

**A meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership took place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – Action Mental Health - Antrim**

**Present:**

Brendan Whittle  
Cheryl Lamont  
Dawn Shaw  
Gillian Gibson  
Hugh McCaughey  
Jo Marley  
Lesley Walker  
Liam Hannaway  
Marie Roulston  
Maura Muldoon  
Michael Graham  
Paddy Mooney  
Sharron Russell  
Tony Stevens  
Una Turbitt

**In Attendance:**

Alison Foster  
Anne Hardy  
Annie Clarke  
Fionnula McAndrew  
Helen Dunn  
June Wilkinson  
Koulla Yiasouma  
Lesley Walker  
Maurice Leeson  
Martin Quinn  
Paul Morgan  
Una Casey  
Valerie Maxwell

**Apologies:**

Brenda MacQueen  
Carolyn Harper  
Clare Mangan  
Declan McGeown  
Eddie Rooney  
Elaine Way  
Gerry Conway  
Jim Girvan  
Jim Clark  
June Wilkinson  
Marie Kavanagh  
Pauline Leeson  
Kieran Downey  
Valerie Watts  
Paula Clarke

**Arrival and Welcome**

Ms Fionnuala McAndrew chaired the meeting in the absence of Ms Valerie Watts. Ms McAndrew welcomed members and thanked them for their attendance. Apologies were noted as above. Apologies were noted from Steven Agnew, MLA, who will instead attend the next Partnership meeting.

In her opening remarks Mrs Mc Andrew referenced the significant amount of change in the structures and operations of social care including the ministerial announcement of the closure of the HSCB, the

new Programme for Government, the new Children's Strategy, the Children's Services Cooperation Act and forthcoming changes to the Departmental structure. Mrs McAndrew stated that it was important that CYPSP took stock in light of these changes.

## 1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Members agreed to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 as an accurate record of the meeting.

## 2. **Matters Arising:**

### **a) MOU with NICCY**

Mr Leeson informed members that this task is now complete and MOU with NICYY has been agreed.

### **b) EITP and CYPSP**

Ms McAndrew suggested that members take a few minutes to look at the number of strands and projects within EITP.

Mr Leeson explained that EITP is the first time a group of departments have come together to pool budgets. In the debates around Steven Agnew's Co-operation Bill EITP was specifically mentioned as a model of cooperation and pooled budgets. There are currently 14 projects in EITP.

Mr Leeson also highlighted the upcoming LAC education project which focuses on improving education outcomes for LAC children at key stage 2. This development will be managed by EA. A change manager for this project is now in place. The project will be supported by a steering group. As there is already a LAC 16+ CYPSP regional sub group, this function will be integrated into this group in order to avoid duplication.

The Professional Development work stream will build the capacity to engage in early intervention work. Mr Leeson recommended that the Partnership becomes engaged formally with this process as the early Intervention subgroup has done a lot of work in this area.

There will be a link between this stream and Queens University work led by Paul Connelly which will include looking different approaches to supporting locality work.

EITP projects are designed as pilot projects – there will be opportunities for CYPSP to look at key learning outcomes from these projects. Department of health are keen to explore the potential to re-run EITP as a strategic priority /multi agency department approach.

Ms McAndrew opened floor for comments.

Ms McAndrew noted poor education outcomes for LAC Children post key stage 2 as a concern and was pleased to see the intervention targeted at this age group.

Mr Leeson drew attention to the second paper which highlights all EITP projects. (attached).

Ms Turbitt provided an Overview of the ‘Getting Ready for Baby/Toddler’ programmes in EITP Workstream 1. She acknowledged the considerable input from Trusts in getting this work off the ground.

Mr Leeson also mention the ‘Families Inside and Out’ project which works with young fathers coming out of prison and is supported by a social enterprise.

### **c) CYPSP plan**

Mr Leeson indicated that the CYPSP plan is now complete.

This will be the Interim plan until Programme for Government and comprehensive spending review agreed.

### **3.0- Arrangements for CYPSP infrastructure in light of ministerial announcement on future of HSCB.**

Ms McAndrew said a few words on the future arrangements for CYPSP in light of the ministerial announcement re the abolition of the HSCB. There has and will be changes in the relationship with government. The loss of members on the CYPSP was also noted. EITP will be coming in and a number of new strategies and reviews on-going. There will be a need to reflect on, report and make recommendations.

Ms McAndrew proposed that the next CYPSP meeting would operate a workshop format, inviting key stakeholders, looking at the plan and future arrangements including membership and on-going relationships.

Mr Leeson explained that the chair of SBINI has requested to sit on the CYPSP Partnership. Members agreed this was a reasonable request and suggested Chair should be invited to the September workshop and reviewed then.

#### **ACTION- SBNI Chair to be invited to the September Workshop.**

Mr Paul Morgan agreed and stated that such a workshop needed also to encompass community planning.

Mr Hugh McCaughey said that all organisations also have to factor in the change in the forthcoming Programme for Government to an outcomes approach.

Mrs Mc Andrew agreed that the next meeting should adopt a workshop approach to consider these changes.

Ms McAndrew noted enormous progress over the past 18 months and a lot of scope for community planning in the future.

Ms Lesley Walker queried if there should be key council representation in the CYPSP structure going forward.

Ms McAndrew responded that lead would be taken from the outcomes chairs and strongly welcome stakeholder interest although she noted that this may be early in the development of community planning for the councils.

Mr McCaughey felt that the whole approach will have to be reviewed and that there will be a need for a broad range of stakeholders as possible with a steer from government and OFMDFM. Mr McCaughey believes CYPSP on the right track but changes in the framework will affect how we all work/up for review- will give a better framework. Workshop alone will not do this – good idea of widening stakeholders – a lot of review will be required.

