

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING
MINUTES OF ANTRIM LOCALITY GROUP**

**TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2014 AT 1.30PM
CIVIC CENTRE, ANTRIM**

Attending:	Mervyn Rea	<i>Antrim Borough Council</i>
	Jason Jordan	<i>NEELB Youth Service</i>
	William Smyth	<i>AYICC</i>
	Pamela Shields	<i>Oasis Antrim</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Marie Donaghy	<i>NRC</i>
	Joanne Cleary	<i>Antrim Surestart</i>
	Petr Zvolsky	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Aofie McAteer	<i>Antrim Borough Council</i>
	Davinia Cann	<i>Caudwell Children</i>
Apologies:	Andrew Irwin	<i>Antrim PCSP</i>
	Alison Briggs	<i>Antrim Borough Council</i>
	Margaret Thompson	<i>Home-Start Antrim</i>
	Joyce Kinnaird	<i>PHA</i>
	Sharon Harvey	<i>Early Years</i>
	Joan Davis	<i>Family Mediation NI</i>
	Sarah Best	<i>SACN</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Kerry Brady	<i>Antrim Borough Council</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mervyn welcomed everyone to the meeting today and apologies were noted.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held on **Tuesday 16th September 2014**.

PRESENTATION – DAVINIA CANN, CAUDWELL CHILDREN

Davinia Cann is the Regional Family Services Coordinator covering all of Northern Ireland for Caudwell Children and has been in post for 2 ½ years. Davinia provided information on Family Services which offer vital support to families caring for a disabled child or a young person (0-18). The service can provide telephone, email and face to face support to help families to make informed choices and gain access to equipment, treatment, therapies and local services they need.

Davinia works closely with the Northern Health & Social Care Trust, Disability Teams and Surestarts in Belfast. Trained volunteers help with practical necessities like applying for grants, finding local support groups and information about medical conditions. These volunteers are supported by Davinia.

Families can self-refer into the service if they have a disabled or seriously ill child aged 0-18 years. This is a free service and will support families to gain access to:

- Therapy
- Treatment
- Support Groups
- Equipment
- Help in identifying grants and sources of funding
- Information relating to medical conditions
- Signposting to specialist sources of advice.

Information was provided on some of the equipment that can be provided to families which help to increase a child's independence and quality of life. Wheelchairs, therapy tricycles, specialised car seats and sensory equipment could be provided. Caudwell Children work closely with 3 suppliers in the Northern Area to enable them to get this equipment for families in need.

Davinia noted the ASD teams are receiving a lot of referrals. Members were asked to make families they are working with aware of this service. It was noted applications received can take 10-12 weeks to process due to the volume being received. Applications are limited to £40,000 and below.

For further information on this programme visit the website www.caudwellchildren.com. Application forms can also be downloaded on the website also from www.caudwellchildren.com/applyforsupport

UPDATE – BELIVE IN YOUTH PROJECT

Maurice McLaughlin did not attend today's meeting. However, the Antrim Locality group will be kept up to date on further developments regarding the Believe in Youth Project in the Antrim area.

UPDATE – 0-4 PARENTAL SUPPORT

Selena and Margaret have met to discuss how to best progress this. As a result of this meeting both Selena and Margaret felt it would be a good idea to use the captive audience in Homestart during one of their groups when there would be 30 mums present.

It is hoped to offer a programme covering Education/Empowering/Mental Health/Caring for themselves and this would be done over 4 sessions. 2 sessions will be delivered in January and the remaining 2 in February 2015.

In order to progress this, a small group will meet, with the date to be scheduled in December in Homestart offices. Members were asked to be involved in the planning of this. Members who agreed to participate and will form the subgroup are Margaret Thompson, Joanne Cleary, Sandra Anderson and Selena Ramsey. Once a date is agreed this will be circulated.

An update will be provided at the next locality planning meeting.

UPDATE – ANTRIM LEARNING TOGETHER

Chris Lindsay met with Antrim Learning Together and they have agreed that the next Antrim Youth Fair will be 29th April 2015. George will confirm this with Selena and Gemma will coordinate and send information.

Principals noted the potential areas for development would be cyber bullying and safety/resilience skills for teachers and pupils and mental health.

Antrim Learning Together will link with Selena to progress this.

