

## **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

### **Regional Sub Group on Black and Minority Ethnic Children and Young People**

**16/10/2012**

<b>Present:</b>	Leslie Boydell (Co-Chair) Paul Yam Lisa Moore Jo Marley Deirdre McAliskey Elaine O'Doherty Stephen Smith Mary Yarr	Belfast Trust Wah Hep Chinese Association Safe and Well Project Bryson (arrived 11.45am) Belong Public Health Agency Craigavon Intercultural Programme North Eastern Education Library Board
<b>In attendance:</b>	Ann Godfrey Andrew Hawthorne Maria Herron Anna Clarke	Children Services Planning, HSCB Children Services Planning, HSCB Parenting NI Participation Network
<b>Apologies:</b>	Fergal O'Brien Tommy Boyle Eileen Chan-Hu (Co-Chair)	Southern HSC Trust Belfast Trust Chinese Welfare Association
<b>Not in Attendance:</b>	Colm McQuillan Justyna McCabe Dawn Thompson	Northern Ireland Housing Executive Newry and Mourne Council Bryson

### **Introduction**

Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting and particularly Anna Clarke from Participation Network. There was a round of introductions for Anna's benefit. Anna was invited to speak about the work of the Participation Network.

## **Participation Network**

Anna apologised for her colleague, Paula Keenan, who was unable to attend as planned. Anna outlined the work of the Participation Network, which included, among other things, training for public sector agencies on the 'Ask First Standards' for the participation of children and young people, technical support for the participation of children and young people including a database of organisations, developing engagement plans and developing children and young people's versions of plans.

Anna outlined the role of the Participation Network with this group, which was to implement the CYPSP Participation Strategy for children and young people. Anna acknowledged that this was the start of a process that would ensure the consistent participation of children and young people.

Ann Godfrey welcomed the input from Anna and stressed that while the training for organisations is important, the timing of development of the action plan meant that it was important to combine the training with active facilitation in the short term to ensure effective input from children and young people. It would be useful to link in with best practice established so far especially through representatives on the group.

Leslie Boydell sought clarity regarding the different roles between Participation Network and Parenting NI. Anna clarified that the Participation Network's role was a supportive one, whereas Parenting NI conduct consultations on behalf of the group. Paul Yam raised a concern about the concentration of participation from the Southern Area, while participation from other areas might be a bit patchy.

Ann outlined the timeframe for the action plan, suggesting that it was possible to have a final draft in time for the next meeting. Therefore the role of the Participation Network has both short term and long term elements. In the short term it is vital to obtain input from children and young people for the purpose of the action plan. In the long term it will be necessary to address regional deficits in participation.

***Action: Anna Clarke to work with group members to obtain the input of children and young people***

Lesley thanked Anna for her contribution and invited Maria Herron to give feedback to the group from Parents.

### **Feedback from Parents**

Maria fed back to the group the results of a recent event held with BME parents. 56 parents had signed up to participate and 30 attended the event. With a use of pictures and diagrams and a focus on the 6 high level outcomes, parents were able to give a lot of detailed information on what they felt were the key issues. A report was circulated to the group. The group agreed that given the importance of this feedback, it would go into the action plan has qualitative information and in line with best practice for participation, feedback would be provided to the group of parents.

***Action: Andrew Hawthorne to incorporate the key messages from parents into the action plan.***

***Action: Maria Herron to feedback to the parents group in line with best practice***

### **Workshop**

Leslie passed over to Ann and Andrew to talk the group through a draft action plan that was circulated to the group. It was recognised as an attempt to capture the rich variance of information from the last workshop but there was a need to focus and prioritise. It was proposed to focus on two or three key actions for each high level outcome that would provide this focus. These were as follows:

#### *Healthy*

1. Mental health and emotional wellbeing
2. Supporting children, young people and parents to access services including interpreting services when required and promoting culture awareness

#### *Enjoying, learning and achieving*

1. Whole school cultural awareness and change
2. Parental engagement in schools
3. Access to non-formal activities in school/out of school/in the community

*Living in safety and with stability*

1. Racial bullying and harassment
2. Family support that emphasises the secure environment that children and young people have a right to. This covers the issue of LAC, domestic violence, positive parenting and hidden harm.

*Experiencing economic and environmental wellbeing*

1. Housing including ensuring that BME families have the choice to live where they want and are not forced by a system to live in a certain area or be denied living in a certain area
2. Advocacy and support which is important for all outcomes, but particularly here to support families in accessing support and employment

*Contributing positively to community and society*

1. Support the participation of children and young people in volunteering and participation in communities
2. Work with regional and local media to portray positive messages and cultural awareness of BME children, young people and families

*Living in a society which respects their rights*

1. Promoting understanding of the rights of BME children and young people and the importance of a rights based approach among organisations and staff and BME children, young people and families
2. Develop a robust integrated information system for BME children and young people in line with the UNCRC

Based on the discussion of the group, it was agreed that a further draft would be developed, focussing on the key priorities identified. The draft would then be circulated to the group to add specific actions under implementation milestones and fed back to Andrew. A final draft would then be developed for approval at the next meeting.

**Action: Andrew to develop draft resulting from focus on priority actions and circulate to the group**

***Action: All group members to respond to circulated draft with specific actions***

***Action: Andrew to develop final draft for approval at next meeting***

**Date of next meeting:**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 10am Wah Hep Chinese Centre, Craigavon