



A meeting of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership took place on Friday 12th June 2015 at 9.30 am in the Linen Suite, Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey

Present:

Please see attached document.

1. Arrival and Welcome

Ms Fionnuala McAndrew, Director of Social Care and Children chaired the meeting. Ms McAndrew thanked members for their attendance and welcomed them to the meeting. Ms McAndrew also welcomed members of the wider CYPSP to the meeting.

Ms McAndrew explained that the meeting as previously agreed was to take the format of a stakeholder workshop.

2. Purpose of Today's Meeting

Ms McAndrew, advised members of the purposes of the meeting:

1. To agree a refreshed plan to cover 2014-2017
2. To agree any changes to purpose of CYPSP
3. To agree any changes in membership/governance/structures

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 13th February 2015

Members **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th February 2014 as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

(a) **Models of integrated service provision in 5 Outcome Group areas**

Mr Maurice Leeson reminded member that each outcomes group was taking forward one piece of multiagency work to improve outcomes for children. The challenge for the outcomes groups was to look to achieve this with no additional funding. All Outcomes Groups have identified an area to focus on. Mr Kieran Downey will refer to this item later in his presentation on behalf of the Outcomes group Chairs.

(b) **Information on Implementation Learning Community (paper attached)**

CYPSP, CES and TUSLA are supporting a learning community focussing on implementation science. There has been a lot of cross-agency interest in this area and details are included in the packs. There is significant similarity between how Childrens Services Planning is developing in the South of Ireland with the support of TUSLA and how CYPSP has developed. Further details are available to member organisations who wish to participate in the learning community. The next session is the 19th June in Armagh. Details are on the CYPSP website

(c) **MOU with NICCY**

The MOU with NICCY is due to be reviewed. Koulla Yiasouma is now in post as the children's commissioner and will provide an update at the next meeting in October.

(d) Paper on relationship between EITP and CYPSP (letter and paper attached)

The paper was considered at EITP programme board and was agreed. The work of CYPSP in respect of Early Intervention was acknowledged by EITP Programme Board. There is interest in bringing the work of EITP closer to the work of the CYPSP. There is a need for work to be carried out by CYPSP to see how this link will function in practice. An update will be provided at the October meeting.

(e) Paper on relationship between OFMDFM and CYPSP on role in development of new Children's Strategy

June Wilkinson, OFMDFM will provide an update on this and the children's services cooperation bill in her presentation to the meeting

5. Using Evidence and Monitoring Outcomes Presentation and discussion by Valerie Maxwell, CYPSP Information Manager

Ms McAndrew introduced this item by stating that Outcomes Groups were one of the successes of the Partnership. She commended members for driving forward the early intervention agenda and engaging with the Outcomes Groups.

Ms McAndrew stressed the importance of using information to identify need and referred to the enormous potential of the information system to enable working groups to not only identify key challenges but also to use the system to demonstrate how the collective efforts of the groups were enabling CYPSP to 'turn the curve' and demonstrate success.

Ms Valerie Maxwell, in her capacity as CYPSP Information Manager, demonstrated the mapping system and carried out a presentation on performance accountability using the Outcomes Based Accountability Framework (Presentation is on CYPSP website).

On the conclusion of Ms Maxwell's presentation Ms F McAndrew thanked her and invited discussion from the floor.

Mr Dave Wall commended Ms Maxwell on her presentation.

He raised concerns that the introduction of the concept of 'wellbeing indicators' into the general discussion on outcomes was potentially confusing as wellbeing is not defined. Most of the evaluative material is about providers and not the people and quality of service.

He queried the link between the CYPSP system and the child right indicators being developed by OFMDFM.

Mr Maurice Leeson stated that the CYPSP mapping system will be populated with child right indicators as part of the on-going process of measuring the extent to which the high level outcomes are being achieved. The intention was to have one place where the indicators could be stored and be accessible to all service providers.

Ms F McAndrew invited members to engage in roundtable discussions about the presentation.

Members were impressed by the information system and acknowledged the value of the information contained and how it can be used to identify issues as well as monitor progress.

Questions were raised as to whether or not additional information can be added to the system. Ms Maxwell confirmed that additional information can be added to particular report cards. The regional subgroups were currently doing this with their report cards on vulnerable children.

In response to a question from Mr Declan McGeown, Ms Maxwell confirmed that the data sets on the system were drawn from a range of statutory sources and were covered by data access agreements.

Ms Anne Hardy stated that the Locality groups were also doing work on capturing qualitative data.

Ms McAndrew concluded the discussion by noting that the report card format was a very helpful way of presenting complex data.

6. Strategic Context -New Children's Strategy and Children's Services Cooperation bill Presentation and discussion by Ms June Wilkinson, OFMDFM

Ms June Wilkinson, OFMDFM, delivered a presentation on the Strategic Context of the New Children's Strategy and Children's Services Cooperation bill (Please see attached presentation).

In terms of the Children's Strategy Ms Wilkinson said the intention with the new strategy was to deliver a co-design process with the widest range of stakeholders.