Ms McAndrew proposed drafting a programme for the day and can start the process of putting plan together.

Members satisfied with workshop proposal.

#### **4.0 Input from Children’s Commissioner – Koulla Yiasouma**

Ms Yiasouma, Children’s Commissioner presented an update on NICCY (Please see attached presentation).

The commissioner noted that move for her office from OFMDFM to Department for Communities in the new structure.

She noted that her office had not yet undertaken any investigations.

She stated that education inequalities, Child Poverty, adolescent mental health and embedding children’s rights were key priorities for her office.

Mrs Yiasouma also referenced the importance of the Children’s Services Cooperation Act.

#### **Comments**

Ms Hardy explained it would be good for CYPSP to look for opportunities to work together with NICCY on participation.

Ms Yiasouma agreed and talked about the NICCY youth Panel. NICCY have spoken to 500 young people and asked them about their priorities. Recruitment began at the beginning of the year, of which over 100 young people applied to be on the panel – current panel 70 strong and regularly advise the NICCY office.

Issues raised by the panel included the legacy of the conflict. Research into generational trauma is underway- children's mental health impacted on those born after the Good Friday agreement.

Ms Yiasouma acknowledged that although she had been lobbied strongly on the issue children with a disability were not a priority at this stage for her office.

Ms McAndrew suggested looking into the potential of CYPSP undertaking some joint work in partnership with NICCY. Members welcomed this.

Ms Shaw raised the issue of the experiences of rural children and young people. she explained that she was with a group of young people recently- long running established rural based group- who were very articulate on rural issues- and would be happy to link in with the Commissioner.

Ms Turbitt noted that the determinants of good education experiences were wider than just school- a lot of other factors need to be considered. Mrs Yiasouma agreed.

**ACTION-** Ms Yiasouma to make link with Mr Leeson re the potential for a piece of joint work with CYPSP.

### **5.0: Input from June Wilkinson, OFMDFM, Development of new Children's Strategy**

Ms June Wilkinson, OFMDFM delivered a presentation on the development of the new Children's Strategy. (Please see attached presentation). She acknowledged the work of CYPSP in the development of the strategy. She acknowledged that feedback had been received that suggested that the last strategy had been weak in implementation and review. Ms Wilkinson said that her team continued to work alongside the CYPSP information team on the child right indicators that will be used in the next strategy.

Ms McAndrew pointed out that there are some new emerging themes from the last strategy and a lot that have been around for a long time.

Ms Yiasouma found Ms Wilkinson's presentation very helpful- highlighting rights at grass route level.

Ms Muldoon raised the issue of selecting the right indicators for the strategy.

Ms Maxwell offered to link with PSNI for figures for young people and involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. Ms Muldoon welcomed Ms Maxwell suggestion.

Ms Russell commented that indicators in the PfG will have SRO (senior responsible officer) to ensure cross departmental work. Not a single issue strategy- more loose than the Mark Friedman model.

Ms Russell raised the topic of child poverty.

Mr McCaughey said he found the presentation to be very positive and much more outcomes based. Mr McCaughey interested in the chronology for consultation with the forthcoming elections. Mr McCaughey queried whether CYPSP should input to this consultation and if there was a window for comment. Mr McCaughey stated that the Partnership would be an excellent forum for this.

Ms Muldoon picked up on Mr McCaughey's point that it is important that members are given the opportunity to feed into this process. Danger of leaving out key indicators that contributes to positive outcomes was noted.

Ms Russell informed members of the timeframe which will be Programme for government after the elections- outcomes and indicators agreed in two weeks from the elections and then will be consulted on.

Ms McAndrew emphasised the need for clarity about process and timeframe re feeding back comments- happy for Partnership to pick this up as a group.

## **6.0 CYPSP Outcomes Group Development Work, Paul Morgan**

Mr Paul Morgan presented on the Outcomes Based groups as chair of the Southern Outcome Group. (Please see attached presentation.)

He particularly referenced the work of the Hubs.

He made reference to the linkages being made with other strategic processes.

Ms Roulston stated that members cannot underestimate how much goes on at locality planning level.

## **7. Request from OFMDFM for CYPSP representative on Child Poverty Strategy Steering Group**

Mr Leeson explained that OFMDFM have requested for a rep to sit on the steering group for new Child poverty strategy. (Information on the Child Poverty Strategy attached).

**ACTION-** Mr Leeson to liaise with OFMDFM to clarify role and come back to Partnership to discuss who is best placed to represent the Partnership.

## **8. CYPSP Team Reports**

*A: Information*

Ms Maxwell explained that the NI Monitoring report has just been finalised. Link to report has been circulated and members were asked to circulate as widely as possible. Information team currently working on SOA level and hope to have completed by the summer.

Ms McAndrew asked members to encourage their teams to use this information and provide feedback on it.

Ms Turbitt described the monitoring report as a good high level piece of information and well worthwhile.

Ms Muldoon queried if the report was a trend analysis or if there is an opportunity to add to what is being analysed.

Ms Maxwell happy to work and add to the report.

Ms McAndrew said she felt reassured today that at Outcomes level there is improved use of data and information.

*B: Family Support Hubs*

Mrs Dunn informed members that there is now full geographic coverage with 29 hubs in total. Statistics are currently being collected for quarter 4. Consistent increase in referrals highlighted. SCIE report out in the next few weeks.

*C: Communications*

Mr Leeson drew attention to the CYPSP Communications report (attached) Report provides a summary of what CYPSP are currently doing. In particular page four looks at most popular e-zine links and where interest is being generated.

*D. Report to Justice Committee*

Mr Leeson reminded members that some of the work that we carry out is reported to the justice committee. Report to Justice Committee attached for information.

**Date of next meeting**

Date of next meeting 21 September 2016.