



Minute of Western Area Outcomes Group
held on 22 February 2017
Strabane Enterprise Agency

Present:

- Mr Kieran Downey, Director of Women & Children's Services [Chair]
- Ms Muriel Bailey, Director of Family Support Services, Parenting NI
- Ms Colleen Heaney, Youth Justice Agency
- Ms Marie McGale, Mencap
- Ms Cathy McCloskey, Early Years Organisation
- Mr Edward Doherty, Area Manager, NIHE
- Ms Linda Watson, Caw/Nelson Drive Community Association
- Mr Kevin Duffy, Head of Service [Family Support]
- Mr Paul Sweeney, Extern
- Mrs Monica MacIntyre, Department for Communities
- Ms Lisa McGarvey, Children's Services Manager, Action for Children
- Ms Una Casey, Business Support Manager, CYPSP
- Mrs Brenda MacQueen, Dry Arch Children's Centres
- Mr Barry O'Hagan, Head of Community Development & Leisure, Derry City & Strabane District Council

In attendance:

- Mrs Priscilla Magee, Family Support Locality Planning Co-ordinator
- Mrs Bronagh Donnelly, Family Support Locality Planning Co-ordinator
- Mrs Margaret Ferris, Business Support, Western Trust
- Ms Elaine Forrest, Personal Assistant, Western Trust

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| 1 | <p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Orla Conway, Omagh Women's Aid Mr Eamon O'Kane, Local Commissioning Group Ms Michelle McCabe, Lifestart Foundation Mrs Ann McDuff, Assistant Director [Community & Public Health] Ms Cathy Mullan, PHA Mr Mustapha Ben Hassine, Barnardos Chief Inspector Ivor Morton, PSNI Mr Robert Gibson, Director of Community, Health & Leisure, Fermanagh & Omagh District Council |
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| 2 | <p>Chairman’s Remarks</p> <p>Mr Downey noted that some members had offered apologies due to their attendance at the Trust’s conference “Safeguarding in a Global Context”.</p> <p>New Membership</p> <p>Mr Downey welcomed new members Mr Barry O’Hagan, Head of Community Development and Leisure, Derry City & Strabane District Council and Mr Edward Doherty, Area Manager, NIHE, to the meeting. He reported that Mr Robert Gibson, Director of Community, Health and Leisure, would be the new representative from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. He advised members that Ms Michelle McCabe had recently left the Lifestart Foundation and he undertook to contact this organisation to renominate a representative.</p> <p>Mr Downey advised members that Mrs Bernie Tierney’s husband had sadly passed away this week and he had asked a colleague of Mrs Tierney’s to pass on the condolences of members of the Outcomes Group.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Notes of Previous Meeting held on 7 December 2016</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2016 were agreed as an accurate record of the discussion.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Western Area Outcomes Group Action Plan 2014-17</p> <p>Members signed off the above action plan for 2014-17.</p> <p>Funding Allocations 2016/17</p> <p>Members noted details of allocations provided to organisations for 2016/17 from Outcomes Group funding. Mr Downey thanked Mrs MacIntyre, Mr Duffy and Mrs Ferris for adjudicating on the applications. Mrs MacIntyre reported that a good range of projects had secured funding. Ms McGale enquired if organisations had to have a contract to be part of the funding process. Mr Duffy explained that due to the tight timescales, this had been the required criteria on this occasion, but that this could be looked at again in the future. Mr Downey said organisations would have to complete an evaluation on how the funding had been utilised and that the evaluations would be shared with members.</p> <p>Report on Sexual Violence and Sexual Abuse Week</p> <p>Mr Downey noted that very positive feedback had been received from young people, schools, GP’s, Nursing staff, PSNI and members of the public following the recent campaign “Would you stand naked in front of a school assembly?”. Mrs Magee advised that this was a very big issue and social media and radio coverage had been widely used to support the campaign to raise awareness of the risk and harm of sexting. She said the campaign proved that inter agency partnership working was very effective. Mrs Magee said it had been suggested that the campaign be also run in Fermanagh and Omagh with hopefully the support of the Fermanagh and Omagh</p> |

