



Minute of Western Area Outcomes Group
held on 4 March 2015
Strabane Enterprise Agency

Present:

- Mr Kieran Downey, Director of Women & Children's Services [Chair]
- Mr Pat Armstrong, Head of Service, Western Trust
- Ms Mustapha Ben Hassine, Barnardos
- Mr Eamon O'Kane, Local Commissioning Group
- Mr Paul Sweeney, Extern
- Ms Nicola Topping, Education Officer, WELB
- Mrs Ann McDuff, Assistant Director [Community & Public Health]
- Ms Colleen Heaney, Youth Justice Agency
- Ms Bernie Tierney, Children's Services Manager, Action for Children
- Mrs Brenda MacQueen, Dry Arch Centre
- Ms Cathy Mullan, Public Health Agency
- Ms Linda Watson, Caw/Nelson Drive Community Association
- Ms Gemma Scarlett, Children & Young People's Officer, Derry City Council
- Ms Cathy McCloskey, Early Years Organisation
- Ms Marie McGale, MENCAP

In attendance:

- Ms Amanda McLean, Early Intervention Service Change Manager
- Mrs Bronagh Donnelly, Action for Children
- Mrs Priscilla Magee, Action for Children
- Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Ms Orla Conway, Omagh Women's Aid Mrs Anne Hardy, Children's Services Planning Officer, HSCB Ms Muriel Bailey, Director of Helpline, Parenting NI Mrs Anne Donaghey, Business Manager</p>
2	<p>Notes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>All present confirmed that they had received a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 December 2014 and they were a true and accurate record of the discussion that had taken place.</p>

3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Deputy Chair Mrs Donnelly advised that she had circulated an email to community and voluntary representatives seeking nominations for the role of Deputy Chair and agreed to report back at the next meeting.</p>
4	<p>Update from Locality Planning Groups Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Magee distributed an update report on the work of the Locality Planning Groups.</p>
5	<p>Early Intervention Updates</p> <p>Interreg V Funding Mr Downey reported that funding had been made available through the European Union to CAWT, a partnership between the cross border areas of the North and South of Ireland. He said he had presented a bid on behalf of the Children's Services Strategy Group for funding to devise and implement a cross border framework for the assessment and identification of children/families at risk from multiple adverse experiences. He said the proposal had been accepted by the CAWT Management Board and accepted in principal by the European Union. He said this would generate between 8-11M Euros for the border areas of the Western and Southern Trusts and would be available from 2016 for a 5 – 8 year period. Mr Downey said a detailed funding proposal would now be written up which would require the approval of the Health Service Executive, the two Trusts and Tulsa. He said the proposal was to develop virtual centres of excellence for the training and development of staff, resilience building for parents and families at greatest risk and was aimed at the 0-3 age group and 11-14 year old adolescents [based on research to reshape the emotional response of young people]. He said significant work was required to develop an adverse indices framework, using the same identification both sides of the border. Mr Downey agreed to keep members apprised of developments.</p> <p>EITP Ms McLean reported that the Early Intervention Programme Board had approved 5 Early Intervention pilot sites, as opposed to 20 in the original plan due to sustainability. She said the service would now go to tender, with a start date of July 2015 and would operate for a 33 month period. She said there would be one in each Trust area and each Outcomes Group was now requested to reconfirm their priority site based on this new information. Mr Downey said the service would allow for 2.5 Band 6 posts, 1 Band 4 post and 1 part-time Band 3 post. Members were disappointed at the approval of only one site.</p> <p>Ms Mullan asked Ms McLean how many families the resource would help. Ms McLean said the estimate was ten families per worker at any given time. Ms Mullan said it would be important to target the right range of families in order to achieve transformational outcomes.</p>

Following lengthy discussion, members agreed that the following criteria should be considered in identifying a strong and coherent argument for the Outcomes Group's decision and to evidence the key rationale for the decision making process:-

- Current infrastructure.
- Evidence of need regarding child wellbeing and child poverty.
- Existing capacity and asset base in the target area.
- Existing strategic co-ordination in the area.
- Added value to be achieved by the new service and how that will fit within existing provision.
- State of readiness/lead in time needed for the new 33 month service.
- Anticipated outcomes.

Mr Downey requested Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Magee to co-ordinate the task and he agreed to share the completed information with the forum as a consensus decision from members was necessary. Ms McLean offered her assistance. Members acknowledged that whatever decision was made would be challenged.

Mr Downey informed members that a project provider had been appointed to deliver the "Edges" project in the Enniskillen area for young people on the edge of care/ edge of juvenile justice and was due to commence shortly. Ms McLean withdrew from the meeting.

