

## Background to AAND LPG Neuro Cafe

**Locality Planning Groups are a Partnership of front line leaders and staff across all sectors from the local Neighbourhood. The work focuses on early intervention, building preventative places and improving outcomes for children and young people. Responding to the expressed needs of families on the waiting lists for assessment/diagnosis for ADHD/Autism; the AAND LPG hosted a Neuro Café in Ards Arena. An informal drop in event with Over 120 members of the public attending, 30 services from Community, Voluntary & Statutory sectors hosted stalls and workshops, including a new stall hosted by Claire Coney from Ards Rangers Inclusion; an inclusive football team in Newtownards for children aged 5-16 years who are neurodiverse or ambulant.**

CYPSP Ards & North Down Locality Planning Group consists of; Ards & North Down Borough Council, SureStart, Homestart, Education Authority Youth Service, PSNI, Uhub, Youth Justice Agency, Barnardo's, South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust & GP Federation Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT).

### Find Out More:

For more information on the role of the CYPSP AAND Locality Planning Group please visit;

[www.cypsp.org/locality-planning-groups/AAND-locality-planning-group](http://www.cypsp.org/locality-planning-groups/AAND-locality-planning-group)

### Contact Us:

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### CYPSP's Strategy for NI High Level Outcome Contributions

All Children and Young People experience economic and environmental wellbeing.

All Children and Young People live in safety and stability

All Children and Young People Learn and Achieve

### Contributing to the Ards & North Down Community

All people in Ards and North Down enjoy good health and wellbeing

All people in Ards & and North Down fulfil their lifelong potential

## Neuro Café; what did we do

“There is an increasing number of parents and carers contacting the GP MDT Social Workers seeking support whilst awaiting diagnosis of Autism or ADHD. The Neuro Café has given us an opportunity to showcase available services and supports available prior to diagnosis, in partnership with different organisations from the community, voluntary and statutory sector who have attended today.”

Shauna Mullan GP MDT

## Neuro Café; how did we do it

- Hosted by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Ards & North Down Locality Planning Group
- Co-produced with local service users
- Partnership with EA Youth Service Ards Arena Campus.
- Interactive workshops facilitated by EANI's Derek Kinnen & The Changing Lives Initiative: Flourish and Thrive's Roz McIlwaine and colleagues.



MDT Senior Social Work Practitioner, Niall Rotherham; The Changing Lives Initiative Roz McIlwaine; South Eastern Trust's Health Development Practitioner, Noelle Hollywood; Multi-Disciplinary Team Social Work Manager Rachel Duncan; Ards Rangers Inclusion Claire Coney; EANI Sara O'Kane; MDT Senior Social Work Practitioner Shauna Mullan and Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Locality Planning Group, Louise Dickson.

## Is anyone better off?

Over 120 participants attended the Neuro Café.

The Café was designed to provide valuable information and support for parents and carers of children with Autism and ADHD as well as those awaiting assessment.

Those attending had the opportunity to engage with a range of information stalls hosted by 30 representatives from both statutory and community organisations.

The event also featured interactive workshops for parents and carers, which offered practical advice and strategies to support families navigating these challenges. There was also a quiet space where participants could enjoy refreshments.

Database of stall holders established to share with other Neuro Café hosts across the SE Trust.



Claire Coney from Ards Rangers Inclusion Football Club

## Is anyone better off?

'This event has changed my life and my children's lives as I have got in with so many services' (Service User)

"Excellent networking opportunity" (Professional attending)

'It's been great to connect with people on stalls to get info on support' (Service User)

'Seminars were very engaging and informative' (Service User)

'Great resources available and information by staff at the stalls in the hall' (Service User)

'LIT Workshop was fantastic and meeting people on stalls was really helpful too' (Service User)