CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

24th August 2012

Present:

- Eileen Chan-Hu (Co-Chair) - Chinese Welfare Association
- Leslie Boydell (Co-Chair) - Belfast Trust
- Tommy Boyle - Belfast Trust
- Paul Yam - Wah Hep Chinese Association
- Fergal O’Brien - Southern HSC Trust
- Lisa Moore - Safe and Well Project
- Jo Marley - Bryson (arrived 11.45am)
- Deirdre McAliskey - Belong
- Elaine O’Doherty - Public Health Agency
- Stephen Smith - Craigavon Intercultural Programme

In attendance:

- Ann Godfrey - Children Services Planning, HSCB
- Andrew Hawthorne - Children Services Planning, HSCB
- Alison McNulty - Parenting NI
- Maria - Parenting NI
- Jonathan Elliot - MSc student, QUB

Apologies:

- Mary Yarr - North Eastern Education Library Board

Not in Attendance:

- Colm McQuillan - Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Justyna McCabe - Newry and Mourne Council
- Dawn Thompson - Bryson

Introduction

Leslie welcomed everyone to the meeting and as it was a relatively new group, suggested a round of introductions. Jonathan Elliot, an MSc student in Public Health, was welcomed. It was recognised that the work he is doing in Belfast would prove valuable.

Alison was invited to speak about the work of Parenting NI, ensuring the participation of BME parents in the planning process. Information was circulated. Alison stated that
Parenting NI worked with the outcomes groups to set up Parent Reference Groups and they were beginning to do the same for the regional sub groups. So far there are 26 applicants for the BME Reference Group, 18 from the Southern Area. It is the role of Parenting NI to facilitate the participation of these parents alongside the work of the BME group. Participation Network will be doing the same for children and young people. Alison stated her willingness to help and requested help in recruiting more parents where possible.

**Workshop**

Leslie passed over to Ann, who would facilitate the rest of the meeting in the form of a workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to review the notes of the last meeting with a view to providing more quantitative and qualitative information that would form the basis of the action plan under each of the 6 high level outcomes. The input from the group was extensive and very useful. During the process members mentioned many references, which should be forwarded to Andrew. Andrew will then pull together the information from the workshop into an action plan which will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**The participation of children and young people**

The participation of children and young people was discussed. Deirdre stated that Belong are currently working with Participation Network to ensure the participation of 7-12 yr olds in the general planning process. Deirdre also stated the importance of continued feedback to participating groups to ensure they are motivated to continue participating. Arrangements were made to ensure further participation including, Belong working with other groups in the Southern Area to cover geography and age ranges, Jo for the participation of young Roma, Lisa for the participation of Travellers and Eileen outlined mechanisms to ensure participation in Belfast more generally. Deirdre agreed to share her existing consultation templates. Paul stressed the importance of this work being outcomes based as it is easier for children and young people to see the differences made.

**Any Other Business**
Eileen stated that Paul would be taking over as Co-Chair of the group for the next 6 months as part of the bi-annual rotation arrangement between Chinese Welfare Association and the Wah Hep Chinese Association.

**Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday 16th October 2012, 9.45am – 1pm, Wah Hep Chinese Centre, Craigavon (Lunch will be provided)