

Quality Care - for you, with you

Southern Area Outcomes Group

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 1 December 2015 at
9.30am, in
Brownstown Community Centre, Portadown

Present:

Anne Hardy, Chair CYPSP
Margaret Gibney, Administrator
Kieran Shields, SELB
Michael Heaney, Youth Justice Agency
Diane Clarke, ABC Council
Kirsten May, Housing Executive
Regina Mackin, Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Annie Clarke, CYPSP
Helen Dunn, Regional Family Support Hub Co-ordinator
Rachel Long, NIACRO
Mark McBride on behalf of Gerry Blakney, PHA
Peter Hutchinson, OFM/DFM

Apologies:

Paul Morgan, Chair SHSC
Geraldine Maguire, AD SCHED
Michael Hoy, HoS FSS
Jacinta Linden, SPACE
Michele Janes, Barnardos
Catriona Regan, ABC Council
Gerard Houlahan, ABC Council
Iain Black, VOYPIC
Mairead Abraham, Southern Childcare Partnership
Nuala Haughey, CYPSP
Gerry Blakney, PHA
Shirley Gillespie, Early Years
Mia Murray, Arke Surestart

Welcome & Introductions:

Anne advised that she would be chairing today's meeting in Paul's absence. Before addressing agenda items Anne noted that this would be Regina's last meeting and thanked her for her contribution not only as a member of Outcomes Group but also in her role within Locality Planning; members wished Regina every success for the future.

Anne advised that this will also be Annie's last meeting and again thanked her for her contribution over the last 9 months.

A round of introductions was carried out and apologies duly noted.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Minutes of Previous meeting held 6 October 2015 were agreed as an accurate record by members.

Matters Arising:

Anne referenced HSCB/CCP response to draft Childcare Strategy agreeing to circulate to members.

Action:

Margaret to circulate response to members

Anne noted that any other matters arising from previous meeting will be addressed through agenda.

Development of a new CYP Strategy – Peter Hutchinson OFMDFM:

Anne welcomed Peter to today's meeting thanking him for coming along.

Peter provided a brief background highlighting that whilst OFMDFM have overall responsibility for policy issues they will also liaise with other various government departments.

Peter noted that this is an executive strategy on how the government will work together to improve the rights of children and how they are recognised. It is proposed that the strategy will utilise the UNCRC (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) to improve the rights of children and young people and identify barriers and how these can be overcome. The strategy will also include the wellbeing of children i.e. leisure, health and how they are respected within their communities

Peter emphasised that as this is a co-design process, the views of various departments and agencies who work directly with children as well as the views of children and young people themselves and their parents is pivotal. There will be a consultation during the Summer of 2016.

Peter advised that the question has been raised as to whether or not specific groups e.g. LGBT, BME, CWD will require additional actions. The importance of evidence based outcomes and identifying possible trends was reiterated to members. It is envisaged that the strategy will build on current structures and have measurable outcomes.

Peter then referenced presentation provided for today's meeting highlighting the key components of the strategy, noting that there are a number of strategies that can impact the life of a child. Peter highlighted current issues such as Female Genital Mutilation and Cyber Bullying which were not as prevalent at time of previous strategy (launched 2006). Peter advised that the Bill recently passed enables budgets to be 'pooled together' meaning that if it were felt that a specific project or scheme would improve children's lives/rights then departments/agencies can work together drawing on budgets to fund these schemes/projects. He also referenced the Programme for Government as a key driver.

Peter also advised that the first step in developing the strategy is engaging agencies currently working with young people/children; therefore the development of Thematic Groups has been suggested. It is envisaged that these groups will reflect the current strategic outcomes (as detailed in presentation).

Peter concluded by noting that currently there is a lot of good work being carried out on the ground which should be reflected/fed into the strategy. A questionnaire has been provided to members which Peter encouraged members to consider and respond.

Anne commented that over the last year in action planning the Outcomes Group had spent much effort in needs assessment, outcomes monitoring, talking to children and young people, parents and communities with Locality Planning Groups and Family Support Hubs. A range of stakeholder events had been organised. This work had contributed to the the prioritisation of needs within the Southern Area. This is what our action plan will be based upon. This is work the Strategy could build upon. She queried if the Strategy would be high level or is there a worry that the Strategy would produce different priorities. Peter said that the Strategy would need to be high level and be able to react to emerging needs.

Michael concurred that there is a wealth of information to hand however emphasised that the issue of connectivity remains. He stressed that the cross agency structures are already in place and have had time now to bed in and begin to be successful. He suggested that Outcomes Group should be used as a delivery mechanism in order to avoid further duplication or dilution of effort.

