

Quality Care - for you, with you

Southern Area Outcomes Group

Notes of a meeting held on Tuesday, 10 December 2013 at
9.30 am in the Boardroom, Craigavon Area Hospital.

Present:

Paul Morgan, Chair, SHSCT
Colm McCafferty, SHSCT
Gerard Houlahan, Armagh & City District Council
Mairead Abraham, HSCNI
Anne Hardy, HSCNI
Stephen Smith, CIP
Una Magee, Barnardos
Jackie Valentine, Parenting NI
Shirley Gillespie, Toybox
Regina Mackin, Newry & Mourne Council
Una Cushenan (on behalf of Gerry Bleakney)
Julie Bolton, HSCNI
Drew Neill, Voypic
Jacinta Linden, South Down Family Health
Stephen Wright, PSNI
Deirdre Wiggins, NIHE
Claire Linney, Dungannon Council
Catriona Regan, Banbridge Council

Apologies:

David Douglas, SHSCT
Geraldine Maguire, SHSCT
Michael Heaney, Youth Justice Agency
Gerry Bleakney, PHA
Merissa McGeary, HSCNI
Valerie Maxwell, HSCNI
Nicola Topping, SELB
Nicola Lane, Craigavon Borough Council
Una Geelan, HSCNI
Eddy Curtis, Newry & Mourne Borough Council
Maurice Leeson, HSCNI
Marie Kavanagh, Gingerbread NI

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Paul welcomed members to the meeting and in particular welcomed Stephen Wright who will now be representing the PSNI. A round of introductions followed.

2.0 Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 15 October 2013 were approved as an accurate record.

4.0 Tasks for Parent Reference Group

The meeting agreed that this issue should be encapsulated as part of the Southern Outcomes Group Action Plan. Anne reported that the operation of the above group is changing and it is essentially around helping parents becoming involved at a local level. Anne agreed to discuss with the Chairs the best way to bring this forward.

5.0 Production of New Action Plan

Anne confirmed that following the last meeting, she received comments from three members in relation to the Action Plan. Anne tabled draft Action Plan 2011-14 "Review 2013 draft 1 December 2013 together with timeline for the production of the NI Children and Young People's plan 2015-18. Discussion took place as follows:

- Areas where the Locality Groups have had an impact have been included, however, additional information is required regarding membership of Locality Planning Groups.
- Information regarding funding and family support hubs still to be included.
- Anne stated that it is positive to note that there has been significant achievement in the short time that the group has been in operation.

- Colm highlighted the importance of ensuring that networking and collaboration with voluntary and community groups continues. Jacinta informed the meeting that collaboration at a local level is much greater and this has been very welcome.
- Claire raised the issue of including targets and monitoring of same to determine if there has been an impact or if any gaps exist. Discussion took place regarding the need for a benchmark and Anne agreed to include indicators in the action plan.
- Paul reported that the Locality Groups have delivered significantly, however, more work is needed strategically and in particular with regards to the role and function of the Outcomes Group. Discussion followed regarding the need to improve networking and it was agreed that there has been some positive work especially in relation to the Family Support Hubs. Claire stated that it is important that a communication process is in place between the Region and those providing services at a local level. It was agreed that local initiatives such as the provision of after school and sports activities, careers advice etc., need to be escalated to the Region. It was also agreed that the Children's Strategic Partnership should be filtering information down to local groups to ensure that the required strategic connections are being made. Paul asked that members forward any issues to Ann Irwin and he will then draft a letter for sending to CYPS.

ACTION: Members to forward any issues to Ann Irwin for Inclusion in a letter to CYPS

- Mairead referenced "Bright Start" - The NI Executive's Strategy for Affordable and Integrated Childcare. Mairead advised that there will be new investment and this is being led by the OFMDFM and that the Department of Health have already rolled out some of the developments. The meeting noted that the main focus of the strategy is in relation to school age child care and Mairead highlighted that there will be a significant increase in the number of school age child care places. Mairead agreed to forward Strategy document to Ann Irwin for circulation to members.
- Gerard referred to funding which will also be available from the OFMDFM (£1.6 m) for "play", however, full detail has not yet been received.
- Stephen agreed to forward a consultation document in relation to significant funding which is available in relation to work with

the youth population and in particular plans for sports activities, NEET etc. Stephen also gave an update regarding “Interface” programmes which are ongoing across Northern Ireland and the learning from these.

