

**Press Release****Date** 31 March 2015**Status** For immediate release**Ballymoney Disability Youth Fair – supporting and encouraging local young people with disabilities**

The Ballymoney Locality Planning Group (LPG) hosted a Disability Youth Fair recently to support young people with disabilities in the Ballymoney area as they move from full time education to employment. .

The fair brought together local support service organisations for an awareness day so young people with disabilities and their families could see the range of services available in Ballymoney.

Iain McAfee, Chair of Ballymoney LPG said, “We hope that increasing awareness of these programmes and services will allow people with disabilities in the Ballymoney area to maintain their independence.”

“Since the formation of the Locality Group in Ballymoney, the need to support children and young people with disabilities has been our plan. Ballymoney is home to some excellent services and there are many others covering the Borough too. The challenge is always to ensure that those with disabilities and their families are aware of where they can access support.”

The event also provided an opportunity for local organisations such as Mencap and Compass to network with other service providers and highlight volunteering opportunities and links to employment for those attending.

The Ballymoney LPG works to co-ordinate existing services for young people to make them more effective. It also regularly reviews needs in the area to see that services meet the actual needs identified by young people and their families.

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

For more information about the CYPSP, visit [www.cypsp.org](http://www.cypsp.org)

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