He highlighted the continuation of Community Support Hubs until July 8th, providing a safe space for minority communities. Robbie also discussed the increasing number of protests and the need for awareness and safety precautions, emphasizing the importance of sharing information about planned demonstrations. Colm stressed the need to support vulnerable families and individuals in the face of intimidation and racism.

The group discussed challenges around misinformation and cultural competency, particularly regarding asylum seekers and refugees. Robbie reported on an internal cultural competency training program for HSC staff, which will soon be expanded to other organizations through an e-learning platform. It was agreed to schedule a standalone agenda item at a future meeting to share and develop cultural competency resources. Robbie agreed to share their "Little Book of Cultural Competence" with partners. Alison noted that while the Council's Good Relations Program is currently limited due to a judicial review, there are plans for cultural competency training for teachers and youth professionals in Lurgan, Brownlow and Portadown.

ACTIONS:-

- Cultural Competency Training and information sharing to be added as a standalone Agenda item at a future meeting. Colm, Valerie, Robbie and others will plan this.
- Robbie will forward the "Little Book of Cultural Competence" to Ruth for circulating to the group.

Our Journey Through Disability – Gillian McKeown

Gillian provided updates on various initiatives for children and young people with disabilities, including:-

- New dedicated disability workers at Hubs;
- The development of an inclusive community toolkit;
- Plans for a "Treat Me Well" program for frontline staff;

- "All About Me Passport" for older young people is progressing and hope to launch later this year;
- "Our Journey Through Disability" guide for parents continues to be rolled out and looking at developing wallet cards to help with promotion;
- Work is continuing to build capacity of staff within special schools to support parents through evidence based programmes. Uptake is good with further programs being planned for later in the year.

It was suggested organizing an event in the autumn to review progress and update parents on disability related work. Valerie offered to coordinate a joint event with the Early Intervention Subgroup.

ACTION: Valerie will organise/coordinate an Event later in the year to review progress and provide update in relation to disability related work. She will discuss with Elaine before linking in with Colm.

Poverty & Family Support – Valerie Maxwell

Valerie reported that a paper has been circulated with updates from the Outcomes Groups giving an overview of the work happening in relation to poverty and cost of living. Valerie advised they have been linking with the FSHs to identify pathways for families to ensure they get the support required, though working with the Councils and other partners.

8. Update from Regional CYPSP Workshop (5th June 25)

The Children and Young People Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) workshop on June 5th was productive, with discussions focusing on early intervention, family support, and service commissioning. Valerie is happy to send the presentations from the Workshop to Ruth for circulation if partners are interested.

Valerie advised there were a number of 'asks', which Group members were asked to consider, namely:-

1. *Do you have someone in your organisation responsible for cascading information to all staff?*
2. *Look at overlaps in your own corporate plan and Outcomes Group Children Services Plan and identify where your organisation can bring value or avail of quick wins by connecting with CYPSP Outcomes Group task groups.*
3. *Look at the Outcomes Monitoring Report, think about how you can use this within your role and organisation.*
4. *If you are considering a new project/programme that might align with the Outcomes Group Children Services Plan priorities, inform Outcomes Group and link with task groups to ensure reduced duplication, added value or wider scope.*
5. *Are you the right person from your organisation to attend the Outcomes Group, do you know of others who could contribute to the actions outlined in the Outcomes Group action plan or in Task Groups.*

ACTION: Valerie will send to Ruth for circulating to SAOG Members, for consideration/response to Valerie.

Partners were encouraged to consider adding the CYPSP branding to their email signatures.

ACTION: Valerie will send the Logo to Ruth for circulation to members.

SAOG Members were reminded that they were CYPSP. Valerie and Bronwyn are support persons, there to help and assist with the action plans. Colm noted the excellent partnerships, participation and information sharing in this Group.

Colm noted the need, at some stage, for discussion on representation at this group, to ensure the right people and organisations are represented.

9. Children's Social Care Review

Nothing to add.

10. AOB

11. Date of Next Meeting:

Tues 23 Sept 25 at 2:30 pm