

Northern Outcomes Group

Minutes of meeting held on 16 August 2012, 2 pm, The Cottage, Ballymena

Present: Mr J Fenton, (Chair) NHSCT
Mrs U Geelan, HSCB
Ms C Porter, DSD
Ms G Keane, Youth Justice Agency
Ms S Ramsey, NHSCT
Ms C Slevin, Mencap
Mrs A Devlin, Extern
Ms S Anderson, NHSCT
Ms B McAteer, Locality Chair

In attendance: Ms Maria Herron, Parenting NI Forum

1) Apologies

Action

Apologies were received and noted as follows

Ms B McConville, NHSCT
Mrs H Dunn, Action for Children
Mr J Magill, PSNI
Mr R Gilbert, NEELB
Mrs M O'Neill, NHSCT
Mrs A Hardy, HSCB
Mr C Worthington, NHSCT

Mr Fenton advised that Mr Worthington would be leaving the Trust, and Mrs O'Neill would be retiring, on 31 August 2012. Mr Fenton would seek a replacement for Mrs O'Neill and suggested that Ms Ciara McKillop, Principal Practitioner Family Support join the Group. Ms McKillop has been tasked with developing a Trust Family Support Strategy, which should address some of the actions in the Outcomes Group's action plan.

J Fenton

2) Minutes of previous meeting – 21 June 2012

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3) Matters arising

i) Ballymoney Locality Group launch

Ms Ramsey reported that the launch on 28 June had gone well and the Group's first meeting was scheduled for September. Ms Ramsey distributed an update report on the work of the locality groups. Members were asked to encourage attendance at meetings of the

Ballymena and Antrim locality groups. It was noted that the Ballymena family support hub, based on the Larne and Carrickfergus pilot, was now live. A regional hub members event would be held in Cookstown in September to discuss good practice.

Action
All

Deputy Chair

ii)

Mr Fenton advised that it had been agreed that the Deputy Chair should be someone outside the statutory sector. Ms McAteer, Mr McMillan, Ms Slevin and Mrs Dunn were thanked for agreeing to fulfil the role of Deputy Chair on a rotational quarterly basis. It was unknown what the Chairing arrangements for the next Outcome Group meeting would be at this stage.

4) **Parents Reference Group**

Ms Herron reported that there are currently 15 parents on the Reference Group. They have met twice to date and have considered the draft action plan. The inclusion in the action plan of some of the issues raised by parents had been welcomed. However, several issues had been raised and Ms Herron distributed feedback from the meetings in the form of a table. Members commented as follows:

How will hubs work, be accessed and rolled out? – The referral process was confirmed, however Mrs Dunn would be asked to provide more detail.

U Geelan

How will the Family Support database be promoted? – It was noted that there had been some radio advertising and work was ongoing regionally to promote. Mrs Geelan would ascertain how this was being progressed by HSCB.

U Geelan

No mention of break up of families in the plan - It was indicated that there is a lack of service in this respect, however if the impact of the family break up as the children was significant the criteria for referral to social worker, family centre or CAMHS might be met. Specific counselling is provided in the community/voluntary sector and mediation is set to play a greater role in the Trust's Court Children's Service.

M Herron

Need to recognise wider needs around parenting skills - Ms Herron was asked to ascertain how parents would want this delivered. It was acknowledged that the Trust Family Support Strategy would include parenting skills/support.

Need for better use of Extended Schools programme and what about the needs of children and young people who are carers - Ms Ramsey could provide feedback at the next Extended Schools meeting and provide contact numbers for those involved in Extended Schools. Ms Porter advised that there were learning mentors available across the Province.

S Ramsey

Ms McAteer referred to the Parenting Group report and indicated that there were some issues that needed to be addressed. Ms McAteer

undertook to highlight the relevant section and forward to Ms McConville for appropriate action.

Action
B McAteer
B McConville

5) **Commissioning process 2012/13**

Mr Fenton confirmed that the Specification Sub Group (Mrs Hardy, Mrs Geelan, Mr Fenton, Mrs Devlin, Ms Stephen, Mr McMillan and Mrs Dunn) had met to develop a suitable specification. The sub group had agreed that applicants did not need to have an existing funding contract with either the Board or Trust and that a cap of £25,000 should be introduced for any one bid. Members considered and agreed the specification and criteria prepared by the Sub Group. Mrs Geelan undertook to progress the open call for applications, which would be 10 September to 1 October, with selection process held on 8 October. Mrs Geelan would provide a table of the proposals/applications received at the Outcomes Group meeting on 18 October. Contracts and letters of approval would be issued by the end of October.

U Geelan

U Geelan

6) **Northern Outcomes Group Action plan**

Members noted that the action plan would be an appendix of the CYPSP strategy. Mrs Geelan would amend the action plan to indicate that the Outcomes Group would liaise with relevant agencies not represented on the Group about the actions required. Members were asked to consider the proposed timescales set against the actions and advise Ms Geelan if they deemed them to be appropriate.

U Geelan

All

7) **Any Other Business**

i) Recruitment of parents

Ms Herron asked that members notify any parents potentially interested in becoming a member of the Parenting NI Forum and to contact Ms Herron or Ms McNulty accordingly.

All

8) **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for 18 October 2012, 2 pm, The Cottage, Ballymena.