Action: Selena / Gemma

UPDATE – ANTRIM SURESTART

Joanne noted further recruitment is taking place. Joanne brought a newsletter produced for Antrim Surestart and distributed to all members present. This newsletter details all services to be provided over the next few months and is used as a method to let parents know what is available.

Antrim Surestart are in the process of setting up a Facebook page and are currently carrying out a risk assessment for this. Joanne also informed the group they are continuing to look for premises in the Antrim area.

MEMBER AGENCY UPDATE

Aoife McAteer – Antrim Borough Council

Aoife provided an update on behalf of the Health & Wellbeing Team. Eat, Sleep and Play is on-going. Sharon is now rolling out a pilot project looking at the Holistic service. Aoife has taken over Sharon's role until March 2015.

An update was provided on behalf of Alison Briggs. Community Grant scheme working to deliver a pilot in Greystone and will be available for voluntary/community organisations to nominate a client to use. Alison will give a further update at the January meeting.

Sandra Anderson – CYPSP

Sandra provided information on funding available through the Northern Outcomes Group. Funding applies to all needs but priority will be given to families with children with a disability, especially those on the Autistic Spectrum or with ADHD. There is funding available that needs to be spent before the end of March 2015. This information was circulated by email with applications to be returned by Friday 21st November 2014.

Marie Donaghy – NRC

Marie informed the group project funding is coming to an end next year. Courses will be provided from January – March 2015. Marie is currently working on The Reaching out Supporting Families Big Lottery application. The bid will focus on supporting families with special needs. A focus group has taken place with parents in support of this application. The application is due to be submitted before Thursday. It was also noted a Youth Awards is being organised and should take place before March 2015.

Pamela Shields – OASIS Antrim

Youth programme continuing to run with 18 young people involved in this. Pamela noted she is working with NIYF and Youth Justice Agency running programmes for people at risk from other programmes. Pamela provided information on 'Time for Girls'. This is for woman aged 16+ and runs on a Thursday from 10.30-12.30 and is a 12 week programme. This is funded by Community Pharmacy. Various talks would be organised through the weeks, stress management, crafts etc. OASIS is also working alongside NRC on a Friday to deliver Essential Skills in both English and Numeracy.

William Smyth – AYICC

William has commenced role as Youth Development Officer in Antrim Youth Information and Counselling Centre. This will be a 3 year project. There is a target set to reach 107 young people and 86 people are through at present. William agreed to present at the next meeting regarding the work being carried out as part of his role.

Jason Jordan – NEELB

Antrim Youth Strategy includes working with 8-25 year olds. Centre based provision takes place in Parkhall Youth Club operating 5 nights a week. Also young people attend the club through the mencap project with specific needs and disabilities. Also offering training courses in Parkhall and the next one is an OCN Level 1. Parkhall YC on Friday and Saturday nights is well attended with over 100 kids coming over the 2 nights.

Ballycraigy Youth Club has appointed a Leader in Charge and is due to commence employment. This youth club meet on a Monday & Thursday evening. Crumlin Youth Club will be starting on 20th November 2014 and this will be the first night of operation.

Jason noted the Education Library Board provides grants for over 60 youth groups. Jason provided information on the Outreach youth project.

Wednesday is in Crumlin and Friday in Springfarm working with unattached young people.

An OCN Level 2 will be running in Antrim in the 1st week of December. Jason provided information on recent new posts. An Area Youth Worker has been appointed on 1st November and is attending meetings at present. The 2nd post has been advertised and it is hoped for someone to be in place by the start of January 2015. This post will cover anywhere within Antrim Borough Council areas.

Karen Crawford

Referrals are coming through and taking referrals from Youth Diversion Officer. Karen has been using the Think Drink leaflets received at the last meeting and finding them to be a useful resource.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Antrim Borough Council

Mervyn noted Antrim and Newtownabbey will be merging together. Mervyn has been offered a position as Deputy Councillor and has been working closely with the new Chief Executive. A meeting has also taken place with the Commissioner for young people. The purpose of wanting to meet is for the reason being, the commissioner will be finishing employment in November and will not be replaced.

Mervyn noted he is interested to know what the new super councils are doing in terms of young people. He has informed new super councils of CYPSP Locality Groups to ensure young people are part of community planning.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 20th January 2015 at 2.00pm in Antrim Civic Centre**. Gemma will circulate the dates for 2015 to all members.

Action: Gemma