

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING  
MINUTES OF ANTRIM LOCALITY GROUP**

**TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017 AT 2.00PM  
IN OASIS ANTRIM**

<b>Attending:</b>	Mervyn Rea	<i>Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</i>
	Catherine McCartney	<i>Barnardos</i>
	Clare McFarlane	<i>Start360/NDACT Connections</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Janine Gaston	<i>SACN</i>
	John McLeod	<i>NHSCT – MASTS</i>
	Laura Crawford	<i>Youth Justice Agency</i>
	Mary O'Connell	<i>Homestart Antrim</i>
	Noel Gallagher	<i>EA NI Youth Service</i>
	Nicola Newbury	<i>Children's Contact Centre</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Sinead Brady	<i>Empower Project NRC</i>
	Siobhan Morgan	<i>Little Steps Sure Start</i>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Bill Sheridan	<i>Children's Contact Centre</i>
	William Smyth	<i>AYICC</i>

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mervyn welcomed everyone to the meeting today and apologies were noted.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016**.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

Selena recapped on the organisations who presented at the last locality meeting. It was suggested for People Plus NI to return to give an overview of their programmes.

## **UPDATE – EDUCATION SUBGROUP / COLLECTIVE IMPACT**

Background information was given on the Collective Impact Project with the main objective to increase educational attainment in the Antrim area. Information was provided on a workshop taking place on Thursday in Antrim Forum from 9.30am – 1.30pm around Collective Impact. The workshop will focus on what the current services are, how to work more effectively together and how to better measure the impact work is having on young people. The group were welcomed to attend this workshop.

## **FEEDBACK – FAMILY LINKS PROGRAMME**

Sandra provided an update on the engagement completed with parents in Homestart Antrim. Sandra captured what parents would like more information on and mental health and wellbeing was highlighted as a result. Funding was secured to deliver 4 weeks training and Paediatric First Aid, Behaviour Management, Self Esteem and 'Time Out for Me' was delivered. Feedback received was very positive with good attendance from parents.

A follow on from this training a 10 week Family Links Nurturing programme has been organised. Nurturing is greatly covered within the programme and Sandra explained the benefits of this. Family Links will be starting in March 2017 in Homestart Antrim and parents outside of Surestart areas will benefit by being able to attend this training.

Laura noted a lot of requests in Larne from parents and there are very little programmes in Larne. A lot of anti-social behaviour coming through and Selena noted she will bring this up at the next Larne Locality Group.

**ACTION: Selena**

## **UPDATE – FAMILY SUPPORT HUBS**

Funding for Family Support Hubs has been extended beyond March 2017. Selena has spoken with Phil Joyce who agreed to visit LPG's once a year and keep Selena up to date on trends from referrals in between meetings.

## **MEMBER AGENCY UPDATE**

### Laura – Youth Justice Agency

Laura is working with Pamela in OASIS Antrim trying to get a programme around mixed martial arts. This will be targeting parents and siblings of young people in the system or young people at risk in offending. Laura noted there will be more things to offer in the future as a result of funding being secured. Bespoke training will be available for young people next year.

### Nicola Newbury – Children's Contact Centre

Children's Contact Centre are seeking more volunteers for the Antrim area as there are high need families in Antrim. Volunteers will have adequate training. Ballymena Centre remains busy with 22 families.

### Clare McFarlane – Start360/NDACT Connections Service

Clare noted there is still a focus on delivering free drug and alcohol awareness training. Connections Service are working on a regional initiative 'Rapid Bins'. There is a meeting with Council, PCSP and PHA

to implement this further. Clare is also looking to get into workplaces to delivery alcohol awareness in the workplace. Clare provided information on other services including DAISY, Life skills etc. There will be Drugs and Alcohol Forums set up for all relevant services within the area. Clare noted this will be the focus for the year.

### Catherine McCartney – Barnardos

Information on ‘Why People Need People’ training was given.

### Sinead Brady – Empower Project

Sinead provided information on the Empower Project. An activity plan is in place between January and March 2017 meeting the needs of parents’ issues coming through the helpline. Sinead noted parents training hasn’t been successful and a few sessions had to be cancelled due to low numbers. All activities booked are available to view on the Facebook page and website.

### Siobhan Morgan – Little Steps Sure Start

‘Choose to Lose’ programme has been organised as a follow on from Cook IT/Food Values and will be run over 12 weeks. Eating on a Budget and adults exercise are also being delivered. Siobhan noted the problem with Surestart only covering a small area in Antrim as they can’t offer programmes for the whole area. Siobhan will be promoting Little Steps Sure Start more and noted Joanne returns in February.

### Janine Gaston – SACN

Janine explained her role to the group which is PHA funded . An update was provided on the training happening before March 2017. Janine noted if anyone is interested in training to come through as it helps build a case for further training even though courses are oversubscribed.

Janine will be devising a training calendar for the new training year. If anyone would like to see a subject/issue addressed all ideas were welcomed to Janine. An E-Zine is sent out weekly through a number of channels including Facebook and Twitter. A printed news sheet is sent bi-monthly. If anyone has information they would like shared Janine is happy to take requests. Janine noted a colleague secured funding for No Smoking packs. These are available for distribution and there is a form for completion if anyone would like to request packs. These will be used by SACN around 'No Smoking' Day.

### Mary O'Connell – HomeStart Antrim

Prior to Christmas was very busy as normal with an excessive amount of toys and less food this year for distribution. A fitness programme took place before Christmas with 8-15 parents attending including ethnic minorities. Friendships have been formed and sustained from this which is very positive. Homestart are starting a new 10 week preparation course with volunteers and advertised for volunteers in Chatterbox with a good response returned. Food Hygiene course will also be available for parents and funded through People Plus NI. Family Links is oversubscribed and starting in March 2017. Mary has secured funding for a further 2 Cook It programmes.

### Noel Gallagher – EA NI Youth Service

Noel's role has changed covering new council area. Training support and development is part of the role and Noel is working with young people who are completing youth support qualifications. Noel also provides some support in terms of grants as part of his role. EA Ni are looking at action plans for the next year with groups all based around the needs of young people. Regional Advisory Groups feed into programme of government. Noel noted EA NI has a new approach of Outcomes Based Accountability and working collectively with others.

Mervyn Rea – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Mervyn give thanks to new members and their attendance at the meeting.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Antrim Youth Fair

The Youth Fair that took place in October was for Year 12's and Selena noted another Youth Fair will be organised for May 2017 targeting Year 11's. Gemma will circulate information when confirmed.

**ACTION: Gemma**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017 at 2.00pm in Homestart Office, Antrim.**

Locality Meeting Dates for 2017 will be circulated to all members.