

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING
COOKSTOWN LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP**

**THURSDAY 6th OCTOBER 2016 AT 10.00AM
COOKSTOWN YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE**

Attendance

Ursula Marshall	Chairperson
Claire McVey	Network Personnel
Gemma Lutton	CYPSP (Minute Taker)
Joan Reid	SOFT Project
Mary Tennyson	GOLD Surestart
Patricia Lindsay	Barnardos
Roisin McConville	SELB Youth Service
Sandra Anderson	CYPSP
Stacie Davis	Children's Disability Team
Stephen Catherwood	Citizens Advice Mid Ulster
Vicky Boland	NHSCT
Selena Ramsey	CYPSP

Apologies

Andrew Carson	Public Health Agency
Ann Marie McStocker	CWSAN
Beth Gibb	Action Mental Health
Claire McKay	NICMA
Michelle Scullion	Barnardos
Patricia Harte	Action Mental Health
Sonia Glendinning	Northern HSC Trust

1. Introductions and Apologies

Ursula welcomed everyone to the meeting. A round of introductions followed.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held on **Thursday 7th April 2016**.

3. Matters Arising

Attachment DVD

Selena noted the attachment DVD's are still available. Copies were requested by Homestart and Barnardos. These will be posted.

ACTION: Gemma

4. Joan Reid – SOFT Project

Ursula thanked Joan for attending today's meeting and invited Joan to make her presentation to the group. Joan has worked with the SOFT project which has been running for 3 months with last month being the most effective. SOFT – Supporting Our Families Together is a 5 year school and community based family support project funded by the Big Lottery's Reaching Out Supporting Families Fund.

The Project works with young people aged 4-12 years to help their educational outcomes in School. This is through a number of varied programmes/services which Joan highlighted. There are 17 partners involved in the project and 3 members of staff. The project will take referrals direct from Schools and other agencies. The main goal is to help young people within the age criteria in Cookstown to reach their full potential at School.

Another project started 'STEP' in Dungannon with the focus for the project on ethnic minorities. Joan delivered a presentation outlining information covering project aims and criteria process. A copy of this presentation will be circulated along with the minutes. Key person for STEP is Joan.

Discussions took place regarding ethnic minorities and the issue families face with isolation. Also the language barrier to completing forms etc. was discussed and the need to help these families.

Information was given on the Citizens Advice Bureau Welfare Reform Project. CAB are getting 25 advisors, 9 telephone advisors for Advice NI and 10 face to face advisors. Stephen noted seminars are run to provide

information and additional sessions can be delivered for form completing if groups want to get together.

An action was agreed to utilise Citizens Advice Bureau Service to tackle the issue of the language barrier professionals/agencies experience with ethnic minority families in completing forms. A 2 hour information session will be set up and Cookstown Locality Group agreed to partner with Magherafelt Locality Group to achieve this.

**ACTION: Citizens Advice Bureau / Cookstown & Magherafelt
Locality Members**

For further information on STEP Project Joan can be contacted by email: joan@stepni.org or telephone: 028 8775 0211

5. Update – Mid-Ulster Disability Forum

An AGM is taking place next week. Planning is also in place for a Christmas programme to commence. Selena noted all tenders are currently under review, and will be retendered in due course. The Disability Project has been running for many years with 2 partners involved and covers the Mid Ulster area. Ursula raised concerns in securing funding for this project to continue.

Discussions took place and Selena agreed to suggest at the Northern Outcomes Group for 2 members to come to a future meeting to present on the Mid-Ulster Disability Forum. It was also suggested for young people to be invited and host the Northern Outcomes Group in this area. A date is to be agreed and a venue secured for this.

ACTION: Selena

6. Update – Cultural Integration Project - Next Steps

Sandra provided feedback on a piece of work she has been working on regarding Cultural Integration. Engagement with BME parents took place and Sandra consulted with 16-17 parents. St Vincent's De Paul's,

Holy Trinity and anyone who worked with BME families were also spoken to in order to identify current issues.

