



Minute of Western Area Outcomes Group
held on 26 August 2015
Strabane Enterprise Agency

Present:

Mr Kieran Downey, Director of Women & Children's Services [Chair]
 Mrs Ann McDuff, Assistant Director [Community & Public Health]
 Mrs Brenda MacQueen, Dry Arch Centre
 Ms Orla Conway, Omagh Women's Aid
 Ms Muriel Bailey, Director for Parents Helpline & Counselling Service, Parenting NI
 Chief Inspector Alan Hutton, PSNI
 Ms Bernie Tierney, Children's Services Manager, Action for Children
 Mr Pat Armstrong, Head of Service
 Mrs Monica MacIntrye, Department of Social Development
 Mr Mustaphe Ben Hassine, Barnardos
 Mr Paul Sweeney, NIACRO
 Ms Michelle McCabe, Lifestart Foundation
 Mrs Anne Hardy, Children's Services Planning Officer, HSCB

In attendance:

Mrs Bronagh Donnelly, Action for Children
 Mrs Priscilla Magee, Action for Children
 Ms Maria Herron, Parenting NI
 Dr Donna Kernaghan, Research and Policy Officer, Barnardos
 Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Ms Avril McAllister, Northern Ireland Housing Executive Ms Cathy Mullan, Public Health Agency Ms Helen Dunn, Regional HUB Co-ordinator, HSCB Ms Linda Watson, Caw/Nelson Drive Community Association Mr Eamon O'Kane, Local Commissioning Group Mr Max Petrushkin, NICEM North West Ms Helen Harley, Children & Young People's Officer, Derry City Council Ms Marie McGale, MENCAP Ms Nicola Topping, Education Officer, WELB Mrs Margaret Ferris, Assistant Business Services Manager, Western Trust Superintendent Mark McEwan, PSNI</p>
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2	<p>Chairman's Remarks Mr Downey welcomed Chief Inspector Alan Hutton, PSNI, to the meeting.</p> <p>Appointment of Vice Chair Mr Downey advised that Mrs Brenda MacQueen had been nominated as Vice Chair following a ballot at the last meeting on 29 April 2015. He advised that the post of Vice Chair would be filled on a rotational basis.</p>
3	<p>Notes of Previous Meeting All present confirmed that they had received a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 April 2015 and they were a true and accurate record of the discussion that had taken place.</p>
4	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Pioneer Communities Mr Downey reported that Mr George Hosking, Chief Executive of WAVE Trust, was coming to the Trust on 15 October 2015 for further discussions regarding the establishment of a Pioneer Community to bring together all early intervention services. He said Mr Hosking was renowned world wide and was currently lobbying for funding from the UK Lottery Fund and the UK Government to set up Pioneer Communities in areas of deprivation throughout the UK. Mr Downey reported that Mr Tony Rodgers, HSCB, and himself had both written to the NI Lottery to advise that the Trust would be interested in establishing a Pioneer Community within the Western Trust area. Mr Downey advised that Mrs McDuff, Assistant Director, was co-ordinating the meeting on 15 October 2015 and he extended an invitation to Locality Planning Co-ordinators to attend.</p> <p>Female Genital Mutilation [FGM] Mr Downey advised that a range of forthcoming seminars were being planned by his Directorate in relation to safeguarding in a multi cultural society and that an invitation would be extended to members to attend. He reported that staff were currently organising a seminar on Female Genital Mutilation and details would be circulated in due course.</p> <p>Update on Action Plan/Key Priorities Mrs Hardy distributed an updated version of the action plan and Mr Downey thanked everyone for their contribution in populating the plan. Mrs Hardy advised that each Outcomes Group was tasked to produce a report card and she distributed a draft report card devised by Mrs Donnelly which gave a snapshot of membership, frequency of meetings, funded projects, outcomes based planning, population accountability and the group's achievements. Following discussion, members approved the draft report card and thanked Mrs Donnelly for completing this task. Mrs Hardy said the report card would now be adopted as the template for the other Outcomes Groups in the Province.</p>

Mr Downey said the updated action plan was a rich source of data. Mrs McDuff agreed to forward Mrs Hardy information on the Trust's UNICEF award for breast feeding for inclusion in the action plan along with current statistics on breast feeding rates. Mrs Hardy advised that the Western Area Outcome Group was focusing on Outcome 1 "Children and young people will have positive and healthy emotional wellbeing" and work was being taken forward by the Sub Group. She said each Outcomes Group was focusing on one outcome and all the work undertaken would be shared regionally.

Update on Scoping Work on Legal Highs

Mrs Magee shared with members a questionnaire which had been devised to capture the local landscape of drug and alcohol provision within the Western Trust area. She advised that some initial responses had been received to date, but that she would reissue the questionnaire along with the Family Support questionnaire to map services. Mrs Magee noted that of the responses received to date, alcohol and drug projects were mainly funded by the Lottery and the Public Health Agency.

