

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING
MINUTES OF BALLYMENA LOCALITY GROUP**

**THURSDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2014 AT 2.00PM
ST. JOSEPHS SURESTART**

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| Attending: | Selena Ramsey | <i>CYPSP</i> |
| | Laura Totten | <i>YJA</i> |
| | Maurice McLaughlin | <i>NIYF/Believe In Youth</i> |
| | Clare McKay | <i>NICMA</i> |
| | Pauline O'Reilly | <i>DSAC</i> |
| | Ruth Owen | <i>Women's Aid</i> |
| | Anna Grindle | <i>CYPSP</i> |
| Apologies: | Laura Dillon | <i>Women's Aid</i> |
| | Mora Walsh | <i>Action for Children</i> |
| | Veronica McKinley | <i>NACN</i> |
| | Chris Lindsay | <i>NEELB</i> |
| | Hector Deane | <i>Ballymena Learning Together</i> |

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

In Moira's absence Selena welcomed the group and invited a round of introductions.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the meeting held on **Thursday 28th November 2013**.

MATTERS ARISING

Selena informed funding has been agreed to complete an event to engage with parents of children and young people with a disability, a target area noted in the groups action plan.

IMPACT OF ALCOHOL – BELIEVE IN YOUTH PROJECT

The Believe in Youth Project is funded by The Big Lottery until 2016 in four areas - Harryville, Dunclug, Cullybackey and Portglenone. Believe in Youth aims to reduce impact and harm of alcohol on young people.

The three aims Peer Educators Forum will eventually have six Peer Educators. The outreach youth work provision has Detached Youth Workers and is currently working on a development group work – school/youth work.

Capacity building is taking place within each area including the Community Companion Training.

In Ballymena two primary areas will be Dunclug and Harryville with outreach to Portglenone and Cullybackey. This will be for six months but links will remain.

The Community Capacity Building Training will be needs dependent. Local schools have shown interest and plans are to deliver programmes in Slemish College.

Maurice noted that he has met with local Youth Centre and Area Youth Officer.

Laura discussed a forum which meets in Antrim regarding at risk young people. She noted that it is important to respect young people and create a joined up approach.

UPDATE - BALLYMENA YOUTH FAIR

Selena discussed plans for a youth fair which will be offered to all schools in the locality. This will take place on Tuesday 24th June in Ballymena North. Selena noted that Hector has been the link with the schools in agreeing the date.

UPDATE - JOINT BALLYMENA LEARNING TOGETHER YOUTH COUNCIL

Selena provided some background to the joint schools Youth Council. She noted that Hector Deane has been working on this for some time with Mary Penny from Ballymena Borough Council.

A meeting took place on 19th February 2014 with Jackie Patton and Jane Dunlop, Good Relations Council, Hector Deane, Selena Ramsey and local Counsellors. Anna then held a focus group with young people from Dunclug to query questions and catering choice.

Another final preparation meeting is taking place on 6th March 2014.

The meeting on 20th will include three breakout sessions covering a tour around Braid, a presentation on council and questions and answer session.

A follow-up is planned for Friday 11th April 2014 and will be a mock council meeting in the Braid Centre. Ballymena Borough Council is leading on this initiative.

Ballymena Youth Awards Night

Selena noted that the need for a celebratory night for young people in the Ballymena area was noted in 2012. In 2013 the Ballymena South Cluster hosted a Youth Celebration Night for their area. The Locality Group hoped to extend this to include the whole Borough in 2014.

Selena contacted Gillian Forrest in January and Gillian noted that she has been working with the clusters to include the whole Borough. The group agreed this is very positive. Selena noted that Gillian has received £2000 from Outcomes Group to support this.

Gillian provided Selena with an update on plans for the night. There will be a circus theme. Selena asked the group if they have any contacts around this to contact Gillian (Tel: **02825 631350**). It will be a red carpet event with music and a chill out area.

Gillian is also looking for suggestions around inspirational young women who would be youth friendly. She hopes to put together two hundred goodie bags and asked members if they any freebies or prizes which could be included.

Selena asked members to circulate the information to ensure there are a large number of nominations.

Action: The Group

UPDATE – DISABILITY SUB GROUP

Anna discussed the background to this sub group. There was an identified need for a support group for parents with disabled young people aged four plus.

Money has been secured by Outcomes Group to complete an engagement event/consultation.

Anna has met with David McCann, Castle Tower and Moira Walsh to move this forward.

Action: Anna Grindle

STAKEHOLDER EVENT

Selena noted that the date has been set for Monday 31st March 2014. This will be held in Leighmohr Hotel, Ballymena from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. Anna noted that there is an optional event in the afternoon focusing on social media.

MEMBER UPDATES

Laura Totten – Youth Justice Agency

Laura discussed the reduction in referrals in Ballymena consistently over the past year. Working in Smithfield, funded through PCSP to tackle anti-social behaviour. Currently writing a programme to tackle hate crime.

Clare McKay, NICMA

Claire noted that there is a considerable amount of training available for child-minders available from CINI, NICMA and NCB. There is a training user guide which will be rolled out between March and June 2014 around new inspection process.

Pauline O'Reilly, DSAC

Pauline highlighted that Dunlewey are busy as usual. Referrals currently low in Ballymena area.

Ruth Owen, Women's Aid

Voices Group started in Ballymena, young people aged thirteen to sixteen years-old. This is made up of young people affected by domestic violence, living with domestic violence or wants to take a stand against domestic violence. They completed a Heading for Healthy Relationships Programme.

There is a DVD and resource manual for those working with young people. The Heading for Healthy Relationships Programme is now available in the community for thirteen to seventeen year-olds.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None noted.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on **Thursday 1st May 2014** at **2.00 pm** in **Ballykeel Youth Club**. (Please note: start with lunch at 1.00 pm).