- In conclusion, Paul asked that if members have any additional comments to make regarding the action plan these should be forwarded to Anne Hardy by the first week of January 2014.

ACTION: Members to forward any additional comments regarding action plan to Anne Hardy by the first week of January 2014.

6.0 Stakeholder Event

Anne commenced by outlining the purpose of the Outcome Groups holding stakeholder events and she continued to give an overview of the events which have been held in the Western and Northern areas. Anne reiterated that the aim of these events is to share the message and gauge emerging needs.

Discussion followed regarding the format for the event(s) to be held in the Southern area:

- Possibly a full day with engagement with different people at different times of the day.
- Problem engaging with people/parents who work 9-5 pm, therefore, the need for an evening event to accommodate this group of people.
- Possibly arrange something around local hubs.
- Need to agree audience and stakeholders. If MLA's are to be invited – perhaps better to have a morning event.
- Choose a theme and design an event around it.
- Seek feedback from groups which the Southern Outcomes Group has invested in.
- Possibly have a series of events – a process rather than a one off event.

In conclusion, it was agreed that Julie, Jacinta, Drew, Una and Anne should meet and discuss further. Paul asked that possible options should be shared with the group for approval at the next meeting.

6.0 Funding Update

Colm confirmed that the tendering process was completed at the end of October 2013 and funding was awarded to thirteen Organisations to the value of £160K. Colm explained that this funding will be managed on a twelve month roll forward basis and there may be potential for an uplift for the Organisations who receive funding this year. Colm also confirmed that Organisations will be asked to complete a template to advise how they anticipate spending the money.

Discussion followed regarding additional finances which have been allocated and is related to Southern Outcomes funding. Colm confirmed that the funding stream is from OFMDFM and is part of a two year programmes to support the development of Family Support Hubs. It was noted that the funding is for a 2 year period, however, funding for this year (£36K) has only been received now and it needs to be spent by 31 March 2014. With regards to the Management of this funding, Colm stated that he will liaise with Trust Contracts staff regarding options for spending the money before the end of March 2014. Colm also highlighted the importance of Organisations continuing to access other sources of funding eg., Big Lotto. It was noted that there may be potential for significant funding through Atlantic Philanthropy. Discussion followed regarding SIP funding and Catriona confirmed that an announcement will hopefully be made in March 2014.

On behalf of the group, Anne thanked the Southern Trust and, in particular, Colm for the significant work which has been carried out in relation to contracts and funding issues.

7.0 Membership

Anne reported that membership of the Outcomes Groups will be reviewed in January 2014 and this process is currently being progressed Regionally. It was noted that current members signed up for three years and Anne reported that, as the process has developed, other people may wish to join the group. Anne also stated that this is an opportunity to change but more consideration needs to be given to managing the process. Paul reported that his preference would be to retain members who currently sit on the group with others joining if this is required, so we have some continuity.

8.0 Update from Family Support Hubs

The meeting noted that Family Support Hubs are now up and running with good structures, however, the flow of referrals has not been as high as anticipated. Anne reported that discussion needs to take place with the Board re: awareness raising and the benefits of using the hubs instead of statutory services. Jacinta suggested showcasing some of the positive feedback from the Signature Projects and Paul suggested that some of these can be brought to the Stakeholder event. Paul informed the meeting that he would be keen to get to the stage of self referral , however, more investment is needed .

9.0 Any other Business

There was no other business raised at the meeting.

10.0 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was agreed for Tuesday, 11 February 2014 at 9.30 am in the Boardroom, Trust Headquarters, Craigavon Area Hospital.