

Involving Disabled young people in the development of regional child and youth services

UK CONFERENCE on Child Poverty & Well-being
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Content

- Case study on inclusion of Disabled Children in planning services
- Northern Ireland Policy and Rights Context
- Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership/Disabled Children and Young Peoples Participation Project/Participation Network



Overarching Policy Context -2006 Children's Strategy - Our Children and Young People: Our Pledge

What we want to achieve for all our children-
High Level Outcomes:-

- Enjoying Learning and Achieving
- Experiencing Economic and Environmental Wellbeing
- Contributing Positively to Community and Society
- Living in Safety with Stability
- Healthy
- Living in a Society that Respects their Rights



Future Direction Children's Rights Indicators

- **Development of a child rights outcome indicators framework**
 - Map the existing information collected on children and young people
 - Quantitative and qualitative data
 - Identify gaps-data development agenda
 - Inform the review of the Children's Strategy

UNESCO Centre, Children and Youth Programme, University of Ulster/OFMDFM



The Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership

The CYPSP is a cross-sectoral strategic partnership consisting of the leadership from all key agencies who have responsibility for improving outcomes for all children and young people in Northern Ireland

Health
Social care
Education
Youth justice
Probation
Police
Local Government
Voluntary/Community/BME



Integrated Planning

- Planning groups, both regional and local, finding out how well children and young people in their area or group are doing against the High level Outcomes. The planning groups are looking at
 - Statistical information
 - The experience of children and young people and families
 - What research tells us.
- They are also looking at what supports and services exist at the moment, that they can work out what needs to be changed, especially how such supports and services should be coordinated, to improve children's outcomes.