Presentation by Dr Donna Kernaghan, Research and Policy Officer, Barnardos

Mr Downey welcomed Dr Kernaghan, Research and Policy Officer, Barnardos, to the meeting.

Dr Kernaghan advised that the definition of a newcomer pupil was as follows:-
"A pupil who has enrolled in a school, but who does not have satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum and does not have a language in common with the teacher".

Dr Kernaghan advised that in 2006/07 there were 2,630 newcomer pupils in NI primary schools, but that this number had increased to 8,258 in 2014/15 with clusters in certain areas in NI. She reported that funding of £1,012.66 was paid for a child's first three years in education and that their progression was tracked using the Common European Reference Framework [CERF]. She said funding was mainly spent on Classroom Assistants.

Dr Kernaghan advised that 13 schools had participated in the research. She reported that no schools from the west were involved, and said this was probably due to other areas in NI having higher rates of newcomer pupils. She said teachers had identified the following challenges in teaching newcomer pupils:-

- Language barrier.
- Poor school readiness.
- Differentiation.
- Special educational needs.

Dr Kernaghan said that due to English language comprehension, newcomer pupils lacked confidence to participate in class and had difficulty in comprehending the curriculum and school transfer situation. She said teachers and classroom assistants needed to plan well ahead for classes to ensure all pupils received the best

education. She said the research had identified good practice at classroom and school level.

Dr Kernaghan reported on the following challenges in communicating with parents:-

- Using bilingual staff to translate.
- Communicating through a nominated person.
- Use of technology to translate including texting, email and school website.
- Translated letters.
- Translated school reports.
- Translated school newsletters.
- Children used as translators for parents.

Mr Sweeney enquired if the report would be sent to the Education Authority in the Western area. Mr Downey advised that copies would be made available for Ms Topping for distribution. Ms Tierney said young children had an onerous task in being interpreters for family members. Mrs MacIntyre advised of significant support for parents in the Southern area via parenting programmes and courses which had identified good results. Mr Sweeney said it would be interesting to establish if newcomer pupils were in the child protection/family support arena.

Mr Downey thanked Dr Kernaghan for her presentation.

Ms Conway withdrew from the meeting.

Ms Maria Herron, Parenting NI

Mr Downey welcomed Ms Maria Herron, Parenting NI, to the meeting to update members on the pilot of the Fermanagh Parents Reference Group.

Ms Herron reported that there 400,851 parents with dependent children in NI. She said a Western Parents Reference Group, consisting of 33 parents from across the Western Trust area, had been set up and facilitated by Parenting NI as part of the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership. Following feedback from parents for the need for a more localised parents group, CYPSP had selected the Fermanagh area as a pilot site due to the isolation identified by rural parents and the extent of difficulties detailed by parents in accessing support services.

Ms Herron said the Fermanagh Parents Reference Group had met over nine months and had met with members of the Locality Planning Group on a number of occasions and held a stakeholder event in 2014. Following meetings, parents had proposed the following:-

