

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

**TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 2.00PM  
HOMESTART OFFICE, ANTRIM**

<b>Attending:</b>	Mervyn Rea	<i>Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Council</i>
	Andrew Macquarie	<i>Youth Justice Agency</i>
	Aoife McAteer	<i>Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Council</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Jason Jordan	<i>EA NI Youth Service</i>
	Joanne Cleary	<i>Little Steps Surestart</i>
	Kerry Brady	<i>Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Council</i>
	Margaret Thompson	<i>Home-Start Antrim</i>
	Pamela Shields	<i>Oasis Antrim</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Gerry McDonald	<i>Think Drink NHSCT</i>
	Janine Gaston	<i>SACN</i>
	Laura Crawford	<i>YJA</i>
	Marie McCloy	<i>NRC</i>
	Petr Zuolsky	<i>NHSCT</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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015**.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### Parental Support

It was agreed for Sandra to link with group of mums to see what additional information / support they would like.

### Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice will be invited to a future meeting.

## **UPDATE – BIG LOTTERY**

Live and Learn Project submitted an application for Supporting Families Big Lottery Funding. Selena provided information on the Empower Project. The focus on the project is to support children under 12 with Autism, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia, their parents and the wider family circle to enhance confidence and learn together to develop skills to support their children. This will cover Antrim and Magherafelt areas and will be launched in September 2015 with a range of training available.

This is led by DADS and other local partners. The project can work with young people who haven't received a diagnosis as yet. This is a 5 year project and they are keen to get representation from schools. For further information contact 028 7930 1606 or email

[dyslexia.dyspraxia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dyslexia.dyspraxia@yahoo.co.uk)

## **UPDATE – IMPACT OF ALCOHOL**

**Relationships & Alcohol Misuse** are continuing to deliver Counselling and Debt/Money Management through Relate and CABS who also

continue to recruit Community Champions as well as Alcohol Awareness.

**Healthy Body, Healthy Mind** provide Mentoring, Counselling and Personal Development Programmes with a PDP scheduled to start in Magherafelt this month – should members be aware of anyone with low level mental health concerns (depression, low mood) and alcohol misuse then please get in touch . The projects Community Champions Train the Trainer course planned to start in Magherafelt in Sept has had to be deferred to Feb 2016 due to low numbers registering although the Ballymena course has started with good numbers attending. Again if any member wants further information please ask them to get in touch.

**Older Focus** has now been renamed as **55+** and are continuing to deliver home or other centre based counselling and family support to those aged 55 or over. They also continue to deliver Alcohol Awareness as well as recruiting and providing training to Community Champions as required.

**Sharing the Learning** 23 June – this event was well attended with good feedback on the information provided about partnership working as well as the afternoon workshops provided by each of the projects. The learning from the event will be included in the interim evaluation and used to inform the services to be provided in the additional year of the portfolio which has been made possible by BIG funding to help embed the learning.

### **Believe in Youth Project Update**

Selena read an email update provided by Gerry Macdonald Impact of Alcohol Portfolio Manager. Please see below.

Do you know a young person who would be interested in becoming part of the Believe in Youth Peer Education Team covering this area?

Do you know the “hot spots” where young people gather in this area and misuse alcohol?

When a “hot spot” area is identified Believe in Youth will deliver:

- Outreach with “detached” youth and Preventative Alcohol Awareness programmes with associated schools, youth and community organisations and in addition
- Alcohol Awareness Raising with Families, Communities and associated organisations along with recruitment and training of Community Champions

To find out more please get in touch with Margaret Rose McLaughlin, Team Leader, Peer Education Team on 07786530355 or by email at [margtrose@hotmail.com](mailto:margtrose@hotmail.com)

## **ACTION PLANNING**

Selena noted the Antrim Locality Planning Group was launched in 2007 and outlined the achievements to date. It was noted to circulate the membership booklet again. If anyone would like to be included send information to Gemma.

Selena asked members what they as an organisation they can't do on their own but there is still an unmet need for. This will form key priorities which the Antrim Locality group can collectively work on achieving.

Issues Identified:

### Services

- 17 year old 'care kids' with no structured accommodation options

### Poverty

- Grants for families living in poverty especially household items

### Promotion

- Support for child-minders in local area and place to meet
- Raise young people's awareness on impact of pregnancy
- Affordable summer activities

- Volunteers
- Highlight services on offer by EANI Youth Service North Eastern Region utilising social networks i.e. Facebook

### Mental Health

- 17 ½ year olds mental health. Priority young people but not priority adults
- Child-minding facilities for mums
- Support for young people aged 11-18 years. Self-esteem/confidence building, resilience, raising aspirations
- Support for young people – self harm and suicide
- Mental Health of parents

Selena agreed to take these issues discussed and put in action plan context along with statistics to reflect the needs identified.