Family Support Principles

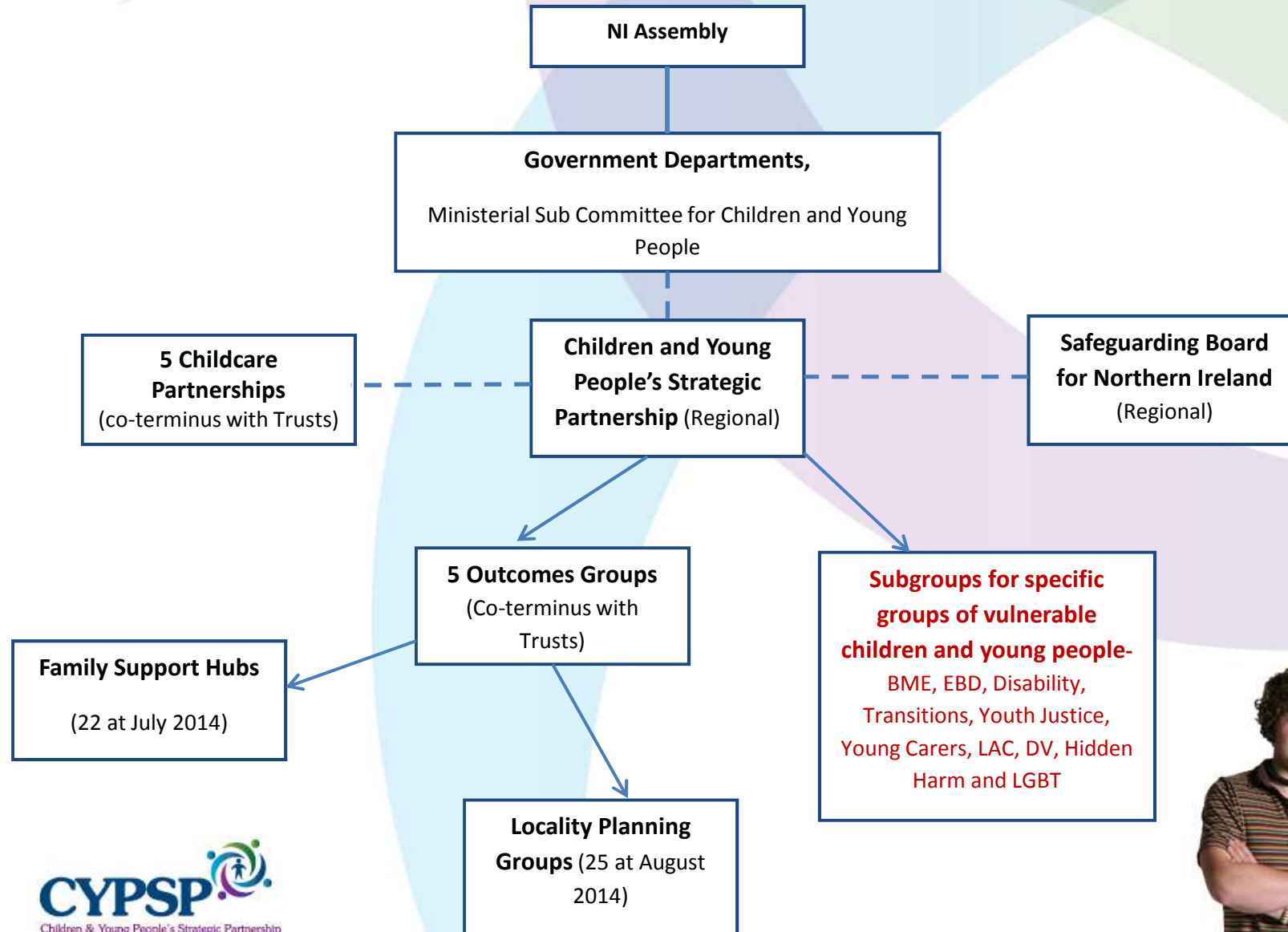
Family Support Principles Include-

- 10 Family Support Principles Working in partnership with children, families, professionals and communities
- Requires a clear focus on wishes , feelings, safety and well-being of children
- Involves service users and front line providers in planning, delivery and evaluation on an on-going basis

Pinkerton, Dolan and Canavan 2004



CYPSP Structure



The Role of the 10 Regional Subgroups - Outcomes Based Planning for Specific Groups of Children and Young People

- Carry out integrated planning for specific groups of vulnerable children and young people on a **regional (NI)** basis
- Sharing resources across agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- Specific emphasis on views of children young people and families
 - BME
 - **Disabled Children**
 - **Transitions**
 - Domestic and Sexual Violence (with RSG)
 - Children Young People and Offending
 - Think Family (with HSCB)
 - LGBT Young People (with PHA)
 - LAC 16+
 - Young Carers
 - Children and Young People with Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties



Case Study

- Participation in regional CYPSP subgroups on Disabled Children/Transition
- Participation Network
- Disabled Children and Young Peoples Participation Project