Pioneer Communities

Mr O'Kane advised of a UK Pioneer Community project being led by Mr George Hosking covering selected areas in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. He advised that Mr Hosking was in negotiations with government ministers and funding bodies to secure investment, but would also require funding from the selected regions, which required to have a population of 40-50,000. Mr O'Kane said Mr Hosking was enthusiastic about bringing the Pioneer Communities Project to the Western area and said he had a presentation which could be shared with members. Mr Downey advised that Mr Hosking had indicated his willingness to come back to Derry for further discussions.

Mr Downey advised of a newly published All Party Parliamentary Group report entitled "Building Great Britons – Conception to Age 2" which referenced the Pioneer Communities and agreed to circulate the report to members.

Speech and Language Therapy Project

Mrs MacQueen advised of an early intervention Speech and Language Therapy project which had been piloted within schools in the Limavady area and requested an opportunity for staff to present the findings to members. It was agreed to list the presentation for the next meeting.

Promoting Attachment and Early Language Development

Mrs Magee distributed a proposal to engage Suzanne Zeedyk to provide a series of events to promote positive attachment and early speech and language to enhance

	<p>positive emotional wellbeing within both the child and parent. She said the sessions would be held at the South West Acute Hospital and would allow for an audience of 100 per event, which would include both practitioners and the general public. Following discussion, members approved option two of the funding proposal, but requested Mrs Magee to seek if Suzanne Zeedyk could offer an additional day during her stay in the Trust to allow the awareness and information sharing on the latest developments within attachment science to be offered in Limavady.</p> <p>Delivering Social Change Mrs McDuff reported that regional discussions were taking place regarding a member of Health Visiting staff being attached to nurseries.</p> <p>Hubs Mr Armstrong reported that the Social Care Institute for Excellence were undertaking research on the Hubs, commencing with the Western area. Mr Armstrong to keep members updated.</p>
6	<p>Drug and Alcohol Planning Mr Downey said he was increasingly concerned at the level of drug and alcohol substance abuse by young people in the Trust, particularly the use of legal highs. He said he would like the forum to be informed of the scale of the problem, the range of available services, and what additional help and support could be provided to young people.</p> <p>Ms Heaney agreed that increasing numbers of emotionally damaged young people were now taking drugs, often coupled with self harming, and said much damage was being caused to themselves, their families and local communities. She said numerous young people were at chronic levels of addiction and said many were not accessing services through fear and the lack of services. Mrs McDuff agreed that young people found it hard to engage and said a proper infrastructure required to be in place to allow for engagement. Ms Watson proposed that training agencies could be used as venues to engage with young people and to offer information sessions/ programmes from these localities as young people were familiar with them.</p> <p>Ms Mullan said a deputation had recently met with the Minister to lobby for a residential treatment facility for young people in Derry and said one of the young people who had attended had shared her own personal story. Ms Mullan also said there was a need to join up services for self harm and suicide with work on alcohol and drugs as there were often links between the two.</p> <p>Mrs MacQueen said families required support as well as the young person and said she would be keen to explore what a care package would entail to support a young person at home. She said that the PSNI were proactive in offering support to young people and their families.</p> <p>Mr Sweeney said there were different cohorts of users – young people on the edge of</p>

	<p>the care, young people in care, care leavers, recreational users, and said it was important that intensive support was provided. He said he was meeting Mrs Suzanne Mahon and Mr Stephen McLaughlin, Heads of Service in the Trust, next week to discuss young people in care and said he would feedback to the forum.</p> <p>Following discussion, members agreed that there was a need to bring key stakeholders together to enhance connections, map out the current service provision and consider the value of available programmes, scope out current issues, and explore what a care package would entail. Mr Downey requested Mrs Magee and Mrs Donnelly to organise a meeting involving key representatives from the Trust, PSNI, Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, Public Health Agency and voluntary and community organisations etc, to influence discussion and promote linkages.</p> <p>Ms Heaney withdrew from the meeting.</p>
7	<p>Summary of Themes Raised by Fermanagh Parents Reference Group Members noted the report on the summary of themes raised by Fermanagh Parents Reference Group. Mr Downey noted that the group had stayed strong and active since the stakeholder events and said he would like to see this level of work replicated in other areas. Mrs Magee commended the work Mrs Maria Herron had undertaken with the group. Mr Downey undertook to invite Mrs Herron along to a future meeting of the Outcomes Group.</p>
8	<p>SIF Project Updates Members noted a paper detailing approved SIF projects across Northern Ireland for information.</p>
9	<p>Children and Young People with Disabilities Mr Downey said there was a need for the Outcomes Group to consider children and young people with disabilities and complex needs. He said that work had been undertaken across the Northern Outcomes Group area to ensure parents of children with a disability had a voice. Mrs Donnelly agreed to access the work undertaken by the Northern Outcomes Group.</p> <p>Mrs McDuff said she had organised a meeting in her Sub Directorate for later this month to try to profile numbers and provision, look at ways of communicating with parents and to consider the provision of childminding for disabled children.</p> <p>Mrs McGale said the caring responsibilities for parents of disabled children were so great that it was difficult for parents to attend meetings. Mrs McDuff said the parents of disabled children should also be included in this year's carers week.</p> <p>Ms McCloskey said there was a need to establish what would work for parents depending on the age of their children and to also consider the siblings in the family. She agreed to provide feedback from the Early Years Organisation. Mr Armstrong said information on disabled children could be extracted from early years inspections.</p> <p>Ms Topping said there was a need to look at a model for the provision of special</p>

