

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

**TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015 AT 2.00PM  
CIVIC CENTRE, ANTRIM**

<b>Attending:</b>	Mervyn Rea	<i>Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Council</i>
	Aislinn Delaney	<i>Steps to Cope</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Jason Jordan	<i>EA NI Youth Service</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Laura Crawford	<i>YJA</i>
	Joanne Cleary	<i>Little Steps Surestart</i>
	Margaret Thompson	<i>Home-Start Antrim</i>
	Norma McKnight	<i>First Antrim Church</i>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Pam Nugent	<i>The Laurence Trust</i>
	Marie McCloy	<i>NRC</i>
	Anne Thompson	<i>SACN</i>

**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 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015**.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### Sympathy

Mervyn expressed deepest sympathy from the Antrim Locality Planning Group to Pamela at this sad time.

### Action Plan Update

- Selena has linked with Citizens Advice Bureau to present to the group.
- It was noted if anyone needs additional support to contact CYPSP and we should be able to provide links to other agencies.
- A subgroup will be set up before the next meeting regarding the local event for service providers. It was noted for this to be kept on matters arising for the next meeting. Selena will send an email for involvement from locality members.
- Mervyn noted the cost of Clotworthy and the expense for using it has been raised within council.

## **STEPS TO COPE – AISLINN DELEANNEY**

Aislinn thanked members for having her at the meeting and provided information regarding the Steps to Cope programme. Aislinn noted this is a regional service funded by Big Lottery Impact of Alcohol Project. Steps 2 Cope works with 11-18 year olds living in NI who are dealing with parental alcohol misuse. Steps to Cope will look at 5 steps when working with young people and this will cover:

- What living with parental alcohol misuse is like for young people
- Information: Learning more about alcohol and alcohol misuse
- How young people cope
- What supports they have
- Where young people can get further support

6-7 sessions are offered to each young person and workers will travel to meet them. Aislinn noted the team is made up with her and 3 social workers. In NI over 40,000 young people are living with substance misuse. There is an interactive website and this is being finalised and the 5 steps will be available online. Young people who wish to use the website will have a login and the website takes their full name. They can use the steps online and workers will have full access to their answers and can act on it due to identified need.

Aislinn provided information on practitioner training. Steps 2 Cope want to train 40 practitioners per year. This is 2 day training for anyone engaging with young people and is delivered free of charge. They also want to complete training for trainers and train 30 trainers to carry out the practitioner training.

Steps 2 Cope held a consultation with young people for the website. This is really exciting for them and it is currently being piloted with young people. Overall outcome is to better protect young people from harm. Steps 2 Cope operate an open referral process and young people can refer themselves. A lot of evening work is completed with young people. All outcomes are monitored with pre and post questionnaires.

Leaflets were distributed with further information on Steps 2 Cope.

## **FEEDBACK – 0 - 4 PARENTAL SUPPORT PROJECT**

The need for support for 0-4's outside of the Surestart area was identified through action planning. 4 sessions were delivered to parents / grandparents already engaged in Homestart. 14 parents came along with all parents completing the sessions. Feedback was very positive from everyone who attended with parents finding information very useful and very effective. Parents discovered they need to take time for themselves and they enjoyed meeting others in similar circumstances.

Parents noted they would like further information on School Readiness. Selena noted this could be something that could be looked at around education within the action plan. Margaret also noted feedback received

from parents has been excellent and they all thoroughly enjoyed the programme.

It was agreed discussions will be made prior to the summer for additional information to be provided to these parents.

**Action: Margaret / Selena**

## **FEEDBACK – YOUTH FAIR / ANTRIM LEARNING TOGETHER**

Sandra provided feedback on the Antrim Youth fair that took place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015. The youth fair provided pupils from Parkhall Senior Integrated School, Antrim Grammar, Crumlin Integrated, Riverside Special School and St Benedict's College, a chance to find out about the wide variety of services they are able to access and activities available to them in the local area. Pictures taken on the day were distributed to the group.

