



**Minute of Western Area Outcomes Group**  
**held on 28 October 2015**  
**Strabane Enterprise Agency**

**Present:**

- Mrs Brenda MacQueen, Dry Arch Children's Centres [Chair]
- Ms Nicola Topping, Education Officer, WELB
- Ms Linda Watson, Caw/Nelson Drive Community Association
- Mr Ivor Morton, PSNI
- Mr Mustapha Ben Hassine, Barnardos
- Ms Bernie Tierney, Children's Services Manager, Action for Children
- Ms Michelle McCabe, Lifestart
- Ms Avril McAllister, Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Ms Colleen Heaney, Youth Justice Agency
- Mr Eamon O'Kane, Local Commissioning Group
- Mrs Monica MacIntyre, Department of Social Development
- Mrs Anne Hardy, Children's Services Planning Officer, HSCB
- Mr Gerry Conway, Commissioning Lead, HSCB

**In attendance:**

- Mrs Priscilla Magee, Action for Children
- Mrs Margaret Ferris, Assistant Business Manager, Western Trust
- Ms Louise Frazer, NSPCC
- Ms Stephanie Brownrigg, Foyle Women's Aid
- Mr Mark McChrystal, Dry Arch Children's Centres
- Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mr Kieran Downey, Director of Women &amp; Children's Services</li><li>Mrs Ann McDuff, Assistant Director [Community &amp; Public Health]</li><li>Ms Cathy Mullan, PHA</li><li>Ms Orla Conway, Omagh Women's Aid</li><li>Ms Marie McGale, Mencap</li><li>Ms Cathy McCloskey, Early Years Organisation</li><li>Ms Muriel Bailey, Director of Parents Helpline &amp; Counselling Service, Parenting NI</li><li>Mrs Bronagh Donnelly, Action for Children</li><li>Mr Pat Armstrong, Head of Service, Western Trust</li></ul>
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2	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Mrs MacQueen advised that Ms Charmaine McNally, Senior Social Work Practitioner for Child Sexual Exploitation, had been due to attend today's meeting, but was currently on sick leave. Ms McNally had prepared a briefing paper on her role which Ms Forrest would email to members.</p> <p>Mrs MacQueen welcomed Mr Conway back to the Outcomes Group following a period of ill health and also welcomed Mr Ivor Morton, PSNI, to the meeting.</p>
3	<p><b>Mentoring Programme</b></p> <p>Mrs MacQueen welcomed Mr Mark McChrystal to the meeting to report on the Mentoring Programme pilot at the Dry Arch Children's Centres which had been funded by the Western Area Outcomes Group.</p> <p>Mr McChrystal advised that Ms Donna O'Kane, Youth Mentor, was involved in leading the Mentoring Programme. He advised that referrals had been received from Health Visitors, Social Workers, Education Welfare Officers, Schools etc. He said the young people came from fragmented families, were socially isolated, had school attendance/attainment issues, parents with substance/alcohol abuse and often had siblings with additional needs. He said the criteria for the Teenage Action Group was to reach out to the quiet child, the under achiever, the socially isolated and the young person who didn't function well socially. Mr McChrystal said the fourteen week programme covered topics such as Finger Print Learning, Mind Your Mate, Cook It, Sow and Grow and Cyberpal which dealt with bullying and informing young people of what help was available. He said the outcomes for young people were enhanced confidence, improved self image, self care, improved mood, happiness, and gave examples of how young people's lives had been enhanced due to completing the programme. Mr McChrystal said it was very important for the Youth Worker to build relationships with the young people to build a bridge to other services, and said transitions to new schools were a particularly challenging time for some young people.</p> <p>Ms McCabe enquired how the Mentoring Programme fitted within Family Support. Mr McChrystal advised of the option of a six week parallel course and reported that staff had delivered customised parenting courses in people's own homes.</p> <p>Mrs MacIntyre said she was always concerned at the sustainability of time limited projects. Mr McChrystal said there were plans to link young people with existing services such as peer support and pastoral care in schools, and the services of the Family Support Hub, SureStart and the Dry Arch Children's Centres. He noted the good working relationships with the PSNI and other services in the local area.</p> <p>Mr Hassine enquired if the Outcomes Group were going to generalise the programme and said some young people preferred to work on a one-to-one basis instead of participating in group work. Mrs MacQueen said the group would look at the evaluations of the Mentoring Programme.</p>

	<p>Mr McChrystal thanked the Western Area Outcomes Group for investing in the Mentoring Programme and agreed to forward his presentation for emailing to members.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Domestic Violence</b></p> <p>Mrs MacQueen welcomed Ms Louise Frazer, NSPCC, and Ms Stephanie Brownrigg, Foyle Women’s Aid, to the meeting to inform members on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people.</p> <p>Ms Brownrigg reported that Women’s Aid’s definition of domestic violence was “The intentional and persistent physical or emotional abuse of a woman, or of a woman and her children in a way that causes pain, distress or injury”.</p> <p>She advised that one in four females may experience domestic violence and reported that 55,029 calls were managed by the 24 hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline. She said 27,628 incidents with domestic motivation were reported to the PSNI during April 2013 to March 2014. Ms Brownrigg reported that an estimated 32,000 children were living with domestic abuse in NI and their experiences ranged from Pre Natal, Over Hearer, Witness, Intervenor, Colluder, Weapon, Victim, Perpetrator. She said there was a higher risk of a child who witnessed abuse becoming an abuser themselves and said early intervention was crucial.</p> <p>Ms Heaney joined the meeting.</p> <p>Ms Fraser said children suffered from behavioral problems, insecure attachments, health issues and could be socially isolated and unable to bring their friends home. She said parents often suffered from depression, alcohol, drugs, self blame, mental health issues and could be involved with Social Services and other agencies. She advised of the following range of programmes offered by the NSPCC and Women’s Aid:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Caring Dads, Safer Children</li> <li>➤ Helping Hands</li> <li>➤ You &amp; Me Mum</li> <li>➤ Face to Face</li> <li>➤ DART – Domestic Abuse Recovering Together</li> <li>➤ Healing for Healthy Relationships</li> <li>➤ Bully Busters</li> </ul> <p>Ms Fraser advised of the support available for families such as safe accommodation, resettlement work, crisis intervention, advocacy, court support project, training and awareness sessions, 24 Hour Women’s Aid Domestic and Sexual Violence Helpline, NSPCC Adult Helpline and the NSPCC Childline. She said it was important that practitioners working with families were trained to recognise the prevalence, signs, symptoms and indicators of domestic abuse and that there were educative and therapeutic interventions with individual family members and the family as a whole.</p>