	<p>needs at an early stage. Mr Downey said Mrs Herron could also advise on work in this area when she next attended the Outcomes Group. Mr O’Kane withdrew from the meeting.</p>
10	<p>Working Document for Action Plan Mrs Donnelly said that additional work was required to populate the working document for the action plan. Following discussion, it was agreed that the next meeting on 29 April 2015 would extend into the afternoon to allow for this to be completed. Mrs Magee circulated a document from Mrs Hardy on the five priority outcomes.</p> <p>Mr Downey reported that he was delivering a presentation on the work of the Western Area Outcomes Group at the next meeting of the Western Local Commissioning Group on 11 March 2015.</p>
11	<p>Regional Group Summaries Members noted receipt of minutes of the following regional groups:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Young Carers Sub Group. ➤ LAC 16+ Sub Group. ➤ Black and Minority Ethnic Children and Young People Sub Group. <p>Mr Hassine distributed copies of the following reports from Barnardo’s:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Feels Like Home: Exploring the Experiences of Newcomer Pupils in Primary Schools In Northern Ireland. ➤ Believe in Child Care? The Child Care Needs of Ethnic Minority Communities in Northern Ireland. <p>Mr Hassine advised that the author was willing to attend a future meeting of the Outcomes Group and he agreed to arrange this with Ms Forrest.</p>
12	<p>Western Outcomes Group Highlight Reports Members noted receipt of the highlight report for the Western Outcomes Group area which detailed information on the status and performance against the high level outcomes. Mr Downey said information from the highlight report needed to be factored into the action plan report.</p>
13	<p>How Local Families in the West are Coping with the Economic Downturn Mrs Downey thanked Mrs Magee for undertaking the survey “How Local Families in the West are Coping with the Economic Downturn”. He said the survey report detailed the hardship and difficulties many families were encountering. Mrs Magee reported that increasing numbers of families were struggling financially and had accessed food banks, bank loans/overdrafts and pawn brokers to cope with their financial expenses. She said that the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People had requested a copy of the report as it captured local information from the West. Mrs Magee reported that Mrs Hardy was hoping that the survey could be rolled out throughout Northern Ireland to capture current issues and themes</p>

	across the Province.
14	<p>CYPSP Think Family Sub Group/Hidden Harm Ms Mullan advised that she would inform members at the next meeting of the successful tenderer of a new intensive therapeutic service for children and families effected by Hidden Harm. Members noted that this was a very positive development.</p>
15	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Bringing Families and Support Together Event – 26 March 2015, Tara Centre, Omagh Mr Downey advised members of the above event celebrating the Omagh Locality Planning Group and Omagh Family Support Hub on 26 March 2015. All members were welcome to attend.</p> <p>Mencap Ms McGale reported that building work had commenced on the new centre for children with learning disabilities and their families in Newtownbreda. She advised that the new centre would replace Segal House.</p> <p>Western Education & Library Board Ms Topping advised that as of 1 April 2015, the Western Education and Library Board would be known as the Education Authority and Mr Gavin Boyd had been appointed as Chief Executive with a rollout of new structures to follow. Ms Topping advised that the new education areas were co-terminous with the Council boundaries.</p> <p>Community Planning - Thematic Groups Application Ms Scarlett advised that there was an Expression of Interest form for Community Planning Thematic Groups and she agreed to forward the form to Ms Forrest to distribute to members. Ms Watson said it would be important that older adolescents were also considered within the thematic groups. Mr Armstrong said that in relation to community planning it was important that statutory bodies were included in the dialogue processes along with community and voluntary representatives.</p>
16	<p>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting The next meeting is arranged for 29 April 2015 at 10.00 am in the Conference Room, Strabane Enterprise Agency. It was agreed that this meeting would extend into the afternoon to allow for completion of the working document on the action plan. Lunch to be provided.</p>