



Minute of Western Outcomes Group
held on 31 October 2012 in
Strabane Enterprise Agency

Present:

- Mr Kieran Downey, Director of Women and Children's Service [Chair]
- Ms Deirdre Mahon, Assistant Director [Family & Child Care]
- Mr Paul Laughlin, Department of Social Development
- Mr Eamon O'Kane, Local Commissioning Group
- Ms Orla Conway, Omagh Women's Aid
- Ms Colleen Heaney, Assistant Director, Youth Justice Agency
- Ms Maura Mason, Western Area Child Care Partnership
- Mr Donnie Sweeney, NIACRO
- Ms Marie McGale, MENCAP
- Ms Helen Harley, Children and Young People's Officer, Derry City Council
- Mrs Anne Hardy, Children's Services Planning Officer, HSCB
- Ms Una Geelan, Business Support Manager, HSCB

In attendance:

- Ms Priscilla Magee, Action for Children
- Mrs Bronagh Donnelly, Action for Children
- Mrs Angela Wade, Acting Business Manager
- Ms E Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Mrs Kate McDaid, Assistant Director [Health Care] Ms Carina Boyle, Action for Children Ms Brenda Macqueen, Dry Arch Centre Ms Maeve Linton, SureStart Manager Ms Cathy Mullan, Public Health Agency Mr Gerry Conway, Commissioning Lead, HSCB Mr Walter Mullan, Acting Area Manager, NIHE Mr Barny Heywood, Omagh District Council</p>
2	<p>Notes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>All present confirmed that they had received a copy of the notes of the previous meeting held on 22 August 2012 and that they were an accurate reflection of the</p>

	<p>discussion that had taken place. Ms McGale requested that her name be included as an apology.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Chairman’s Business</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>Mr Downey said it was his first meeting as Chair of the Western Outcomes Group following his appointment as Director of Women and Children’s Services/Executive Director of Social Work to the Western Health and Social Care Trust. He thanked everyone for attending and said he hoped the group would continue to make improvements in children’s services.</p> <p>Mr Downey welcomed Ms Helen Harley, Children’s and Young People’s Officer, Derry City Council, to her first meeting of the group. Ms Harley advised that she had prepared a “Derry City Council Children and Young People’s Action Plan 2012-2015” which had recently been endorsed by the Council. She agreed to arrange for a copy to be forwarded to members.</p> <p>Mrs Hardy advised that she had recently met with the NIHE and they are to advise of future representation on the Outcomes Groups following restructuring within their organisation.</p> <p>Frequency of Meetings</p> <p>Following discussion, members agreed that meetings for next year should be arranged on a bi-monthly basis and sequenced after CYPSP meetings. Mr Downey agreed to issue a schedule of dates for 2013.</p> <p>Early Intervention</p> <p>Mr Downey noted receipt of the report “Early Intervention Strategic Scan Summary” from the CYPSP. Mrs Hardy advised that she would check to see if this document had been finalised before it was circulated to members. It was agreed to bring this matter back to the next meeting for further discussion.</p> <p>Funding Support for Health Related Projects</p> <p>Mr Downey apprised members of a press release issued by the Health Minister, Edwin Poots, on 10 October 2012, confirming a funding announcement from the First and Deputy First Ministers to support health related projects. The funding would go towards the establishment of Parenting Programmes which provide support to new parents and 20 new children’s Nurture Units.</p> <p>Mr Laughlin advised that the Department of Education were to take the lead on the development of Nurture Units. Ms Mahon agreed that it would be helpful to have a discussion on the Nurture Units to learn more information on the age groups they were aimed at and their objectives. Members noted that funding allocations were not being processed via the Outcomes Groups, which was the agreed mechanism for ensuring effective outcomes for children and young people in the province.</p>

Mr Downey agreed to raise this issue at the next meeting of the chairs of the Outcomes Groups.

Ms Mahon suggested that it would be useful to have a link worker who could inform community groups of funding processes and to support them in making their applications. Ms Mason said it would be helpful if a flowchart was prepared for community and voluntary groups which detailed the application and financial processes.

Outcome Monitoring Report with Trends 2005–2011

Mr Downey advised that the Outcome Monitoring Report with Trends 2005-2011 was available on the CYPSP website and was an excellent resource.

Ms Mahon expressed concern at the possible mis-interpretation of percentage rates for re-registration rates, due to the Western Trust having the lowest number of children on the Child Protection Register. Mrs Hardy agreed to speak with Mrs Maxwell, Children's Services Planning Information Manager, regarding including an explanatory note with these statistics.

Infant Mental Health

Mr Downey shared with members six posters which had been designed on the six key themes on Infant Mental Health. He advised that the posters were due to be launched within the Trust and would be widely distributed and further details would be available on the Trust's website. Mr Downey advised that a book was currently being printed to coincide with the 2013 Year of City and Culture and would be given to every newborn baby in Derry next year. Mr Laughlin suggested that the book be shared with Mr Kerr at the Verbal Arts Centre for their reading rooms. Ms Heaney advised that she knew of a local author who may be interested in being involved with events to launch the book.

4 Presentation Strengthening Families Programme – Proven Outcomes for Families and and Model for Joint Commissioning

Mr Downey welcomed Ms Catriona Mullan, Project Manager, Time IVA Change Border Region Alcohol Project, CAWT, to the meeting.

Ms Mullan delivered a presentation on the "Strengthening Families Programme" and advised that it was a family skills programme for families at Tier 2 and was designed to increase family resilience with the focus on communication and parent-child bonding. She advised that the interagency programme fitted around existing structures, with a core governance and quality assurance structure provided by the Western Trust. She advised that it was a fourteen week group work for families and referrals were made by any agency supporting a child or their family.

