



**CYPSP Children, Young People and Offending Sub-Group**  
**Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015**  
**YJA Waring Street, Belfast**

**Present:**

Declan McGeown	YJA (Chair)
Orlaith McGibbon	YJA
Maurice Leeson	HSCB
Lee Russell	PSNI
John Duffy	HSCB
Stewart Finn	INCLUDE YOUTH
Anne-Marie McClure	OPPORTUNITY YOUTH
Michael Heaney	YJA
Eithne McElroy	PBNI
Alison Foster	HSCNI
Jim Wharton	YJA (minutes)

**Apologies:**

Tony Martin	NIACRO
Mark Dennison	PSNI
Elaine McConnell	CSU
Alex Barr	WELB
Mirjam Bader	MINDWISE

**Declaration of Conflict of Interests:**

None declared

**Minutes of last meeting:**

Agreed by all

## **Matters arising:**

It was agreed that action points from the previous agenda would be addressed within the main body of the agenda.

Declan welcomed all to the meeting and began by asking the group to consider how to get the best from the CYPO sub-group and what direction the group should be taking going forward.

After much discussion Declan outlined how he saw the future direction of the CYPO sub-group as focussing on 3 areas:

- **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?**

It was suggested that the group also focus on transition from YP to adult – Declan agreed that this was an important issue. The issue of delays within the justice system was also mentioned.

## **Review of work undertaken by CYPO**

Maurice outlined a few areas of work which had been addressed by the CYPO sub-group previously:

- Map of young person's journey through the justice system  
Maurice explained that this demonstrated what diversions were in place at each point of contact and what supports were in place. Maurice felt that this needed to be looked at again.
- Map of Youth Offending/Diversion Services  
This examines incidences of anti-social behaviour across Northern Ireland and Family support services which are currently in place.
- Maurice advised that a report had been produced which had been sent to education for comment but as yet there had been no response.

Maurice commented that not all services have been identified but that at present it appeared that there was too much in one area and not enough in another.

Declan stated that a lot of excellent work had been done but felt that there was room for improvement in terms of achieving a full understanding of how everything is working regarding interventions and funding and also achieving clarity for young people.

Anne-Marie commented that there was a need for coherency – that there was a lot of resource on the ground but duplication in many cases and a need to 'pull it all together'.

There was discussion around early intervention and what can be done to prevent initial contact. Maurice stated that there is to be an 'Early Intervention Service' and he would keep the group informed of progress re this. Declan stated that he felt that the group should be involved in this, in some way.

Agreement was reached that the focus should be on those that are already in the system and that success would be measured by the prevention of re-offending, or by them exiting the system before they became adults.

### **Work Streams**

There was discussion around the work of the various work streams / working groups. Some of this work has since been taken on by other groups. The question of whether we should continue with these groups was raised.

- Transition – accommodation issue being taken forward and work progressing with YOC; and
- Report to Education – no response or comment. Maurice agreed to write to ask for clarification re lack of response

**ACTION POINT – Maurice to seek response from Education re report.**

### **Offending Report**

Lee stated that data did not allow for any conclusions to be drawn and that she would prefer to have an analyst look at data. Declan suggested that Mathieu Decodts should also be involved.

### **Safeguarding**

Michael spoke about the issue of young women on remand who had come from care, suggesting this could be an area of work for the group

### **Prevention of Sectarian Offending**

Orlaith stated that no work had been done apart from the ongoing work on Hate Crime

### **Key messages**

Maurice summarized discussion which had taken place:

- Focus should be on 3 areas as outlined earlier; and
- Other agencies need to identify and inform re what they think we should focus on

Declan reiterated areas of agreement were looking at the needs of young people, gaps and how to fill them, and talking to others to ascertain if they agree on our planned direction and if they have any other ideas re areas of work.

### **AOB**

Steward informed the group of The Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility Conference which was to be held at Queen's University.

**Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015