

**MINUTES OF THE WEST BELFAST LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 2014 AT 2.30PM IN THE
SPECTRUM CENTRE**

Present:

Name	Organisation	Sector
Tina Gregory	Clan Mór SureStart	Community
Una Casey	CYPSP	
Jim Donnelly	Active Communities Network	Community
Kelly Maxwell	NIACRO	Voluntary
Elizabeth Gracey	Action on Disability	Community
Carolyn Stewart	Mencap	Voluntary
Anne Donnelly	Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid	Voluntary
Deirdre Walsh	Whiterock Children's Centre	Community
Karen Burns	BHSCT	Statutory
Declan Morris	Simon Community NI	Voluntary
Tish Holland	Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	Community
Michael Doherty	Glen Parent/Youth Group	Community
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together	Community
Karen Buchanan	Parent Representative	
Penny Ambrose	Beechmount SureStart	Community
Irene Cooke	Shankill SureStart	Community
Joan Davis	Family Mediation NI	Voluntary
Anne Sharvin	Belfast HSCT	Statutory
Sue Pentel	Ionad Uíbh Eachach	Community
Jackie Redpath	Greater Shankill Partnership	Community

Apologies:

Name:	Organisation:	Sector:
Joe Coneré	Digital Media Solutions	Community
Mairead Murray	Kids Together	Community
Dympna Johnston	Shankill Greater Partnership	Community
Marie-Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation	Voluntary
Danny Power	Greater Falls Neighbourhood	Community

	Partnership	
Angela Mervin	West Belfast Partnership	Community
Gerry Largey	BHSCT	Statutory
Renee Crawford	Lenadoon Women's Group	Community

In Attendance:

Emma Milligan	Niacro Family Links
Dierdre Sloan	Barnardos Families Matters

Youth Engagement Project

Jim gave an outline of the Youth Engagement Project is a Peace III funded initiative aimed at developing an inter-agency approach to youth engagement and tackling issues faced by young people in interface areas. This project has been running around for around 18 months, Belfast City Council is the lead body for this.

It focuses on the following four interface areas:

- M1 - Westlink
- Blackmountain
- Ardoyne - Woodvale
- Inner-East Belfast - Short Strand.

As part of the project, agencies with an interest in youth-related crime and antisocial behaviour are working with the community sector to engage young people.

Phase 1 involves providing diversionary activities to young people who are causing harm, or are at risk of causing harm at interfaces.

Phase 2 involves more intensive support services such as youth mentoring, education employment and training and support for young people and their families. Jim suggested that it would be very beneficial that this should work with young people referred from the Family Support Hubs. This project works with young people over 13 years of age and can take referrals between April and September. The M1 - Westlink project has received additional funding from ASDA for an employability element to the work with the young people.

SIF steering group for West Belfast consulted with the community on the Early Intervention project which will focus on Employability in West Belfast and on Education in the Shankill area. The Early Intervention project will focus on working with young people aged 11 and over who are at risk of becoming involved in crime. Jim explained that this would focus on 6 areas within West Belfast and Shankill and that a consortium of groups should tender for this and should link with groups already doing this type of work and also to make links with the Family Support Hubs. This work will have a whole family approach and will focus on community intelligence and referrals to ensure that the young people don't come to the attention of youth justice etc. This project will be open to 25 young people in each area. Jim highlighted how different projects what had a partnership/joined up approach has worked really well in the past and that this will be vital for this new work.

Presentations - Emma Milligan Niacro Family Links and Deirdre Sloan Barnardos Families Matters.

Tina welcomed Emma and Deirdre to the meeting and explained that their presentations are in relation to previous discussions about the needs of families with parent in prison. Please see attached presentation by Emma and follow the web link for further information on Barnardos project which includes information about the number of children making visits to a parent or family member in prison.

<http://www.thedetail.tv/issues/311/children-prisons-part-2/prisoners-and-their-families-both-serving-time>

Emma and Deirdre both tabled resources which are available from their offices also. Deirdre highlighted that West Belfast, Derry and Antrim had the highest numbers of children visiting a parent or family member in prison.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March were agreed as an accurate recording of the meeting.

Matters Arising

A discussion took place about the resolution about the Belfast Intensive Family Support Programme from the West Belfast LPG to the Belfast Area Outcomes Group. Una highlighted that Jackie Redpath had ask that the wording “interpretation of the” be removed from the resolution. The group members agreed to this. They agreed that the remainder of the resolution was satisfactory and asked for it to be tabled at the next Outcomes Group meeting.

Action: Tina to table at the next Belfast Area Outcomes Group meeting.

West Belfast LPG DRAFT Action Plan 2014-17

Copies of the draft action plan were tabled. Discussions took place about whether different groups of children and young people needed to be distinguished between in the action plan, it was agreed that the wording take account of ALL children access ALL services should be included. Tina asked that if members had any other suggestions for the action plan to email them to Una before 30th April.

A discussion took place about the Parents Reference Group in Belfast. Una to contact Clare-Anne Magee from Parenting NI to find out what is happening with this. Tina highlighted that many members were parents also and therefore sit on the group as parents as well as advocates for the children, young people and families that they work with.

Action: Una to discuss PRG with Clare-Anne Magee (Parenting NI)

Early Intervention Transformation Programme

Tina had previously circulated a presentation about EITP. EITP funding is made up of funding from the 5 departments, Atlantic Philanthropies, and OFMDFM. There are 3 work streams:

1. Equip all parents with the skills needed to give their child the best start in life
2. Support families when problems first emerge, out-with the statutory system

3. Positively addressing the impact of adversity on children by intervening both earlier & more effectively to reduce the risk of poor outcomes later in life

Members discussed that there was a level of frustration and mistrust towards the EITP from the community organisations in the area; particularly due to the Integrated Services funding coming to an end. It was highlighted that the EITP will offer equality to family support services across all of Northern Ireland. Jackie highlighted that the notion of the departments to join up funding for early intervention family support for many years now and that we should celebrate that this is now happening with EITP.

It was believed that there is still an opportunity to shape the project particularly in work stream 2. Tina highlighted that the Belfast Area Outcomes Group had just had a presentation from some of the change coordinators for EITP and that the group had asked for the business case. There was a discussion around work stream 2 being aligned with the Family Support Hubs. Jackie explained that there was a BAOG meeting on 7th May with the change managers and that this could be feedback to the locality group which may help with the frustrations and confusion about the programme.

Family Support Hubs

Whiterock childrens centre was successful in their bid to be the lead agency for the first Family Support Hub in West Belfast which will cover the Upper Springfield and Whiterock areas. She will be meeting with East Belfast Alternatives who are the lead body for the Inner East Hub. These hubs will operate in shadow form for a period before taking referrals. The Shankill Hub is now having meetings to establish the hub there.

Any Other Business

Carolyn highlighted that Mencap will be holding an inclusion conference soon and a family fun day. She will send information through to Una for circulation.

Declan Morris from the Simon Community NI explained that he was a new member to the group and is very keen to be involved, and has been

involved with Locality Planning Groups and Hubs in the Northern Outcomes Group area.

Date of Future Meetings

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 11 June 2014	2.30pm	Top of the Rock Upper Springfield Dev't Trust
Wednesday 6 August 2014	2.30pm	Frank Gillen Centre
Wednesday 8 October 2014	2.30pm	Spectrum Centre
Wednesday 10 December 2014	2.30pm	Maureen Sheehan Centre (TBC)