

News release

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Media contact: Teresa Stewart Tel: 028 37 41 45 41

Barnardo's Armagh-based 6th Sense Advocacy Group attends *Breaking Barriers and Opening Doors: An Inclusive Society for All* event.

Young people and staff from Barnardo's Armagh-based 6th Sense Advocacy Group recently attended a Break Barriers, Open Doors conference organised by the Health and Social Care Board in Antrim to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The conference, which was held in Antrim, gave recognition to the valuable contribution and involvement of people with disabilities and heard that people living with disabilities, their families and carers, local voluntary organisations and health and social care professionals have an essential contribution to make in breaking down barriers and opening doors towards an inclusive society for all.

6th Sense is the young people's Advocacy Group of the Disabled Children and Young People's Participation Project (DCYPPP). It provides young people with the opportunities to share their opinions on what it is like to live with a disability with each other and with professionals at a regional and local basis.

Speaking about the event, Barnardo's DCYPPP Children's Services Manager, Rosemary Murray said:

"We continuously strive to promote the rights of children and young people with disabilities as best we can in the work we do and we could not do our work without the help and input of 6th Sense. It is important that the voices of young people with disabilities are heard and their contribution to society is valued. We were happy to acknowledge and celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities."

Other Projects showcased on the day included the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust Wheelchair Project, the Action on Hearing Loss Peer Support Project, the RNIB Family Support and Parent Education Project, the Cedar Foundation, Social and Community Networking Project and PANDA.

For further information on Barnardo's Disabled Children & Young People's Participation Project or 6th Sense Advocacy Group contact their office on 02837414541.



Photo Caption:

Back row (L-R) Pat McAteer (SHSCT), Rosemary Murray (Barnardo's CSM) Kieran McShane (HSCB)

Front row (L-R) Aoife McKernan (Barnardo's DCYPPP Staff member) Caitlin Turley, (member of Barnardo's 6th Sense Advocacy Group), Donna Curley (SHSCT)

Ends.

For further information contact Teresa Stewart Tel: 028 37 41 45 41 or at teresa.stewart@barnardos.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

- DCYPPP was established in 2002 and aims to facilitate the involvement of children and young people with disabilities to have a say in the delivery and quality of services they receive within the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and also on a NI Regional level within the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.
- DCYPPP have an Advocacy Group called 6th Sense. The Advocacy Group consists of young people from the Armagh/South Armagh, Newry & Mourne and Craigavon & Banbridge areas.

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