

FERMANAGH LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP

10.00am Tuesday 12th May 2015

Venue: Kindly Hosted by the Early Years Organisation Office, Enniskillen

Minutes

PRESENT:

Monica McIntyre	DSD-NR
Sharon Hughes	EANI Youth Service
Maria Magee	NICMA
Anna Reid	Simon Community
Wendy Mc Sorley	Cherish Sure Start
Neville Armstrong	Aisling Centre
Nuala Denning	NIHE

APOLOGIES:

Roisin McCusker	Devenish Partnership
Seana Connor	Fermanagh Hub Coordinator
Phil Cleary	Speech and Language
Theresa Sweidan	WEST

In Attendance	Priscilla Magee	LPG Coordinator
	Neville Armstrong	Chairperson

Introductions and Apologies

Neville welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Joan and The Early Years Organisation for hosting the meeting. Neville asked for a round of introductions and the apologies were then recorded.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

Neville handed over to Priscilla for an update of what has been happening since the last meeting. Priscilla explained that due to her sick period and then the move into organising LPG events to promote the work of each individual group, a large meeting had not taken place. Priscilla explained that several smaller interest groups had evolved in the period and had met and progressed work, which she would now describe with their future actions and direction for the agreement of the members. This update would also reflect where the group is presently at and hopefully feed into the proposed plan of action for the next year.

Update and Future Planning

Priscilla described the new subgroups which have evolved:

Youth Providers Subgroup

The Youth Providers Subgroup has now met twice with very positive outcomes. The Early Intervention Transformation Project staff had attended one of the meetings to learn from the attendees what the situation and challenges were for youth work in Fermanagh. The Youth Providers Subgroup are presently feeding back to Helen O'Neil (Family Support Data Base) as to local youth provision that may not presently be advertised on the data base and are hopefully going to keep her up to date with upcoming summer schemes which she can advertise to parents. The YP Subgroup felt that the meeting was an opportunity to come together and discuss policy and practice and a forum to share learning and maybe resources. A questionnaire had been sent to the member so ask if they would like a YP Subgroup that was specifically for Fermanagh or joined with Omagh, they had replied due to the huge geographical spread two groups would be more suitable but joint events would be more practical. Priscilla has now joined the NEETS Forum to keep the link with the regional piece currently ongoing.

Action

- Neville is to approach the new children's Commissioner to request that she visits and meets with the providers and some of their young people.
- Priscilla to contact Care McClintock Participation Worker with Action for Children to help coordinate this visit with her young people as well.
- Priscilla will call another meeting of the Subgroup to discuss further actions

Breast Feeding Subgroup

Priscilla has been working closely with Ann McCrea as she has moved location and has found her some temporary volunteers as the numbers in the Thursday Breast Friend Group remain incredibly high. Wendy McSorley spoke about the work that the Cherish Sure Start is doing with their breast feeding mums and there was a short discussion how this could be replicated in the non-Sure Start areas.

Action

- Priscilla to liaise with Ann & Wendy for upcoming developments and to support any volunteers that might be interested in becoming a breast feeding mentor and undertake the training which Ann provides
- Priscilla to take forward the idea of a Breast Feeding Champion
- Priscilla to look for interventions that can be easily embedded within the community to promote mentoring through groups
- All members to be on the look-out for any suitable volunteers which can be directed to Anne
- All members to continue feeding to Helen O'Neil any breast feeding groups in area to be promoted on Data Base

Alcohol & Drug Sub Group

Priscilla updated the members as to what had already been happening through the Fermanagh Alcohol Forum which she belongs to. This group may no longer be in operation and Priscilla felt that there was an opportunity for the LPG to now form their own, the group were in agreement.

Priscilla informed the members, that Kieran Downey through the Outcomes Group had requested that a mapping of services take place, everyone was in agreement that this

was a good idea and they would like to see where the organisation geographically covers, who they target, where they get their funding from and how long their funding will last.