	<p>Mrs Magee enquired if there were many cases of domestic violence within European families. Ms Brownrigg advised that these cases were more complex due to the need for translators, funding for translators and the need for education on cultural differences. She said legacy issues in Northern Ireland also had an impact on domestic violence cases, but said a large number of adults were misusing substances. Mrs MacIntyre said there was a need to get a message out that domestic violence did not just occur within a marriage. Ms Heaney said the number of young male perpetrators was a major concern. Mrs Magee said Fermanagh Women's Aid had ran a pilot where men delivered courses to men and said there was a need for men to have role models.</p> <p>Mrs MacQueen thanked Ms Fraser and Ms Brownrigg for their presentation.</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Notes of Previous Meeting</b> The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 August 2015 were approved.</p> <p>Mrs MacQueen advised that Mr Hassine had provided copies of the Barnardos research report on Newcomer Pupils in NI Primary Schools which Dr Kernaghan, Research Officer, Barnardos, had presented on at the last meeting, for Ms Topping to distribute within the Education Authority in the West.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Update from Locality Planning Groups &amp; Suzanne Zeedyk Events</b> Mrs Magee advised that Mrs Donnelly was currently on sick leave.</p> <p>Mrs MacQueen offered congratulations to Mrs Hardy, Mrs Magee [and her husband Peter] for all their efforts during Suzanne Zeedyk's visit to the Western Trust during 20 – 22 October 2015.</p> <p>Mrs Magee said there had been great feedback from the staff who attended the workshops throughout the Trust area and she thanked members for allowing their staff to attend the events. She reported that some staff had also now attended MAP training. Mrs Magee said it had been a collaborative effort to organise the events and said she was hoping to arrange a debrief meeting with everyone who had assisted. Mrs Magee reported that Irish TV had filmed one of the events in Omagh and that it would be available on the website. Mrs MacQueen asked Mrs Magee to thank everyone involved on behalf of the Outcomes Group.</p> <p>Mrs Hardy advised that the meeting with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council had gone well on 20 October 2015 and the Council had given a subscription towards the events and their logo had been included on the documentation. She advised that 8,000 evaluation sheets had been completed and said all the presentations would be available on the website.</p> <p>Mr Conway said Suzanne Zeedyk was very inspirational and had made an impact on all the audiences at the various events and said her visit had reinforced the early intervention approach.</p>

	<p>Mrs Hardy advised that the consultation on the Ten Year Strategy for Affordable and Integrated Child Care 2015 – 2015 was due to close on 13 November 2015. Mrs MacQueen advised that a copy of the strategy would be emailed to members.</p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Early Intervention Updates</b></p> <p><b>Pioneering Communities</b>  Mrs Hardy advised of a productive meeting held in the Western Trust with Mr George Hosking on 15 October 2015 which was attended by Trust staff, Mrs Hardy, Mrs Magee and Ms Topping. Staff briefed Mr Hosking on work being undertaken in the Western area and on the basis of funding, Mr Hosking was considering choosing Derry as a Pioneering Community, due to the current work which could built upon, and the required population and deprivation levels for a Pioneering Community. Mrs Hardy agreed to prepare a briefing paper to update members at the next meeting.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Emotional Health and Wellbeing Action Plan – Update</b>  Mrs Hardy advised that the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Sub Group would meet again to review the outcomes following Suzanne Zeedyk’s workshops and the evaluations with regarding to attachment. She said there was a lot of work ongoing in respect of Level II and there was a need to develop thinking and to co-ordinate services.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Outcomes Board and Safeguarding Panels</b>  Mrs MacQueen reported that Mr Downey had been in correspondence with Mr John Toner, Chair of the Local Safeguarding Panel, regarding the need to promote connections between the Local Safeguarding Panel and the Western Area Outcomes Group. Mr Conway said it was important to have close working relationships with the Safeguarding Board for NI. Mrs MacQueen said Mr Downey would provide members with an update at the next meeting.</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>LGB&amp;T Regional Sub Group Summary of 27 July 2015</b>  Members noted the summary update from the LGB&amp;T regional sub group held on 27 July 2015.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>CYPSP Think Family Sub Group/Hidden Harm Workshop Outcomes – 23 October 2015</b>  Mrs MacQueen reported that Mr Downey had attended a Think Family workshop on 23 October 2015 and would report back at the next meeting.</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b>  No further business.</p>
<b>13</b>	<p><b>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting</b>  16 December 2015 at 10.00 am in the Conference Room, Strabane Enterprise Agency.</p>

