



Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

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

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017 AT 10.00AM  
NGAGE BALLYMENA**

<b>Attending:</b>	Selena Ramsey	CYPSP
	Amy Selby	<i>Start360/NGAGE</i>
	Clare McFarlane	<i>Start360/NDACT Connections Service</i>
	Clare McKay	<i>NICMA</i>
	Hector Deane	<i>Ballymena Learning Together</i>
	Michelle Maguire	<i>EA Youth Service</i>
	Rebecca Sylvest	<i>Action for Children</i>
	Jennifer Campbell	<i>Surestart Ballymena – AFC</i>

<b>Apologies:</b>	Amanda Elliott	NACN
	Gemma Lutton	CYPSP
	Gerry McVeigh	<i>Start360</i>
	Sandra Anderson	CYPSP
	Veronica McKinley	NACN

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Selena welcomed the group to the meeting and invited a round of introductions.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

## **MATTERS ARISING**

Selena noted Jayne Colville (Child Development Interventions Coordinator NHSCT) has completed an Incredible Years Training Programme following on from the previous meeting.

## **FEEDBACK – PASTORAL CARE SUBGROUP**

Selena provided background information with updates given on the work completed to date with Pastoral Care Teachers and organisations providing services within the area. At the most recent meeting social media was identified as an area of concern. Teachers expressed the need for more information on this and are looking ‘How to Steps’. Selena met with Sharon Bingham, NHSCT to work in partnership to organise an information session to cover this.

Information has been circulated on an online safety workshop organised on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March from 3pm – 5pm in Dunclug College, Ballymena. The workshop has been developed in consultation with both primary and secondary schools to add to their current practice and help schools refine and challenge their current practice and policy. The workshop will look at a schools approach to safeguarding children in the context of their use of social media and technology as well as help staff working in education develop a practical understanding of the issues currently faced by young people on social media and support systems in place to go to for help and advice. 66 have signed up to attend the workshop to date. Selena welcomed anyone else who would be interested in attending to contact Gemma to book a place.

Hector noted that he had a meeting with the SEN teachers and there continues to be an issue with the CAMHS. Rebecca reminded the group that the Early Intervention Service she manages can take referrals which don’t make the CAMHS threshold. Rebecca also noted that some parents had attended SENAC training which helps with understanding through the SEN process. Selena agreed to reconvene the Pastoral Care sub group and feedback at the next meeting.

**ACTION: Selena**

## **BOTVIN LIFESKILLS TRAINING**

Selena noted that she has secured funding to offer Botvin Lifeskills Training to Primary School Teachers in the locality. Eleven schools have signed up for the training. Selena provided some background to this training.

LifeSkills is a highly effective evidence-based prevention and early intervention programme for children aged 8-14 years. LifeSkills concentrates on a preventative approach which shares age appropriate information with young people, providing them with skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary to make healthy choices. These proven components are necessary to change children's behaviour.

LifeSkills has three core strands: self-management skills which help students with problem solving, decision making, critical thinking and how to regulate emotions; social competence which involves teaching students how to communicate clearly, make friends and develop healthy relationships; and drug resistance training to help students develop strategies for resisting peer pressure.

The US teaching manual and student resources have been adapted for a UK context and successfully delivered by Barnardo's in schools in England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland and Northern Ireland. LifeSkills was initially marketed as a drug and alcohol prevention programme however our recent UK evaluation has shown that it is so much than this and we now market it as a core resiliency programme that teaches children essential skills for leading happy healthy lives reducing the prevalence of children engaging in risk taking behaviours. UK evaluation of LifeSkills shows as well as preventing substance misuse, it also leads to important improvements in other core skills which are key for healthy development amongst young people. These include self-esteem, communication, social skills and ability to cope with stress. Teachers highly recommend the programme and report on LifeSkills impressive fit with curriculums across the UK, the style of delivery works in classroom settings and the interactive activities engage pupils. Implementing this programme will improve student's skills, knowledge and resilience. This will help children and young people have healthier and more enjoyable lives.

Clare provided additional information on the Botvin Lifeskills Training and noted that she has been trained and has delivered at community level.

Members noted they would be keen to look at this in a community/youth setting. Selena agreed to circulate to the group if there are any places available.

**ACTION: Selena**

## **MEMBER UPDATES**

### Michelle Maguire EA Youth Service

Michelle is returning to the Antrim Area Worker post and Nigel will return to Senior Youth Worker post. Michelle will meet with Nigel to debrief before moving areas. Michelle noted there is a lot of change in the Youth Service. There will no longer be

an Inclusion Team or rural workers. Michelle also noted the Ballymena Needs Assessment is complete and there are no major changes in needs.

#### Clare Start360 / NDACT Connections Service

Start 360 continue to promote the use of Rapid Bins for the removal of illegal and illicit drugs. She is currently in discussions with the local Tesco for a suitable premise in this area. She noted that to date 90% of drugs added to Rapid Bins are prescription drugs. Clare noted she has also been providing talks in Northern Regional Colleges, as young people were at times using Cannabis throughout the teaching day.

The Connections service have partnered with PCSP in the Mid and East Antrim area to set up a Drug and Alcohol Steering Committee. This will be a providers forum and stakeholder event. This will also include developing an Action Plan.

#### Rebecca Sylvest – Action for Children

Rebecca noted that the Ballymena area is going well, and referrals are coming directly from families as well as GPs, Health Visiting and schools.

#### Amy Selby – Start360/NGAGE

Complementary Therapies have started and are fully booked until April. Cara friend meet young people weekly and N GAGE are having a Love Equality in Partnership with Cara friend on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Opening times-      3- 6 Tuesday/ Thursday

                        4-8 Friday

                        4-9 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday.

All staff have completed acupuncture training and clinic continues to run. Very positive response by young people.

#### Clare McKay – NICMA

Training continues to run- safeguarding and health and safety will run in All Saints. Buddy group continue to meet in Ballymena, and will have a Mindset programme delivered by Beth Gibb.

### Hector Deane- Ballymena Learning Together

Hector updated on a Careers Convention which was funded by CYPSP and will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. To date there are 68 confirmed exhibitors. As well as the 9 post primary schools linked into BLT Larne High School, Parkhall College, St Killians and Crumlin Integrated will also be represented.

The careers convention special for SEN was also successful.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Selena raised the potential for the group to merge with Larne and Carrickfergus as other groups have opted to go coterminous with the new council structures. Members felt that the travel distance in Mid and East Antrim was not practical for a merged group.

Mental Health Small Grants from North Antrim Community Network will be released soon, information will be circulated!

### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 10.00am in N-GAGE Offices, Ballymena.**