Sandra's finding regarding current issues included:

- I. Sustainability of Gortalowry Kids run in Gortalowry House, Cookstown. This was highlighted as a need to continue but it is unsure of the funding for this to continue.
- II. BME Support - language barriers and cultural differences. A Family Support Worker is required to work with BME families.
- III. Issues of Health Professionals – Training for Health Professionals to look at how to support families best with cultural differences and get a better understanding of these.

Sandra has the report in draft form and this will be presented to the Northern Outcomes Group on 12th October when the group meet. Sandra will put forward gaps that have been identified as highlighted.

It was suggested and agreed for Sandra to circulate the report in advance of the Outcomes meeting for members input with their expertise. Sandra will also set up a subgroup to take this forward.

ACTION: Sandra

7. Update – Family Support Hub

Selena noted it is hoped that the LPG would have representation from Action for Children FSH or send through gaps identified at Family Support Hubs in advance of LPG meetings. A generic report has been compiled with general services in gaps highlighted.

ACTION: Selena

8. Action Plan – Next Steps

Selena noted the amalgamation of Cookstown and Magherafelt Action Plans in line with the locality groups merging in 2017. No objections were made by members to this process and members are happy for groups to join. The 1st joint meeting will take place in January 2017.

Selena reviewed the Magherafelt Action Plan with members present to look at actions in comparison with the current Cookstown Action Plan. Parenting NI courses are coming up and Selena shared information on these, with the potential to bring to other areas.

It was also noted the potential of small grants being available for Locality Group Members with information being circulated by email when agreed. The Small Grants are to be agreed at Northern Outcomes Group meeting.

ACTION: Selena / Gemma

9. Membership Update

Mary Tennyson – Gold Surestart

Baby Fair – ‘Bump, Baby & Beyond’ will be held on Saturday 22nd October in Burnavon Cookstown from 11am – 2pm. Agencies, Health Professionals and Businesses will be present and everyone is welcome to attend. WRDA roll out a range of projects ‘Minding Me’ programme which is 6 2 hour sessions. These are free of charge for parents/woman. Mary noted they are always looking groups of 8-10 to avail of training. Catherine is the contact person for anyone wishing to get in touch.

Patricia Lindsay – Barnardos

Patricia noted she will be covering 3 ½ days in Northern area and 1 ½ days in Belfast. There is a lot of work at present around suicide and traumatic grief with high waiting lists.

Stacie Davis – Children's Disability Team

Stacie is new to post and noted she is keen to recruit volunteers.

Stephen Catherwood – Citizens Advice Mid Ulster

Citizens Advice Mid Ulster still exists with additional outreaches over the whole district. A drop in is operated from 9am – 12noon and from 12 onwards is appointment only. Telephone number is 028 8671 6126.

Clare McVey – Network Personnel

Maxine has now moved to Family Liaison. Clare noted changes to criteria for the Community Family Support Programme. A family must have at least one person aged 16 or over who is not in education or training or working more than 16 hours per week to participate in the programme. Clare will be working on training, education and the employment side of the programme and is trying to reach everyone to let them know of the new criteria. An information Day was recently held to provide information on new changes. Funding for the programme is secured up to 2018.

Vicky Boland – NHSCT

Northern HSC Trust are going ahead with Emotional Health & Wellbeing Service and piloting within the Northern Trust area. The idea behind this is to link preventative services and regionalise all services. Staff are also undergoing change within the Northern HSC Trust.

Roisin McConville – EA NI

Very busy over summer with summer camps etc. A lot of young people from Cookstown participated in these across 2 venues. Town centre Project was busy. Roisin noted a new member of staff Aileen was very beneficial over this busy period. 36 young people received certificates for personal success and wellbeing in 2 Post Primary Schools. This certificate provided them a Grade B in GSCE. The 2 Schools came together and good relationships were formed between both Schools. LAG group will be starting covering Cookstown, Bandbridge and Dungannon. Some expertise from those involved in the Cookstown group will be feeding into the group and young people will be joining. Roisin also noted she wants to monitor services being provided in

Cookstown and build on them. The Education Authority is going through change with a different minister of education now in post.

10. Any other Business

Nothing noted

11. Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 1st December 2016 at 10am at Cookstown Youth Resource Centre**