**Action: Selena**

### **MEMBER AGENCY UPDATE**

#### Margaret Thompson – Home-Start Antrim

Margaret noted Home-Start Antrim work really well with Oasis Antrim. There are emergency referrals just for food and regular delivered to 22 homes that are getting food parcels. This number is increasing all the time. It is challenging when volunteers also fall into this category of need themselves. Margaret will be leaving post on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and will be 25 years in post. It was noted the post has been filled.

Home-Start Antrim will be celebrating 25 years on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. There will be celebration event for everyone to attend including Funders, staff, managers, volunteers etc.

### Jason Jordan – EA NI Youth Service

The organisation is now known as EA NI and is one organisation but still working from old NEELB policies and procedures at present. This will change over time when voluntary redundancies have all been processed. Jason has filled the area youth worker post. There are now 2 area youth workers across the Antrim team over a total of 8 nights. The unit in Parkhall Youth Club operates 5 nights and is full. Ballycraigy lost their leader in charge. There is a vacancy for an ICT Youth Support Worker post. Jason noted EA NI are providing small grant aids to 50 youth groups. A training calendar has been developed and will cover periods from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September. Courses are all accredited and are for both adults and young people. This is due to release soon. Jason noted he is now in the last year of the 3 year action plan.

### Joanne Cleary – Little Steps Surestart

The Toy & Book Van has been fantastic. Parents are responding to the service really well and excited to see it in the area. A Facebook page has been allowed but will be strictly monitored. Joanne noted she is getting this up and running. Attendance has really increased and groups are regularly meeting. Parents from all areas are willing to come to Farranshane. Premises have still not been secured.

### Kerry Brady – Antrim & Newtownabbey Council

Councils have joint as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and staff have moved to new areas. Kerry noted she is now based at Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey. Work will remain the same for the next year. Grants Scheme is continuing to run until the end of January. Summer schemes also continue to get support through grant aid. New structures will be looked at.

### Aoife McAteer – Antrim & Newtownabbey Council

Aoife has moved to Mossley Mill also and took on work within Newtownabbey. The move has made home visits more challenging. Home safety referrals under 5 have increased. Aoife is linking very closely with citizen's advice for families. Eat Sleep and Play referrals have stopped.

Aoife provide information on a PHA Led Breastfeeding Scheme. This is to encourage and improve social acceptability of breastfeeding, ensuring that the environment is as supportive of breastfeeding as possible. The only premise signed up to this was the Antrim Library. 10 businesses in Antrim have now signed up in support of this. This is being pushed in Newtownabbey too.

### Pamela Shields – Oasis Antrim

14-16 year old programme have moved on to education and training. Centres are to run a programme in the evening with young people who are in danger of entering criminal justice system. Pamela noted the Store house has grown and a meeting was held last night. Pamela is trying to balance food coming in and food going out. There is a good amount of food at present and there is the possibility to give more. Pamela noted a voucher scheme will be run and they are looking to broaden the service to provide food for the whole town. Once a month trolley day in Asda takes place for donations. 45 volunteers are needed for bag packing in Asda. This is broken down to slots during the day. Information was provided on a Women's programme starting on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Oasis Antrim are trying to pilot an aromatherapy 5 week programme for woman 'aromatherapy in the home'. Working closely with Women's Aid and working with parents who are most vulnerable and isolated.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### Strengthening Families Programme

It is hoped for a strengthening families programme to run in Antrim area starting in October. Potential venues were given to Selena to pass onto Emma McElhone – SFP Coordinator. The programme is for young people aged 10-14 years. It is a nice programme with incentives for completion.

### Hip Hop Classes

Information was provided on an OCN in Hip Hop for 15-19 year olds which will be running in Ballymena. On completion the qualification will enable young people to deliver Hip Hop / Dance classes. Have to have an interest in dance to take part. This will take place over 6-8 evenings and will commence in November 2015.

### Locality Group

Mervyn noted Newtownabbey doesn't have a group as such but Ballyclare covers rural Newtownabbey. Mervyn raised a point if Antrim Locality group should broaden out to cover Newtownabbey area also.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm in Homestart Office, Antrim.**