Actions

- Priscilla to call a meeting of those interested in Alcohol and Dugs so they can input into the Action Plan
- Priscilla to draft the organisations offering support

Poverty & Food Banks

Priscilla explained how the local Charities had been brought together to look at what was happening in Fermanagh. This had been very successful and now issues were being raised as to the long term need for food banks and if more sustainable long-term support could be offered through the food banks to ensure that families did not become dependent on this. Neville added that there was concern if food banks would become a permanent feature on the landscape, or will even increase with the introduction of Welfare Reform, a short discussion then occurred.

Priscilla described the success of the survey into the experience of families in this economic downturn and how it had been decided that all the LPGs across NI would carry this out. NICCY were interested in the findings as they were very local and wanted them to contribute to a report which they were completing to the UN on how NI families were experiencing poverty.

Actions

- Priscilla to carry out the survey of how families are experiencing the economic downturn
- Priscilla to call another meeting of the Food-banks
- Locations of food banks to be sent to Data Base

Disability Subgroup

There has been a very brief initial meeting to establish if this subgroup is required and those present felt it should be widened out to the larger membership.

Actions

- Priscilla to call a meeting
- Parent's Reference Group to be linked into this group as this is one of their priorities

Parents Reference Group Subgroup

Fermanagh is the only place to have a Parent's Reference Group which has been facilitated with Parenting NI & Maria Herron. Priscilla attends their meetings and has made significant relationships with the parents, with the only challenge the geographical distance between where these parents live. Maria has been using two meetings in one day, to save on the parent's travel. The members felt that this was a positive development and discussed if parent representatives would feel comfortable coming to the meetings on a regular basis. Priscilla said she would discuss this with Maria and that she had been requested to speak at a parent's meeting out in Newtownbutler.

The parents have requested that they organise an information session about local

support services for other parents for the Autumn

Actions

- Priscilla to meet with Maria to discuss bringing parent (s) onto the LPG
- Priscilla & Maria to support the parents in plan /organising an information session for other parents

Early Years / Promoting Communication in Children

Priscilla has been working with Mary Elizabeth Hagenson (Speech & Language) as to support the Outcomes group bring Suzanne Zeedyke (Connect Baby) to visit for a conference which will take place in October. The members thought that this was a very positive development and that the fact that it was targeted at parents, early year's staff and frontline family support staff.

Actions

- Priscilla to continue attending Childcare Partnership Meetings , Fermanagh Now You Are Talking Task group and the Education/ Health & Early Years subgroup meetings of Enniskillen NR.
- All members to be kept fully informed of ongoing plans for Suzanne

The Possibility of LGB&T Subgroup

Priscilla informed the members that there had been a request to set up this group to map and identify what types of support are in Fermanagh and if this is equal to support elsewhere.

There was a long discussion about what people could identify in their areas and if the media were responsibly reporting in the light of the recent elections. It was decided rather than at this stage set up a subgroup, a one off meeting would be called to see how best to take this forward

Action

- Priscilla to call meeting of LGB&T

Other Areas Discussed

Monica described the new subgroup which the Outcomes Groups are setting up to support their theme of mental and emotional wellbeing and that what had all been discussed at today's meeting could fit within the theme and in particular the impact of poverty within this.

Anna talked about the new app that Simon Community have produced for anyone who finds anyone sleeping rough and there was a conversation about the use of apps in family support. Anna also told the members that out of her meeting with other homeless agencies at this meeting, they had now formed their own group and meet on a regular basis to discuss practice and have an expert come in to deliver informal, short training.

Monica spoke about the benefits she has seen with the FAST Project, particular with isolation and parents being supported to support each other and sustain their own communities. There was then a conversation about 'what glue it takes to hold family and community together' with a short conversation around the Theory of Bronfenbrenner, Joan asked if a short information session could be held about Bronfenbrenner as it applied so well to all members.

Action

Priscilla to organise Bronfenbrenner training

After these discussions the members looked to the drafted Action Plans and it was felt that many of these actions discussed today could be situated within it

Priscilla updated the meeting which she attends

Community Planning

Domestic Violence Forum

Emotional Wellbeing Subgroup

Regional LPG Coordinators Meeting

NEETs Forum

Fermanagh Alcohol Forum

AOB

Joan mentioned the Early Years Conference in June in Belfast

Next meeting to be held on:

Notice will be sent of next meeting

