CHILDREN’S SERVICES PLANNING
MINUTES OF ANTRIM LOCALITY GROUP

TUESDAY 17TH JANUARY 2017 AT 2.00PM
IN OASIS ANTRIM

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

Apologies:  Bill Sheridan  Children’s Contact Centre
            William Smyth  AYICC

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 15th 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 Nl 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 21st March 2017 at 2.00pm in Homestart Office, Antrim.

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