

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

**TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2015 AT 2.00PM
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>
	Joyce Kinnaird	<i>PHA</i>
	Margaret Thompson	<i>Home-Start Antrim</i>
	Petr Zvolsky	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Anne Thompson	<i>SACN</i>
	Emma McElhone	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Katherine Wylie	<i>Employers for Childcare</i>
	Maurice McLaughlin	<i>Believe in Youth</i>
	Scott Oslon	<i>Peer Educator</i>
Apologies:	Chris Lindsay	<i>NEELB</i>
	Kerry Brady	<i>Antrim Borough Council</i>
	Nora McKnight	<i>First Antrim Church</i>
	Joanne Cleary	<i>Antrim Surestart</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were reviewed with some changes notes. The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held on **Tuesday 18th November 2014.**

PRESENTATION – EMMA MCELHONE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Emma provided background information to the Strengthening Families programme which is PHA funded. It is a programme for parents/carers and their children aged 10-14 years. This is an evidence based programme and skills are gained by those attending to help strengthen their family. It is a 7 week programme taking place one night per week usually in the evening with a meal provided at the start of each night to all families attending.

Families are split into 2 groups each week at the beginning of each session. One group consists of parents/carers along with one facilitator. This lasts for an hour approximately and is DVD lead. The other group consists of young people and 2 facilitators. Individual topics are covered each week through activities and games. The groups re-join and complete further activities together within each family.

Funding has been received from the PHA to deliver 10 - 11 programmes before March with the aim to have one in each council area. 6 programmes have been completed to date and Larne, Cookstown, Ballymoney, Antrim and Ballymena are scheduled for February 2015. Emma informed the group she is hoping for a programme to start in Antrim in February. 10-12 families are needed to run the programme and referrals are now being taken.

Funding for each programme includes money to cover a venue, catering and transport to families if required to eliminate any barriers for families to attend the programme. A booster session is provided 3-6 months after to families who took part in strengthening families.

Anyone can make referrals to Emma McElhone if they know of any families who would benefit from this programme. Contact Emma on 028 2563 6600 or emma.mcelhone@northerntrust.hscni.net

PRESENTATION – WILLIAM SMYTH, AYICC

William started post in January 2014 as the Youth Development Officer in Antrim Youth Information and Counselling Centre. William's role includes a number of responsibilities which are outlined below:

- Coordination of a focus group of up to 17 young people who come together to discuss the issue of suicide in Antrim.
- Development and delivery of Youth Training Programmes
- Signposting/Drop in Facility
- Advocate on behalf of young people
- Create opportunities for community events
- Create opportunities for training (2 people have completed ASIST last week)

The focus group celebrated its 2nd birthday and William noted a few achievements the group have made in this period of time.

- PCSP Beat Project
- The group continue to engage with PSNI
- Bag Packing in Tesco Antrim
- Donation received from Stiles Youth Club

£720 was raised at a fundraising event. A volunteering recognition evening was held. 9 members graduated at a celebration event for each

completing 200 Millennium Voluntary hours. 6 members have completed ASIST training. All members have completed Promoting Mental Health training.

The focus group have also designed a wristband to raise the profile of the group and as a way of raising awareness and money. 2 fundraising events are taking place this month to raise funds to support the local drop in service.

William provided information on a Senior and Junior Disco taking place over the next few months. William noted he wants to continue to build relationships with other youth agencies over the next 12 months. Over this time training programmes will also be delivered to 8-25 year olds in the Antrim Council area. This will include youth training programmes, personal development, peer mentoring, cultural awareness, health and wellbeing and drugs and alcohol training.

Statistics were provided to the group on the project in Year One. 88 young people were reached through the drop in facility. 3 training programmes were delivered. 38 young people have been through counselling sessions (lasting 12 weeks).

For any queries please contact William Smyth, Youth Development Officer on 028 94 429844 or email antrimcc@btconnect.com

UPDATE – BELIEVE IN YOUTH PROJECT

Maurice provided information on the Believe in Youth Project which is a peer education programme and covers the Northern Trust area.

8 peer educators are involved in this work and there are 3 main elements to the project.

- Intervention element – engaging with young people already using alcohol
- Signposting – signpost to other services
- Preventative – one goal is to delay the onset of drinking behaviour. Targeting 10-12 year olds for early intervention.

Antrim is a target area for an outreach programme. Potential target areas were discussed. Maurice noted he will look to develop this.