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| | Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and local agencies. |
| 5 | <p>Update Reports from Locality Planning Groups</p> <p>Members noted update reports provided by Mrs Magee and Mrs Donnelly regarding the work of the Locality Planning Groups. Locality Planning Co-ordinators reported on the uncertainty surrounding funding for many groups due to the current political situation in NI. Mrs Donnelly said she had met with 108 young people over the last two months to discuss the action plan. Mrs Donnelly agreed to link with Mr O’Hagan to discuss the Council’s draft plans.</p> <p>Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Magee reported on the increasing number of suspensions and expulsions of young boys from schools. Mr Duffy said there had been some violent incidents at schools involving young boys and said suspensions and expulsions from schools impacted on all the family members involved and said schools needed to be encouraged to think differently regarding this issue. Mr Sweeney stated that if young people were placed on a reduced timetable at school, this further compounded families with complex needs. Mrs Magee said there was now an increasing trend of primary school children being suspended which was extremely worrying and meant that parents had to stay at home to look after them. Mrs MacQueen said young people often did not wish to return to school and often found it difficult to get into another school. Ms Heaney said work needed to be done to repair relationships with schools. She undertook to speak with Mr Duffy. Ms Casey said these issues needed parental and community buy in.</p> <p>Members commended an innovative pilot programme which had allowed young people to remain in a separate unit, within the school environment, instead of being sent home. Members agreed that this was a positive step forward. Mrs MacIntyre and Ms Watson endorsed the use of learning mentors to address barriers, build relationships, and help young people focus on attendance and attainment.</p> <p>Mr Downey said he would list this item for a future agenda for an update on developments. Mr Sweeney enquired if it would be possible to get statistics on the number of suspensions and expulsions for the Derry area. Mr Downey noted that Ms Topping had been unable to attend recent meetings due to changes within the Education Authority. He undertook to seek a new nomination.</p> <p><u>Neglect Conference</u></p> <p>Mr Downey advised members of a conference on “Neglect” being organised by the Western Area Safeguarding Panel on 29 March 2017. He reported that Ms Jenny Molloy author of the “Hackney Child” was one of the keynote speakers and agreed to share the finalised conference programme with members when available. He advised that the Western Trust was the only Trust in Northern Ireland where neglect was the highest category, either as a single category or combined category, for children placed on the Child Protection Register.</p> |

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| | <p><u>Care Day 2017</u> Mr Downey reported that several events had been organised in the Trust during 15 – 17 February 2017 to celebrate Care Day 2017. He said Care Day gave an opportunity to focus on the achievements of children and young people in care and to highlight the issues that they faced. He said children in care had co-produced a web based App “Young Health Help” which was designed to help young people in care and care leavers gain access to the following services - Mental Health, Sexual Health, Substance Misuse and Online Safety. He said young people had also designed a series of videos which were available on the App and said there were also contact telephone numbers directly linked to Lifeline and Childline. Mr Downey agreed to forward members the web link for the App to share within their organisations.</p> <p><u>Early Years International Conference and AGM</u> Ms McCloskey advised members of the forthcoming conference “Celebrating Boys, Fathers and Men in Early Years” being held on 8 & 9 June 2017 at the Slieve Donard Hotel. She agreed to forward the finalised programme to Mr Downey to circulate to members.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Early Intervention Updates No new issues.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Western Area Outcomes Group Action Plan 2017-20 Mr Downey said he was delighted with the action plan and recorded his sincere thanks to everyone who had inputted to this work including Mrs Donnelly, Mrs Magee, the pupils from St Joseph’s School and the graphic designer. He said there had been an extensive consultation and people’s views had been taken on board. He said he had shared the draft action plan at the previous regional meeting of the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership and the Chairs of the other Outcomes Groups in the Province had been very impressed.</p> <p>Following discussion, members endorsed the action plan and stated that they liked the use of the word “together” used throughout the plan as to how the outcomes could be achieved and said the plan was non labelling. Mrs Donnelly advised that posters outlining the priorities and three obsessions were also being produced using the same graphics.</p> <p>Mr Downey reported that Ms Cathy Mullan had contacted him to advise that the Western Drug and Alcohol Co-ordination Team were currently in the process of drawing up their action plan for 2017/18 and she hoped to be in a position to share the plan with members at the next Outcomes Group meeting. Ms Mullan had asked if members could contact her directly if they were aware of key drug and alcohol issues that needed to be addressed.</p> <p>Mrs Donnelly shared printed copies of the “Guide to Local Alcohol and Drug Services in the Western Trust Area”.</p> |