Ms Mullan reported the following family change objectives of the programme:-

- Increase positive parent/child relationship or family cohesion.
- Reduce family conflict.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase family organisation and order. ▪ Increase family communication skills. ▪ Increase overall family strengths and resilience. <p>She advised that 49 families [138 people] had participated in SFP to date and summarised the outcomes. Ms Mullan detailed the following key factors which had secured the outcomes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate and informed referrals [Family Support Hubs]. ▪ Interagency model – cross disciplinary skills base of facilitator team [Social Workers, CPN, Youth Workers, Teachers, Police Officers]. ▪ Facilitators are experienced staff from agencies connected to the clients. ▪ Group work with peers within the family programme. ▪ Facilitators and referral agents who care about the outcomes for families. ▪ Incremental financial support from a range of sources. <p>Ms Mullan advised that it cost £58,000 for the annual cost of SFP delivery [Co-ordination and programme costs] x 3 family cohorts in an area over 14 weeks, but advised that the Co-ordinator’s post was currently only funded until March 2013.</p> <p>Ms Mullan advised that training days for referral agencies and facilitators were planned for 22 & 23 November 2012 in Omagh and Fermanagh if organisations wished to avail of places.</p> <p>Mr Downey thanked Ms Mullan for her informative presentation, and a copy was distributed to members.</p>
5	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Children’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy Mr Downey advised that the Children’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy was launched on 1 October 2012. He advised that Ms Mahon would Chair the Project Board and that the Infant Mental Health Strategy would now become a sub set of the Children’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Mr Downey agreed to forward members a copy of the strategy and said he would seek the group’s endorsement at the next meeting on 11 December 2012.</p> <p>Update for Locality Planning Groups Mrs Magee distributed an update report for Locality Planning Groups for October 2012 and detailed for members the next stages of their planned work.</p> <p>Mrs Hardy advised that it was important for members to be briefed on the work of the Locality Plannings Groups as they had first hand knowledge from local groups where perceived need was greatest.</p>
6	<p>Feedback from Outcomes Chairs and Regional Sub Group Chair Meetings Mrs Hardy advised that at the joint meeting on 28 September 2012 members had</p>

	<p>looked at priority areas for all the outcomes groups and sub groups. The following three priority areas had been identified:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support for parents, children and young people to attend and fully participate in school or alternative education, including in transition years, removing barriers to learning. ▪ Early intervention for young people at risk of offending and support for adolescents. ▪ Mental health and emotional wellbeing. <p>Mr Downey advised that he had attended this meeting.</p>
7	<p>Feedback from CYPSP</p> <p>Mrs Hardy advised that the CYPSP were planning to organise a regional stakeholder event in Stormont to promote the work of the partnership and agreed to advise members of the confirmed date. She said that it was the plan that local events would also be organised and agreed to check what other Outcomes Groups were planning. Following discussion, members felt that local events should be planned after the regional event and possibly led by the Locality Planning Groups.</p>
8	<p>Development Day</p> <p>Mr Downey reported that Mr Eamon McTernan had expressed his willingness to facilitate on the development day. Mr Downey said it was important to proceed with the development day to ensure effective working partnerships and to take forward the future work of the group. Following discussion, members felt that the development day was timely due new members recently joining the group and to allow for an opportunity to discuss roles and responsibilities within the group. Members agreed that due to diary commitments, it would be best to plan this event for late January 2013. It was also agreed that an invitation would be extended to the Western Parents Reference Group. Mr Downey agreed to take this forward in liaison with Mr McTernan.</p>
9	<p>Commissioning Process 2012/13 and 2013/14</p> <p>Mr Downey noted that the Western Outcomes Group had £100,000 funding in year which organisations had to spend before 31 March 2013. He advised that a closed call to organisations who currently had a contract with the Trust, HSCB, or the Public Health Agency, was due to close on 2 November 2012. It was agreed that a selection panel [Kate McDaid, Una Geelan, Cathy Mullan, Gerry Conway], would meet to agree allocations for this year. Priority areas for funding were as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Speech and language and communication for children aged 0-4 in non Surestart areas promoting school readiness to learning. ▪ Targeted support for families with children aged 5-8 living in communities where families are affected by isolation enabling a positive approach for parents in relationship building, managing behavior and building resilience. ▪ Youth mentoring/family support building resilience among young people aged 10-18.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family support and services promoting access to leisure activities for children and young people with a disability. <p>Ms Mahon enquired if any organisations present would be in a position to jointly commission with the Western Outcomes Group in the future. Ms Heaney agreed to explore this within the Youth Justice Agency and report back at a future meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that a separate meeting would be arranged to discuss this matter further with representatives from the Health and Social Care Board, Public Health Agency, Local Commissioning Group, Department Social Development, Derry City Council and Trust staff.</p>
10	<p>Western Parents Reference Group Mr Downey noted receipt of the September 2012 report prepared by the Western Parents Reference Group. It was agreed to bring this item forward to the next meeting for discussion.</p>
11	<p>Think Child, Think Parent, Think Family/Hidden Harm Mrs Hardy advised that Mr Rodgers, Assistant Director, HSCB, was to write to Outcomes Groups to ensure linkages between Hidden Harm and the Outcomes Groups. Mr Downey advised that this would be a standing item on agenda of the group.</p>
12	<p>Any Other Business Mrs Hardy advised that Mr Maurice Leeson had been appointed to the post of Children’s Services Planning Provisional Advisor.</p> <p>Ms Mason advised that some working parents had been unable to secure places at training events organised by SureStart. She advised that the Child Care Partnership would now look at planning future events in non SureStart areas to cope with the demand for places and to accommodate both non working and working parents.</p>
13	<p>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting 11 December 2012 at 10.00 am in the Conference Room, Strabane Enterprise Agency.</p>