Young people were asked to provide feedback on how much they enjoyed the youth fair and any recommendations to improve future youth fairs to make it better for their peers. These were noted to the group and shared within the hand-out. Sandra noted young people best remember a service with the use of visual aids. Young people enjoyed the photo booth and found interactive things like beer goggles fun and enjoyed freebies.

Sandra has previously completed pre and post engagement with groups of young people regarding youth fairs. From this Sandra identified young people's knowledge and awareness of services increased by 59% after the youth fair took place.

Jason encountered difficulties preparing for the youth fair as all freebies had NEELB Youth Service on them which could no longer be used. New information was sourced for the youth fair and a photo booth was booked. Jason noted comments from young people were very pleasing saying staff were friendly and helpful. This is key for Jason as the relationship with young people is everything.

Sandra thanked all organisations for being part of the youth fair as without them it would not be possible. Sandra agreed to share the recommendations from young people with the Antrim Learning Together Partnership.

**Action: Sandra**

## **MEMBER AGENCY UPDATE**

### Joanne Cleary – Little Steps Surestart

Joanne noted Little Steps Surestart now have a Health Visitor 4 days a week and this has made a difference with registration. Things are looking up and registrations are growing. A newsletter has been designed and distributed in all 3 areas. The Day trip went well and hoping to plan another one for the summer. The Toy and Book van is ready to go and appointments are currently being made with families. It is hoped this is a big success and well utilised.

### Margaret Thompson – Home-Start Antrim

Home-Start Antrim will be celebrating 25 years on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. There will be a celebration event for everyone to attend including Funders, staff, managers, volunteers etc. Invites will be posted when this is organised. Margaret noted 2 volunteers have been with Home-Start Antrim for 25 years and is a big achievement. Margaret also informed the group she will be leaving post in October 2015.

### Aislinn Delaney – Steps to Cope

Information was given on a free drug and alcohol app aimed at professionals and service users. The app gives users fast access to all information you will need about substance misuse. Leaflets were distributed.

### Laura Crawford – YJA

Laura provided information on a conference for any organisation supporting people with disabilities. Laura is currently trying to build contacts with organisations who offer support and training.

### Jason Jordan – EA NI Youth Service

Jason noted the youth service were successful in meeting targets set out in the action plan for the year. A new action plan will be developed for this current year ahead. There is no real change regarding youth provision. Crumlin continues to run 2 nights a week. Youth club numbers are increasing. Linda has been very helpful and supportive with this. Ballycraigy continues to operate 2 nights per week. Numbers for this are also increasing. Jason would like to think this increase is due to the hard work happening within the areas and programmes being delivered.

The youth service now have an area youth worker 4 nights per week who will be using space in Springfarm. A 2<sup>nd</sup> youth worker will hopefully be appointed shortly. Interviews are being held on 29<sup>th</sup> May and someone should be in place for the summer once appointed. This will result in there being 2 full time staff for the summer.

Jason informed the group Ballymena office has moved to Broughshane Centre. Staff are unsure what areas they will be operating in regard to council changes.

### Nora McKnight – First Church Antrim

Nora noted she is disappointed in the Youth Club running on Friday evening as numbers have dropped.

## Sandra Anderson – CYPSP

Information was provided on Supporting Siblings workshops. These were organised for young people aged 10+ who have a brother or sister with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A workshop was delivered in Carrickfergus and Cookstown with the Trust ASD team providing information to those attending. Some young people from the Crumlin area attended these workshops.

A Top Tips leaflet was developed to give to young people with information on ASD. These are going to be distributed across the Northern Trust ASD teams as a resource for young people to use. There may be additional top tips as young people are coming up with some ideas in the workshops.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### Big Lottery Bid

Live and Learn Project submitted an application for Supporting Families Big Lottery Funding. This will cover Antrim and Magherafelt areas. It was suggested for Marie to give an update as to what will be available.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm in Antrim Civic Centre.**