

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

**TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2015 AT 2.00PM
CIVIC CENTRE, ANTRIM**

Attending: Mervyn Rea *Antrim Borough Council*
Aoife McAteer *Antrim Borough Council*
William Smyth *AYICC*
Gemma Lutton *CYPSP (Minute Taker)*
Sandra Anderson *CYPSP*
Laura Crawford *YJA*
Joanne Cleary *Little Steps Surestart*
Kerry Brady *Antrim Borough Council*
Selena Ramsey *CYPSP*

Apologies: Pam Nugent *The Laurence Trust*
Andrew Irwin *Antrim PCSP*
Nora McKnight *First Antrim Church*
Marie McCloy *NRC*
Jason Jordan *NEELB Youth Service*
Margaret Thompson *Home-Start Antrim*
Anne Thompson *SACN*
Emma McElhone *NHSCT*
Maurice McLaughlin *Believe in Youth*

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 20th January 2015**.

MATTERS ARISING

Strengthening Families Programme

Selena provided background information to the Strengthening Families programme for anyone not at the previous meeting. A programme has been delivered in Antrim and has now come to its completion. Action for Children were taking the lead on this. Another one is planning to run in the next financial year starting April 2015. The 7 week programme is very positive and families learn a lot from it. Information will be circulated to all members with a referral form etc.

Supporting Families Application

Marie McCloy from the Live and Learn Project has put together an application for Supporting Families Big Lottery Funding. Marie was hoping to hear back but hasn't heard anything as yet. This bid will cover Magherafelt and Antrim. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

UPDATE – BELIEVE IN YOUTH PROJECT

Maurice McLaughlin attended a number of locality meetings. The project have asked if the group would be sounding board to feed into. NIYF have agreed to put in place sensational youth workers to take part in the work that was already agreed. The group will keep the Antrim Locality Planning Group updated on progress.

UPDATE – 0-4 PARENTAL SUPOPRT

Selena noted part of the Action Plan highlighted the need in the area of 0-4 support outside the Surestart area. An application was put together for this need and funding was received from Northern Outcomes Group. This was for the purpose of working with Homestart Antrim to deliver workshops to a targeted group already meeting. The group of parents were asked what they would like in order to identify info needed in each workshop. Facilities were secured and themes set for each workshop. School Readiness, Resilience and Stress have already been covered with one remaining session to take place.

The sessions have gone well so far. 18 parents have signed up to this and info has been very beneficial to families. Evaluations will be completed at the end of the programme and feedback will be given at the next meeting.

Action: Margaret / Selena

UPDATE – YOUTH FAIR / ANTRIM LEARNING TOGETHER

The Antrim Youth fair will take place on Friday 1st May 2015. This will be the 3rd year running and it is usually in Parkhall School. All Schools will be brought together in the one venue and Selena noted we will try and give 1 hour and 15 minutes to each school. Organisations will be invited to attend to provide information to young people on their service.

Sandra completes engagement at these youth fairs. The aim is to cover all issues in the youth fair by inviting a number of organisations. Sandra is happy to complete a focus group before the youth fair. Sandra completes engagement with young people regarding youth fairs to identify what young people know prior to the youth fair and what they know after the youth fair. It was noted young people remember something that is interactive best and visual aids.

Exhibitors will be encouraged to do something visual. NEELB was brilliant at a previous youth fair and had a photo booth. Young people

got their picture taken and put on a sheet to take away with info on all youth provision.

Selena noted she previously linked with the Antrim Learning Together Partnership and brought all teachers together from all schools to an information day. Various speakers were at this and info was provided to teachers. Teachers will be brought together again and the focus will be on Resilience. Simon Ward is an Education Psychologist and it is hoped Simon will deliver an information session in February next year in Antrim.

Selena agreed to query career opportunities in Schools. The group want to identify if all schools get information on career opportunities. If not a youth fair could take place with this particular focus.

Action: Selena

ACTION PLAN – SETTING THE PRIORITIES

Selena discussed the Action Plan and priorities were set that the group agree to take forward.

- Invite a representative from Citizens Advice Bureau to present to the group
- Investigate Drama Productions organised by Janine Gaston
- Investigate available resources for parents 0-5 and beyond in mental health support
- Linking with Maurice, Believe in Youth project when back in post
- Organise an event for local service providers to learn about what is available. Invite parents and establish a forum. Could link with Surestart.
- Selena to contact Majella McAllister to link in with locality group
- Look at parent courses and source funding

William noted AYICC have a Facebook page. Any information can be sent to William to upload to the Facebook page as a way of advertising any events/information.

MEMBER AGENCY UPDATE

William Smyth - AYICC

William provided information on a Youth Awards night which is taking place tonight at 6.30pm in Templeton. Antrim Youth Council will be hosting the event. William set up a survey from the end of January and has 100 responses to date. There are a number of questions being asked to see what services young people would like. A Health and Wellbeing programme is starting with 12 young people. A residential will also take place in June. Training programmes are running. AGM is scheduled for next Tuesday. Be Safe Project will commence the end of April.

Laura Crawford – YJA

YJA recently completed a visit to Corrymeela with a number of young people in Antrim. A large group of young people attended. Referrals are still continuing to come through. A lot of referrals are from families with children with disabilities. A lot of application forms for grants are also being received. A community planning event is scheduled for 21st April 2015.

Laura provided information on energy efficiency. Oil stamp sales have decreased. Alison has planned a workshop. For information email Alison.crook@antrim.co.uk

Joanne Cleary – Little Steps Surestart

Joanne noted things are moving forward. Changed name to Little Steps Surestart. A full staff team has been in place since January. Try a book fan is on lease from Action for Children. This will be promoted in the community and will be stocked with toys and books. Every 2 weeks parents can come out with their child and get a toy and a book and a 15 minute session can be provided in the house if parents want it. Staff are getting trained in order to deliver nurching and anti natal programmes.

A health fair took place with a number of organisations who work with 0-4's. Links were made and this is going to run again next year. A trip is planned to bring parents and toddlers to Fun Factory in Ballymena. Referrals are increasing and Surestart is working well.

Kerry Brady – Antrim Borough Council

Kerry noted the council are working closely with Newtownabbey councils to get grant aids processed. 150-160 applications have come through and are now oversubscribed. Part of this is for summer schemes. Community Planning events are taking place in each council area.

Sandra Anderson – CYPSP

Sandra provided information on Supporting Siblings Workshops that have been organised for young people aged 10+. Sandra carried out engagement with siblings who had a brother or sister with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As a result of this engagement 2 workshops will take place in March / April in Cookstown and Carrickfergus. Dinner will be provided along with a goodie bag etc.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Selena noted Locality Planning Groups are going to remain the same. The will be reviewed in 6-12 months.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 2.00pm in Antrim Civic Centre.**