- Improve infrastructure with better planning, collaboration and community engagement.
- Better support services including more opportunities to meet other parents in similar circumstances.
- Parents-to-be should be given more preparation about birth, infant feeding and possible post natal depression.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clarity about how the “system” works for children with a disability and their families. ➤ More information about what is going on for families across Fermanagh. <p>Ms Herron said the Fermanagh Parents Reference Group were currently looking at their own sustainability and devising new terms of reference. Mr Downey said the Fermanagh Parents Reference Group was an excellent example for other groups to aspire to. Ms Tierney noted that there was real enthusiasm from all the parents involved in the pilot. Mrs Hardy acknowledged the support Ms Herron had provided to the group which had contributed to its success. Ms Herron reported that Parenting NI were developing a page for parents for inclusion on the CYPSP website.</p>
5	<p>Update from Locality Planning Groups</p> <p>Mrs Donnelly advised that the work of the Locality Planning Groups was detailed in the update report along with a briefing on the Derry Early Strategic Partnership. Mrs Magee advised that herself and Mrs Donnelly were linking with representatives from community planning and were sharing identified indicators for them to consider. Mr Armstrong said there needed to be a real connection with community planning. Mrs Magee advised that NI Children’s Commissioner had agreed to meet with children and young people from Omagh and Fermanagh on 11 November 2015.</p>
6	<p>Early Intervention Update</p> <p>Mr Downey said he was pleased to announce that via a procurement process, Action for Children had been awarded the contract of £150,000 for the establishment of an Early Intervention Service which was to commence in early October 2015. He said Action for Children had also been awarded the contract in the Northern Trust. Mr Downey said it had been a challenge for the Outcomes Group to identify one specific area, in the midst of political pressure, and he thanked Mrs Magee and Mrs Donnelly for their work in providing the group with detailed information to reach the decision of Strabane and several electoral ward areas within the Derry City area.</p> <p>Ms Tierney said Action for Children would ensure there was an equitable service for all the Family Support Hubs. She advised that there was a Contracts meeting arranged for the following week and that Action for Children were currently recruiting staff and devising a communication plan to inform everyone of the new service. Ms Tierney advised that Action for Children would be utilising existing office accommodation for the additional staff and agreed to keep members updated on developments.</p> <p>Mr Downey distributed an update report on the Early Intervention Support Service.</p>
7	<p>Suzanne Zeedyk Proposal</p> <p>Mrs Magee reported that Suzanne Zeedyk’s visit to the Western Trust from 20 - 22 October 2015, which had been funded from the Western Area Outcomes Group’s funding allocation for 2015/16, had been entitled “Generation Now”. Mrs Magee advised of the following master classes on:-</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Best Start in Life for Your Child. ➤ Strengthening Attachment and Attunement in Families. ➤ Raising Parents Today, Families Tomorrow”. <p>Mrs Magee acknowledged the goodwill and collaboration of everyone involved regarding the forthcoming events in Enniskillen, Omagh, Strabane, Londonderry and Limavady. She advised that a meeting with Community Planning staff and Councillors was organised for 20 October 2015 in Enniskillen Town Hall.</p> <p>Mr Downey advised that the programme would be shared with members and asked them to promote the events within their organisations as Suzanne Zeedyk was world renowned and said this would be an excellent opportunity for front line practitioners, parents and carers to attend one of the events throughout the Trust to support the emotional wellbeing for children, young people and their families.</p>
8	<p>Emotional Health and Wellbeing Action Plan Update</p> <p>Mrs Donnelly advised that the next meeting of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Sub Group was arranged for 28 September 2015 at 2.00 pm in the offices of Action for Children at Ebrington Business Centre. Mrs Hardy advised that other members were welcome to attend.</p>
9	<p>Extension of “Bump to 3 Programme”</p> <p>Mr Downey referred to the two presentations on the “Bump to 3 Programme” that were presented to members at the meeting on 29 April 2015 and which had been positively received. Following discussion, the group extended the “Bump to 3 Programme” for another six months, up until 29 February 2016. This funding would be allocated from the £100,000 recurrent Western Area Outcomes Group funding for 2015/16.</p> <p>Mr Downey said positive feedback had been received on the Mentoring Programme at the Dry Arch Children’s Centre and it was agreed that Mr Mark McChrystal would be invited to attend the next meeting to present findings to members. It was agreed that this programme would be extended until 31 March 2016.</p> <p>Mr Downey advised that the contract for Strengthening Families had expired in March 2015, although additional funding had been received from Derry Healthy Cities. Mr Downey said the Outcomes Group could not invest any additional funding until there was a new programme procured under the current social procurement protocols.</p>
10	<p>Presentation to Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Meeting held on 12 June 2015</p> <p>Mr Downey shared with members a presentation he had delivered to the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership meeting on 12 June 2015 on the role of the Western Area Outcomes Group and the work being undertaken.</p>

11	<p>Duty to Co-operate Bill of OFM/DFM</p> <p>Mr Downey said there was a Private Members Bill going through Stormont proposing that the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Group would be statutory group that all children’s services planning would be routed through. He said if legislative approval was given, it would put children’s services in a stronger position in relation to the pooling of resources. Mr Downey agreed to keep members apprised of developments.</p>
12	<p>CYPSP Think Family Sub Group/Hidden Harm</p> <p>Discussion deferred in Ms Mullan’s absence.</p>
13	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Symposium with Hubs</p> <p>Mr Armstrong said this was an opportunity to learn from good practice and enhance the strong connection to Locality Planning Groups.</p> <p>Private Fostering</p> <p>Mr Armstrong informed members of the need to track children and young people who were hosted by families for more than 28 days in school exchange programmes with regard to Child Sexual Exploitation.</p> <p>Child Sexual Exploitation</p> <p>Mr Downey advised that the Thematic Review report on Child Sexual Exploitation was being presented to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland for approval on 27 August 2015. He said the review report was based on 22 young people who had been identified by the PSNI as having been sexually exploited and advised that 10 of the young people had inputted into the review. Mr Downey said there were specific themes in the review report and said he would update members at the next meeting regarding ongoing work in the Trust.</p> <p>Mr Downey advised that the Trust had appointed Ms Charmaine McNally as Senior Social Work Practitioner for CSE and said she was co-located with the PSNI at Strand Road in Londonderry. He agreed to invite Ms McNally to the next meeting so she could inform members of her contact details and role.</p> <p>Mr Downey said details of the Safeguarding Board’s campaign on Child Sexual Exploitation “The More You Know, the More You See” was available on the SBNI’s website.</p>
14	<p>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting</p> <p>28 October 2015 at 10.00 am in the Conference Room, Strabane Enterprise Agency.</p>