



CYPSP Children, Young People and Offending Sub-Group
Minutes of meeting held on 10th June 2015
YJA Waring Street, Belfast

Present:

Declan McGeown	YJA (Chair)
Maurice Leeson	HSCB
Lee Russell	PSNI
Stewart Finn	INCLUDE YOUTH
Michael Heaney	YJA
Eithne McElroy	PBNI
Colm Walsh	EXTERN
Elaine McConnell	CSU
Mirjam Bader	Mindwise
Tony Martin	NIACRO
Jim Wharton	YJA (minutes)

Apologies:

Una Magee	Barnardos
Alex Barr	SELB
John Duffy	HSCNI
Alison Foster	HSCNI
Anne-Marie McClure	Opportunity Youth

Declaration of Conflict of Interests:

None declared.

Minutes of last meeting:

Agreed by all.

On behalf of the Group, Declan wished to record his thanks to Orlaith McGibbon who is leaving on a 1 year career break to go to New Zealand. He thanked her for her work and input to CYPO and wished her every success.

There was a quick round of introductions.

Matters arising:

Report to Education

Maurice advised that Report to Education was with Alex Barr who will respond formally at a future meeting.

Declan commented on the Age of Criminal Responsibility Event stating that he felt this was an excellent and very well organised event.

CYPO – The Way Forward

Declan restated what he saw as the 3 main areas of focus which the CYPO sub-group should address. These being:

- **Looking at the legislative framework and clarifying same**
- **Determining why young people come into the justice system initially and what can be done to help prevent this – what works and what does not, and**
- **Addressing the issue of young people in Woodlands on remand – is there a better option?**

Declan stated that these corresponded with the Justice Minister's recent announcement in the Assembly adding that he would be chairing the Steering Group established to lead on same.

Declan outlined the proposed structure and timeline of the Steering Group and its sub-groups.

There was discussion around some areas which it was felt could and needed to be looked at, including:

- Setting of bail conditions;
- Dealing with mental health issues in young people;
- Alternative accommodation and reduction of numbers in Woodlands;
- Early intervention;
- Provision of Education in Woodlands; and
- Continuation of work with young people in Woodlands and those continuing in custody.

Declan stated that it would be his intention to consult with the Children's Commissioner throughout. He also suggested that the CYPO should reconvene in the autumn when he would invite Keira Lloyd to attend. This would give the group the opportunity to test thinking on how the Steering Group was progressing.

Colm asked that the CYPO group members would need to have sight of the Terms of Reference and to know what is being done.
Declan agreed that these would be shared once agreed.

Links with EBD sub-group

Michael is involved in work, through the CAMHS Stepped Care Local Implementation Team in the SHSCT area, which is looking at the interface between CAMHS and the youth justice sector. The potential regional application of some of the findings and recommendations from this work are being considered regionally through the EBD Regional Subgroup. It was agreed that some of these would also be considered by the CYPO Regional Subgroup.

Five Year Trend Analysis – Lee Russell

Lee circulated a paper detailing statistical analysis of trends in offending. She suggested that members could take copies to study/digest.
Declan stated that he felt this was an interesting paper and that it would be his intention to share this at the Steering Group.

AOB

Mirjam advised the group that a guide for professionals working with young people with mental health disorders would be available soon.

Tony asked for clarity re the role of sub-groups. Declan advised that the Steering Group would identify what work needs to be done and which sub-groups would deal with these areas. They would then identify who would sit on these sub-groups.

Date of next meeting – TBC – Declan will identify a date in Sept/Oct 2015.