Kieran referenced a number of strategies and policies in the Education sector - Extended Schools programme which was launched in March 2006, Traveller Task Force Report 2005. He stressed the need for funding to be secure and longer term and that the strategy should be able to join up all these strategies.

Some discussion then ensued in relation to Thematic Groups, how many themes, who would be involved, should they be based on age groups. Peter stated that the Thematic Groups would/should reflect current strategic outcomes. Kieran offered his support to Thematic Groups.

Anne commented that the theory is if one outcome is improved this then has the potential to improve all outcomes as they are interlinked.

Peter emphasised the importance of a consistent approach ensuring any gaps in services are addressed, building on what already exists and linking with other strategies.

Some discussion occurred regarding Community Planning and Locality Planning, how these are linked and how they can be supported.

Peter noted that currently each Department have 'Children's Champions' who meet regularly to discuss issues. Peter agreed to provide names of these Champions

Kieran stressed the need to engage with children and young people.

Peter acknowledged that there remains a lot of uncertainty in terms of restructuring however he believes that greater interest in the strategy will equal greater scrutiny to ensure it is working well. Anne concurred adding that Action Plan needs to be flexible to take account of and address any emerging needs.

Rachel reiterated concern re voluntary and community sector and the withdrawal of funding which creates pressure on voluntary sector organisations. Rachel emphasised that organisations have committed to services/project and there is significant evidence to indicate these services/projects improve outcomes however funding has been withdrawn and therefore services/projects are no longer available. There is a need to make sure that pilot schemes which have proved successful are then mainstreamed.

The Group thanked Peter for attending.

Feedback from Action Planning Task Group:

Anne advised that the Task Group have met again and agreed that Mark and Mairead will join the Group; the group will meet again in January.

Kieran advised that the group agreed that a wider reference group is required therefore Annie has helped organise meeting in Dungannon which will take place this Thursday. Annie added that she did raise this with Locality Chairs and asked what services are currently offered and what is the uptake; Annie agreed to provide this information when received.

Action:

Annie to provide information re current services and uptake of services to Task Group.

Feedback from BME Task Group:

Anne noted that this is a Task & Finish Group therefore it is coming to an end adding that Paul is keen that high level recommendations are fed back.

Annie stated that there was some confusion regarding the completion of service questionnaires; it was agreed that Annie would provide names to Anne who will follow up with Alison Foster

Action:

Annie to provide names of those who wish to partake in questionnaire to Anne who will then liaise with Alison Foster.

Agency Updates:

Michael advised that he will provide a review of scoping study to next meeting.

Anne referenced launch of SPACE initiative noting that members were invited to attend launch; Jacinta to provide further update at next outcomes meeting.

Anne noted update provided by Shirley Gillispie; 10 traveller families fed into the Child Care Strategy submitted by Toybox and a further 10 families fed into lifeline public consultation questionnaire.

Regina informed the group that the Newry Mourne and Down Council Community Planning process has begun with the plans to look at the area on a geographical basis around the 7 DEAs. This is an evolving process and Council will continue to work closely with partner agencies.

She also reported that OFMDFM has announced the Peace 4 funding which aims to have programmes on the ground by mid-2016. Funding has been announced for Shared Education; Children and young people, Shared Spaces and Services and Building Positive Relations at a Local Level. (see attached leaflet)

Feedback from CYPSP Chairs:

Anne advised that the Report Card from all five Outcomes Groups has been shared at Regional meeting. Anne also tabled BME Task Group report reiterating that each Outcomes Group has been tasked with a specific outcome. Anne agreed to circulate minutes and presentation provided for meeting.

Action:

Anne to circulate presentation and minutes from Regional meeting.

Update from Locality Planning Groups

Annie referenced report provided for today's meeting highlighting that the groups remain very busy and continue to work hard.

Annie advised that domestic violence awareness training is being held in Brownlow Hub on 14th Dec at 10am all members welcome to attend.

Update Family Support Hubs

Rachel advised that the Hubs continue to receive 60+ referrals each month. Rachel added that Unmet Need continues to be an issue in terms of those children/families awaiting diagnosis or where diagnosis has been ruled out. EISS pilot launched 1st October is addressing/ picking up on these issues.

It was agreed that Maurice would be asked to provide an update on EITP at next Outcomes meeting.

Action:

Maurice to provide update on EITP at next outcomes

Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 2 February at 10am TESS Unit, Tullygally Primary School, 21 Meadowbrook Road Craigavon