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| 8 | <p>Stakeholder Events Calendar</p> <p>Mr Downey noted that dates for the forthcoming stakeholder events for the Outcomes Group to launch the 2017 – 2020 Action Plan had been shared with members. Mrs Magee and Mrs Donnelly reported that there had been a good uptake on registration with a broad range of attendance for each of the five events. Mr Downey advised that a presentation and format had been agreed for the events.</p> <p>Mrs Donnelly advised that school children from St Joseph’s School who had been consulted on the action plan had been invited to attend the event on 9 March 2017. Mr Duffy and Mr Downey said the pupils input would be acknowledged on the day. Mrs Donnelly said students from local colleges had also been invited to attend.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Emotional Health and Wellbeing Tool</p> <p>Mrs Magee advised that the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Compass was in draft form and she had attempted to make it user friendly. Ms Casey said the five Trusts had selected a theme and the aim was to share good practice across the region. Mr Downey advised that he would ask Mrs McDuff to list this for discussion at the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Group which she chaired for members comments and would then list the document for discussion again at the Outcomes Group.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Evaluation Tool – Regional Nomination</p> <p>Mr Downey advised that there had been discussions recently regarding the need to have a regionally agreed evaluation tool that would be used to report on progress on action plans throughout the year. He said his preference would be the Outcomes Star Tool which was being used for the evaluation of the Early Intervention Support Service and which had been detailed in the presentation Ms Amanda McLean had given at the Outcomes Group meeting on 7 December 2016. Mr Downey proposed that the Outcomes Group could buy the licence for this evaluation tool and that it could be shared with member organisations. Mr Downey asked Ms Casey to feedback the Western Area Outcomes Group’s preference for this tool to the CYPSP and said this could then be stipulated into tenders from 1 April 2017. Mr Sweeney noted that organisations could still have other measuring tools in place alongside the Outcomes Star Tool. Mr Duffy agreed to represent the group if a regional meeting was set up to discuss evaluation tools. Ms McGale requested a copy of Ms McLean’s presentation to view the Outcomes Star Tool.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Terms of Reference for Locality Groups/Outcomes Groups/Regional Sub Groups</p> <p>Members noted the Terms of Reference for the above groups.</p> |
| 12 | <p>Public Consultation on Children and Young People’s Strategy 2017-27</p> <p>Mr Downey shared with members a draft response he had prepared on behalf of the Outcomes Group on the Children and Young People’s Strategy 2017-27. He asked members to advise him of any further comments they wished to include before the consultation response date on 27 February 2017.</p> |

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| | <p><u>Draft Adoption and Children [NI] Bill – Consultation Document</u></p> <p>Mr Downey encouraged members to view the Draft Adoption and Children [NI] Bill which was currently out for consultation until 10 April 2017. He said the document detailed proposed changes to children’s partnerships such as the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership and the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland.</p> |
| 13 | <p>Safeguarding</p> <p>Locality Planning Groups work in Partnership with the Western Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership</p> <p>Members noted Mrs Magee’s report detailing how the Locality Planning Group had assisted the Western Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership in a series of networking events to share learning and best practice. Mr Downey passed on his thanks to all involved.</p> |
| 14 | <p>CYPSP Think Family Sub Group/Hidden Harm</p> <p>No new issues.</p> |
| 15 | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Mencap’s Café Conversations</p> <p>Ms McGale distributed details of Mencap’s Café Conversations with election candidates. She said this was an informal way for people to speak directly with NI Assembly candidates on issues that affected people with a learning disability, their families and carers. An event was organised for 23 February 2017 at 11 am in Omagh Community House.</p> <p>Pathway Fund</p> <p>Ms McCloskey advised that the Pathway Fund was currently open until 15 March 2017 for groups registered to support children in the 0 – 4 age group.</p> |
| 16 | <p>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting</p> <p>26 April 2017 at 10 am in the Conference Room, Strabane Enterprise Agency</p> |