

News Release

27 June 2014

Dungannon and South Tyrone organisations and schools have their say on future services for children and young people

Over 50 individuals involved in improving local services for families in Dungannon have had their say on future services for children and young people.

The event at Ranfurly House in Dungannon was organised by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). It brought representatives from local primary and post primary schools together with family support organisations from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors. They had the opportunity to discuss the services currently available to support children and young people and how these can be improved in future.

Fergal O'Donnell, Chair of the Rural Dungannon Locality Planning Group, said: "The CSP Structures, as well as the event, provide us with the opportunity to influence the strategic direction of children's services. There is much we can do at local level but we need the Southern Outcomes Group and CYPSP to be responsive to what is being identified and to ensure we have the supports necessary to make changes that will improve outcomes for all our children and young people."

Attendees heard about the work of the Southern Outcomes Group, Locality Planning Group and how the Family Support Hub has been co-ordinating support for local families. They also had the opportunity to visit information stands providing family support services available in the area.

Colm McCafferty, Head of Family Support and Safeguarding at the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, said: "Everyone at the event was committed to promoting the wellbeing of children and young people in the Southern area and involving them in decisions that affect their lives. By giving careful consideration to their views, we have gained important information that will further inform our work and delivery of services to children and young people."

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is a multi-agency partnership, led by the Health and Social Care Board. It includes community and voluntary organisations and the key statutory agencies that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

For more information about the CYPSP, contact Anne Hardy on 028 2531 1208 or Julie Bolton on 07725 23 25 66 or visit www.cypsp.org

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If you are interested in joining Rural Dungannon CYPSP Parent Reference Group, contact Clare Anne Magee on 028 9031 0891.

ENDS

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Teresa Kavanagh, Belfast Central Mission; Colm McCafferty, Southern Health and Social Care Trust; Kieran McShane, Health and Social Care Board; Julie Bolton, CYPSP; Fergal O'Donnell, Rural Community Network and Chair of Rural Dungannon Locality Group; Anne Hardy; CYPSP; and (seated) Alicia Lappin, Belfast Central Mission; and Rosie Martin, DELTA, SELB