

Limavady LPG Meeting 20.10.2025

Kindly Hosted by Dungiven and Limavady Dry Arch Children's Centre

20.10.25

Present

Donna O' Kane (Dry Arch Manager)

Dawn Mc Kendry (NOW Organisation)

Janice Stewart (EWO)

Paul Sweeney (WHSCT)

Caroline McCormick (Dry Arch)

Lynn Gray (WHSCT MDT)

Apologies

Brenda Mc Queen (Director Dry Arch)

Charene Scott (WHSCT Limavady)

Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined apologies. This was the second meeting of the Limavady LPG group and Paul thanked the LCDI for providing the venue and refreshments.

WAOG Update

Paul provided a brief update of the work of the outcomes group with a particular reference to the discussion relating to the development of an action plan for the Limavady area and relating some of the discussions concerning funding and the work of the finance sub-group.

Finance

There was discussion on the funding available from the WAOG and the possible benefits this could have for the Limavady area. Paul informed members of the broad approach to funding that included:

- Money for the FSH to support local families

- Money dedicated to supporting children and young people with autism through continued funding of Autism Support NI
- Money that supported the journey towards embedding children's rights across four key agencies.
- Money for LPG development. This included discussion relating to how LPG could access small pots of funding to identify and respond to local need in a colligate way.

Members were involved in the discussions and there was general agreement as to the benefits of this approach to the funding from the Outcomes group.

UNICEF CFC

Paul provided a brief input on the work with UNICEF as this project was initiated through the Outcomes group and whilst it did not involve CC&GC, it did involve DC&SDC and three other lead agencies that traversed Council boundaries, namely the WHSCT, EA and the YJA.

Limavady Action Plan Development

Much of the remainder of the meeting involved an active discussion relating the development of an action plan for the Limavady area.

Key points raised by member relating to the action plan:

- Action plan should support a sense of cohesion. Members were supportive of taking a connected approach and not to work within "silo mentality." The Limavady area already have an extensive community infrastructure, which have a history of working closely together for the sake of their service users, so members would be keen to build on this.
- Sleep was an area of concern within the group with member providing examples of how poor sleep patterns in children and parents/carers were having developmental consequences for children and presenting difficulty in relationships with parents.
- Transitions periods for children within school was identified as an area of concern with members. Members highlighted the difficulties children were experiencing particularly with transition from primary to secondary school. There was discussion about connecting with the RAISE programme in Limavady going forward.
- School based avoidance, anxiety remains a concern in schools, and Carol had indicated that this is an issue, which is affecting many schools in the area. The EWO service in the Limavady and surrounding areas were experiencing high rates of referrals relating to this area and parents require information and support to enable them to assist their children.

- There was discussion on the impact of poverty on families and children in the Limavady and surrounding areas, which remains a constant theme across all service providers. The area has a range of fantastic services, such as MAPS/LCDI/Uniform bank/social supermarket that support families on a daily basis; however, the demand continues to increase. Members were adamant that any action plan for the area should include poverty and the cost of living crisis.
- Mentoring for young people was an area identified as an unmet need for young people in the area.

Paul had agreed to link some of the areas identified at the meeting into a broad plan that could be incorporated into an action plan that the group could then work towards over the next three years.

It was agreed that the next meeting will continue to look at the structure of the action plan and Paul will forward date for the meeting.

AOB

Date of next meeting to be forwarded.