The intention was also to see a requirement to produce the strategy in the legislation. Accountability both for producing the strategy and reporting on it would be strengthened if the Bill became law.

Currently there are discussions with the departments about amendments.

The intent is still to make the CYPSP a statutory partnership.

Developments in England Scotland and Wales have been looked at

On the conclusion of Ms J Wilkinson's presentation Ms F McAndrew thanked her and invited discussion from the floor.

Mr Declan McGeown noted that in his former role in Community Safety there had been widespread agreement at the time of implementing duty to cooperate for the Community Safety partnerships. However the Attorney General's office had not been convinced by the argument. A statutory duty in that case was not enacted. Mr McGeown asked if OFMDFM had spoken to the attorney general.

Ms J Wilkinson stated that this had not occurred to date but it was something they would follow up.

Ms Wilkinson stated that whether or not the legislation was enacted she was determined to ensure that the principles behind the legislation would inform their work on the strategy .

Mr Dave Wall noted that the CYPSP had done well to champion the importance of cooperation.

He reminded attendees of the many challenges that existed in achieving genuine cooperation. He stressed the importance of gaining political support for this type of work in terms of using evidence better and focussing on outcomes. He reflected on the importance of the link between evidence and what is happening locally.

Ms Wilkinson noted that the draft Bill required all children's organisations to work together and not just departments.

Ms McAndrew noted that a number of MLA's were closely connected with the Locality process. It was noted that the information system filtered information on a locality basis.

With the strategy Ms Wilkinson said that the consultation work had to be completed by Spring 2016 with a commencement date of April 2017. The new strategy would align with the Programme for Government and the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The importance of the involvement of children and young people was raised by several members.

Fionnuala McAndrew noted that a great number of children and young people were engaged with the process through the Locality work and that this could be a great asset.

June Wilkinson said that she was open to meet with any organisation that wanted to enable young people to become part of the co-design process.

7. Building greater integration in service development

Mr Kieran Downey in his capacity as chair of the Western Outcomes Group delivered a presentation on Service development (Please see attached presentation). He noted that the Outcomes Groups were the 'engine room' of the CYPSP and absolutely vital to the support of families.

Mr K Downey reported on the rich vein of information that the Western Stakeholder events had brought. He said that over 1000 people had attended the events.

He noted that the lack of co-terminosity with council boundaries was a challenge for some of the outcomes groups.

The Outcomes groups worked hard to build multi-agency partnerships. he noted that there were some gaps in the membership that they needed to address.

He saw the critical challenges for the outcomes groups as reducing fragmentation and duplication in service planning and delivery as well as promoting outcomes based planning.

He felt the 'glue' for the work was the locality process. He felt that this represented the 'bottom up' part of the process.

He reflected that the Outcomes Groups were working on integrated models of provision.

The Southern area was working on BME issues. The Western area was concentrating on emotional and mental health issues. The South Eastern area was working on education issues and the Northern area had chosen to focus on disability. Belfast Outcomes group was considering a priority.

On the conclusion of Mr Downey's presentation Ms F McAndrew thanked her and invited discussion from the floor.

A number of issues were raised.

Mr Paul Morgan raised the issue of procurement and how the procurement process can potentially affect the level of cooperation required to address some of the issues facing families.

Ms F McAndrew acknowledged that the social care procurement model needed to take cognisance of that.

Ms. Lesley Walker noted that the Outcomes groups considered Family Support Hubs to have been a successful project and that she was

conscious that the DSC funding was ending in 2016 and consideration had to be given to how Hubs would be funded going forward.

8. CYPSP Purpose (page 3 of the CYPSP 2014-2017plan)

Mr Maurice Leeson presented to the group on the CYPSP purpose and plan. The plan is required to be reviewed on an annual basis. Members had previously agreed that they would look to move the CYPSP plan into sync with the Programme for Government and the Comprehensive Spending Review. This will mean continuation with the existing plan and a more extensive new plan in line with the new Programme for Government.

The purpose pages of the plan should be held as they are until after the cooperation bill is signed off.

Pages 6-7 are about the strategic context.

Page 8 is around SBNI, Community safety and correct relationships and interfaces. The next CYPSP meeting in October will concentrate on interfaces and community planning.

9. Governance Changes (page 23/24 of the CYPSP 2014-2017plan)

Members were content with the proposed changes.

Mr M Leeson reported that as an initial priority there would be changes to the regional subgroups and that a paper would come to the next partnership.

10. Endorsement of 2014-2017 Plan

The Plan will be circulated to partnership members for individual organisational agreement and then distributed to other groups in CYPSP structure.

11. Items for Noting:

- a. Information System Report Card (VM)**
- b. Communications Report Card (AH)**
- c. Family Support Hub Report Card (ML)**

Ms F McAndrew thanked everyone for attending, and stated that if there were any questions on the items for noting members should contact CYPSP staff.

4. Dates of next meeting

Date of the next meeting is the 2nd October 2015 in the Linen Suite Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey.