

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Regional Sub Group on Young Carers

5th September 2012

Present:	Billy McMillan (Co-Chair) Helen Dunn (Co-Chair) Paul McCormack Nicola Topping	Barnardo's Action for Children Carer's Trust WELB
In attendance:	Andrew Hawthorne Carina Boyle	Children Services Planning, HSCB Action for Children
Apologies:	Ann Godfrey Rosemary Breslin	Children Services Planning, HSCB NHST

1. Introduction

Billy McMillan welcomed everyone to the meeting and there was a round of introductions. Paul McCormack informed the group that the new name of his organisation was Carer's Trust after a name change. Carina Boyle informed the group that she would be replacing Helen Dunn as the representative from Action for Children.

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Ann Godfrey and Rosemary Breslin

3. Minutes of the last meeting

One change to the previous minutes was the date, from February 6th 2012 to May 8th 2012.

Action: AH to make amendments

4. **Matters Arising**

Helen Dunn provided an update on Triangle. Any adaptation of the outcomes star is a breach of copyright and Triangle are currently developing one for Young Carers which will be free once completed. Carina stated that she had an ongoing relationship with Triangle and she could use this to facilitate the roll out of the outcomes star at service level.

Action: Carina to follow up the use of the outcomes star with Triangle

Nicola Topping checked the available information re education and reported that there is nothing to identify young carers in school. Currently there are no mechanisms for recording young carers but there is an increased awareness of the need to. There is potential to explore the 5 ELBs databases to see if information on young carers can be made available. Often happens currently on a school by school basis, with schools in Newry an example of best practice but there is potential to get a top down approach as well.

Billy McMillan highlighted that attendance is often not the biggest issue for young carers. However when absenteeism does occur, there is currently no coding system to explain why. Billy McMillan suggested that additionally, the formula for identifying the number of young carers in the population could be used in schools.

The minutes were approved.

Helen Dunn outlined the group and the action plan as an opportunity to revise the information collected at assessment to account for issues such as hidden harm and mental health. The information collected in UNOCINI may be qualitative but there is a need to collect it quantitatively. Andrew Hawthorne referred to the ongoing work across all the regional sub groups that involved collating information identified in the action plan and identify the sources.

Action: All group members to complete circulated templates.

5. Participation of Young Carers

Andrew Hawthorne outlined the importance of having the views of children and young people reflected in the immediate draft action plan outside of the formal processes of Participation Network and Parenting NI, which are still implementing. There is a Regional Young Carer's Forum that is arranged throughout the year and sub groups feed into this forum. Depending on the dates, this is the best opportunity to get the ongoing participation of children and young people. The group decided a process for getting children and young people's input into the action plan:

Action: Andrew Hawthorne to draft and child friendly version of the action plan using the template deemed successful from other groups.

Action: Group members to use their existing networks to consult with groups of children and young people, preferably across a range of ages

Paul McCormack raised a concern about how it would look if organisations represented in the group also provided a consultation response to the plan. After discussion, it was decided among the group that it was better to have the views of all organisations as represent a variety of disciplines and geographies and their input would strengthen the action plan draft.

6. Review of Issues

Andrew Hawthorne outlined that during the consultation period there would be an opportunity for the group to review how it works and the processes generally. Andrew Hawthorne highlighted the recognition that the draft action plans were developed in a short period and time extensive way that gave the group little time to form. The review provides an opportunity to take a step back from the action plan and, in a constructive forum, raise and address any issues that are pertinent to the group. There was a discussion about what issues the group would like to cover such as:

- Membership (Carers NI, DEL, Community reps, GPs, school nurses, health visiting, paediatrician)
- Resources / quality control/ time resources/ logistics
- Inconsistencies in membership

- Chairs from the voluntary/ community sector
- Reviewing the role and length of chairs

Billy McMillan proposed that there should be meetings every two months with alternate chairs, venues and a list of dates in advance. Alongside this, there would be sub group meetings in line with the areas in the action plans. Paul McCormack added the possibility of teleconferencing to ensure efficiency if a group member could not travel to attend. The issues raised will be addressed in a constructive workshop at the next meeting

Action: Andrew Hawthorne to clarify the membership process and note the issues raised for a constructive workshop at the next meeting

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 25th October 2012, 10.30am- 12.30pm