Maurice provided information on Community Champions. Community Champions are interested in reducing the harm of alcohol to young people. The Community Champions will go through a range of training programmes, OCN Drug and Alcohol training in order to build their knowledge. They will be supervised when completing work with young people.

Maurice provided information on a residential that took place in Corrymela, Ballycastle. 250 Primary 7 pupils from 13 different primary schools were there engaging in workshops and alcohol awareness. Feedback received was positive from young people, schools and parents.

It was noted feedback will be provided at the next meeting on the outreach programme in Antrim area. Scott is the Peer Educator and will be involved in this. PCSP highlighted the castle grounds as a potential target area for this.

UPDATE – 0-4 PARENTAL SUPOPRT

Selena provided an update on 0-4 parental support and progress made. It is hoped to get families together for a programme of activities in Clotworthy, Antrim. This will offer families 4 sessions with a different theme covered in each session. Mental Health, Steps to School, Caring for Yourself and Resilience will be covered during the programme.

This will be for parents already engaging with Homestart, Antrim and will hopefully start on 30th January with 4 sessions, one taking place every week.

Feedback will be provided at the next meeting.

Action: Margaret / Selena

UPDATE – YOUTH FAIR / ANTRIM LEARNING TOGETHER

The next Antrim Youth Fair is hoped to take place on Friday 1st May 2015. Selena is meeting with George to confirm this and will feedback at the next meeting. Information will be circulated when confirmed and sent to all post primary schools.

Sandra completed engagement with young people before regarding youth fairs to identify what young people know prior to the youth fair and what they know after the youth fair. Young people remember something that is interactive.

The Antrim Learning Together plan to have another joint training session and they are interested in Self- harm and resilience.

Action: Selena

MEMBER AGENCY UPDATE

Sandra Anderson – CYPSP

Sandra has completed engagement in partnership with ASD Team. As a result from this engagement and the recommendations highlighted, two events are going to take place in March/April. These events will be for siblings 10+ who have a brother or sister with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A flyer will be circulated.

Margaret Thompson – Home-Start Antrim

The Christmas appeal is over. Sixty-one hampers were delivered this year and these also included toys for children. Cash for Kids kindly provided all the toys to make this possible. Messages received from families were much appreciated. Oil stamps were also delivered to families. Volunteers were brilliant throughout this busy period and thanks were given to them.

Pamela Shields – OASIS Antrim

Continue to work with 14-16 year olds and have a further two new young people. Information was provided on Essential skills which takes place on a Friday. A new group was established and some young people asked about DJ skills. A DJ course will be running for 8 weeks in the Main Street in Antrim. Oasis have been asked to run a foodbank and develop this and the need for a foodbank have been brought to their attention. Pamela hopes to encourage a lot more giving and get a list of food that is needed. Food baskets are given 3 times to the one family per year as well as a way of signposting. Pamela is looking for volunteers to help with foodbanks and organisations to donate food.

Katherine Wylie – Employers for Childcare

Information was provided on Employers for Childcare and the service that is offered. This is an approved home childcare service which is flexible and tailored to the family's individual needs. Child-minders are constantly being recruited to keep up with the demand for this service. Have childminders who are trained and specialise in looking after children with disabilities.

Katherine also provided information on a Family Benefits Advisory Service. A team of 3 health visitors go to help families and help them to budget and makes each family aware what they are entitled to. A voucher scheme has also been running. Margaret suggested coming to Homestart to inform parents and families of the service.

Jason Jordan – NEELB

Information was given on Youth Provision in Antrim in three Youth Clubs. Parkhall runs five nights per week, Crumlin is on a Wednesday and Friday night and numbers are continuing to grow. Ballycraigy runs 2 nights on a Monday and Thursday. Numbers continue to filter through from primary school for this.

Jason noted he was asked to engage in Springfarm. One night is set aside for outreach in Crumlin with Stacy and Billy covering this. Engagement is taking place with young people to establish a small group.

OCN Level 1 Youth Development course is taking place in Parkhall with 10 young people. OCN Level 2 Youth Leadership is running with 10 young people from Antrim Youth Information and Counselling Centre.

Ballymena, Antrim and Moyle are closing and relocating to Broughshane from 1st April 2015 as part of savings. From 1st April 2015 NEELB will no longer exist and will be under the new education centre in NI.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Supporting Families Big Lottery Application

Marie is at the final stages of the application and hopefully by the next meeting will hear if the application is successful.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 24th March 2015 at 2.00pm in Antrim Civic Centre.**