Process



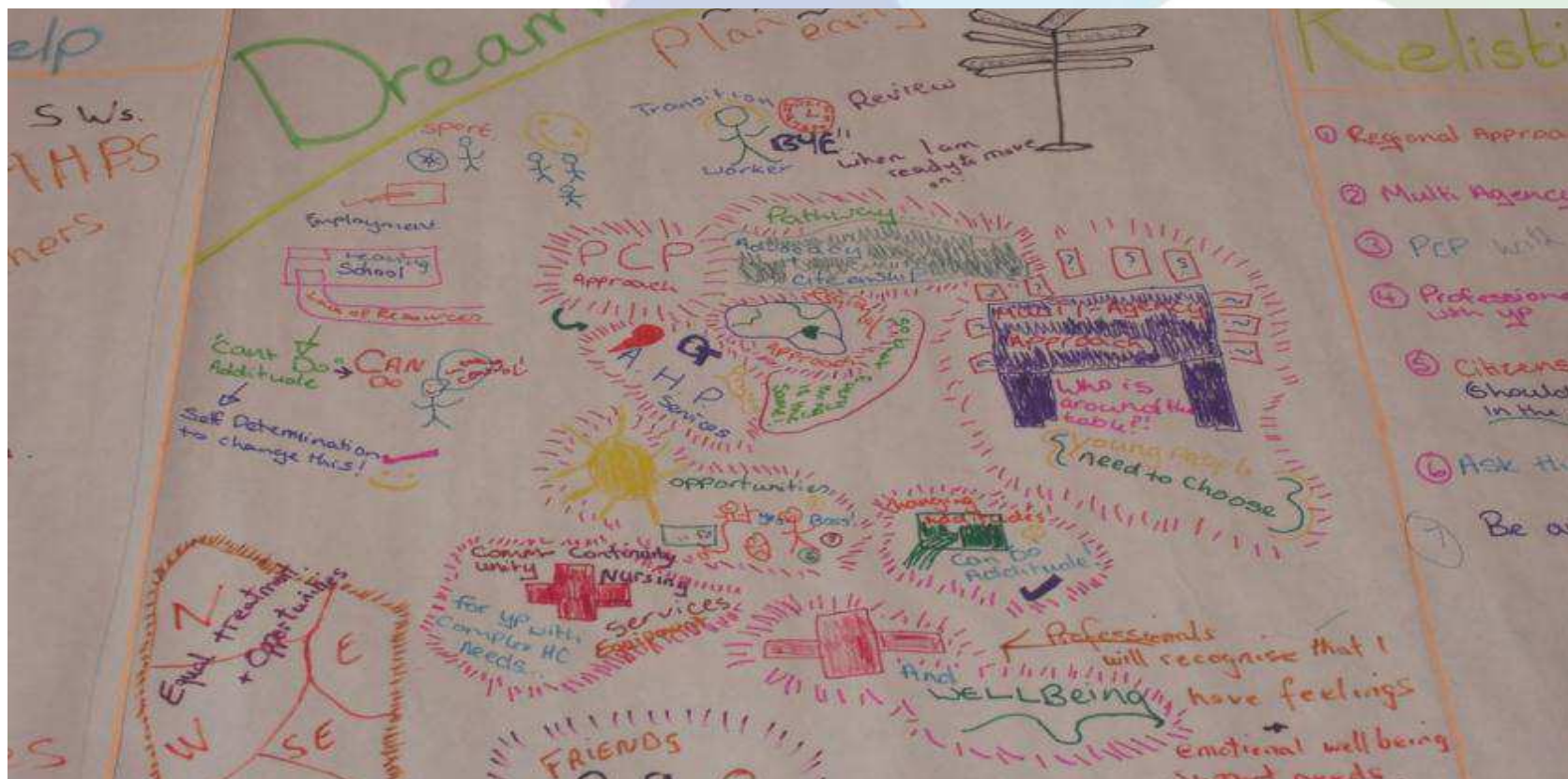
Preparing to meet the Planners



Designing the path



The dream



Process



Key messages

- A regional approach to transition in place.
- A multi-agency approach operating.
- A person-centred plan in place for every young person.
- Professionals to have a more relaxed and “can do” attitude to young people and to engage them in a meaningful way.
- Young people to be aware of their rights – to be heard and make decisions about their lives.
- Professionals to actively seek and appreciate children and young people’s views



Young People and Service Planners



Impact

A regional approach to transition in place.

Develop an integrated commissioning statement, which will ensure equal opportunities through the transition process across the region.

A multi-agency approach operating.

Develop a collaborative multi-agency approach to individual assessment to best benefit the young person through transition stage from 14+.



Impact cont'd

A person-centred plan in place for every young person.

Develop a good practice model for integrated plans – to ensure that every young person has access to support from 14 years old.

Ensure a person centred approach through self-directed support including individualised budgets and direct payments.



Impact cont'd

Professionals to have a more relaxed and “can do” attitude to young people and to engage them in a meaningful way.

Training for Teachers, Community Nurses, Social Workers and other relevant professionals to challenge their attitudes to disability and expand their skills in supporting children with disabilities and their families. The aim of this training is to aid the young person to develop to their fullest potential and adapt a can-do attitude to life, aiding independence.

Training for service providers and policy makers on how to communicate effectively with adolescents with disabilities in order to help them to identify their needs and wishes and aid participation.



Impact cont'd

Young people to be aware of their rights – to be heard and make decisions about their lives.

Children and young people with disabilities receive rights training based on the Human Rights Act, the UNCRC and the UNCRPD, including advocacy training.

Professionals to actively seek and appreciate children and young people's views

Human rights, UNCRC, UNCRPD and disability awareness training for all staff working with young people and their professional bodies.

Agree a collaborative training programme for all agencies that is designed to be delivered by young people with disabilities



Review

Q1. We would like the chairs to explain exactly what stage the passport is at? Is there a time/date when it will be ready for use?

Related to page 5&6 of the Action Plan

Q2. At the last meeting the majority of us, felt that there is a lack of understanding when it comes to our individual needs, by teachers, employers, Social workers and others.

What is set in place to tackle this issue? And how are the chairs going to create more awareness and promote person centeredness?

Related to page 12 of the Action Plan



The challenges

- Among other sub-group members - professional defensiveness – taking challenge as complaint
- Getting commitment from each of the young people’s agencies
- Changing membership of young people’s group – “age out”



What made it work

- Experience of Disabled Children and Young Peoples Participation project
- Commitment of Sub-group chairs
- Mandated by CYPSP strategy
- Willingness of young people to engage
- Underpinned by ASK FIRST standards



ASK FIRST standards

Appropriate methods

Support

Knowledge

Feedback

Inclusion

Respect

Senior people

Timing



ASK FIRST standards

Appropriate methods

Children and young people will be engaged in a variety of ways, based on what is best suited to their age and level of development / maturity. In particular, play based methodologies will be developed for involving pre-school children.

Support

Children and young people will be provided with the support needed to engage effectively in the decision making process.



ASK FIRST

Knowledge

Children and young people will be provided with the knowledge they need to engage fully in decision-making processes. Information will be easily understood, child friendly and produced in a range of accessible formats.

Feedback

Children and young people will be told about the outcomes of their involvement and how their input has been considered. Where their ideas have not been taken on board they will be told why this has happened.



ASK FIRST

Inclusion

All children and young people will be facilitated to engage in public decision-making processes. Particular measures will be put in place to ensure the involvement of those who are vulnerable and marginalised, in line with Section 75 and UNCRC obligations.

Respect

Children and young people will be treated with respect. They will decide the nature and extent of their involvement, including the option not to participate.



ASK FIRST

Senior people

Children and young people will have direct contact with senior people who are in a position to make decisions and take action in relation to their ideas, views and experiences.

Timing

Children and young people will be involved at the earliest possible stages of policy and service development, including processes to establish the need for service or policy initiatives.



More Information

Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership

www.cypsp.org

Disabled Children Working Group

<http://www.cypsp.org/children-disabilites.htm>

Transition Working Group

<http://www.cypsp.org/transition.htm>

CYPSP Young Peoples Pages

<http://www.cypsp.org/young-people.htm>

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