



Fermanagh & Omagh Locality Planning Group

Contact, Issues and Action Subgroup

This newly created subgroup came about through the concern of the LPG members for families with children or young people who have disabilities. It is hoped that 'CIA' will provide an open forum for practitioners and families to meet and discuss the provision of local services and issues for families with children and young people with disabilities in the Fermanagh & Omagh area.

The first meeting was held on Tuesday 8th November 2015 and was well attended by parents with children and young people of all ages and practitioners. A special welcome was made to Noreen Kettyles and the parents from MEUNLTD. It was decided by the people present that the meeting was a useful way of highlighting together what support is available and a forum to raise awareness and look at local actions.

The meeting was hosted by the Leonard Cheshire Disabilities, Moving on Project who carried out a consultation about social activities for children and young people in the area. During the consultation issues were raised which included:

Transport

1. Often has to be booked in advance
2. If a parent drives into town (maybe 25 miles across the county) they have to wait until the young person is ready to come home, as it is often too far to return home in between
3. Safety – parents like to know who is providing the transport
4. People felt that outside of the county there is little understanding of the particular needs of the area

Living On The Border

1. Some families experiencing worsening financial situation if family member works over the border with the drop in the Euro.
2. Sharing transport from rural areas can lead to children being on the bus for long periods, early starts and little flexibility around collection times.

3. Even bringing activities such as the mobile cinema and climbing wall to large villages has not been proven to work in the past

Range of Activities

1. Some people wished for activities that the whole family can take part in as a family unit
2. Some people wanted activities which their child could attend alone to provide them with respite time
3. Some people felt that the siblings should not be expected to look after the child at activities & others felt that this was a good arrangement

Information about Activities

1. People felt that there were very good activities, such as basketball which was provided by the Council, which had its funding cut
2. People felt that there were a range of activities which when they tried to access they found they were not in the right geographical area, age range, type of disability
3. People felt that some others seemed to be able to access activities easily depending on their practitioners or support groups they are linked into
4. People said that they often got confused as to who was delivering a service and who was responsible for it, this happens when the Trust buys in external agencies to deliver, people said they did not sometimes realise where the funding was coming from.

Young Adults

1. People felt that the 19-25 year olds had another set of socialising challenges, with few outlets outside of licence premises.
2. The issue was raised by this stage of life, parents are usually older and are maybe not socialising as much themselves either.
3. People at the meeting interested in the concept of Family Group Conferencing to involve external members of the family or community on a more regular basis.

