

**MINUTES OF CARRICKFERGUS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
LOCALITY PLANNING GROUP MEETING**

**FRIDAY 5TH MAY 2017 AT 10.00AM
IN CARRICKFERGUS TOWN HALL BUILDINGS**

Attending:	Roy Beggs	<i>MLA (Chairperson)</i>
	Amy Holt	<i>NHSCT</i>
	Beth Gibb	<i>Action Mental Health</i>
	David McAllister	<i>Mid & East Antrim Borough Council</i>
	Denise McVeigh	<i>Mid & East Antrim Borough Council</i>
	Francis Loughlin	<i>EA Youth Service</i>
	Gabrielle Rawashdeh	<i>PHA</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Janice Cherry	<i>Carrickfergus Community Forum</i>
	Margaret Armstrong	<i>Horizon Surestarts</i>
	Nicola McCall	<i>Mid & East Antrim Borough Council</i>
	Phyllis Lewis	<i>Education Welfare Service</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Pamela Davis	<i>SACN</i>
Apologies:	Clare McFarlane	<i>Connections Service Start360</i>
	Helen Christie	<i>Autism NI</i>
	Liz Brown	<i>NICMA</i>
	Lynn McKenzie	<i>Relationship Resource Centre</i>
	Rebecca Sylvest	<i>Action for Children</i>
	Ruth Bamford	<i>School Nursing</i>
	Ivor Mitchell	<i>Carrick YMCA</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Roy welcomed everyone to the meeting today and invited a round of introductions.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous workshop held on **Friday 27th January 2017**.

MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

PRESENTATION- PAMELA DAVIS, SOUTH ANTRIM COMMUNITY NETWORK

Pamela delivered a presentation on the Health Alliance Website – Connecting and Involving Communities delivered through the NICHI project. The website is currently being promoted among community, statutory and voluntary organisations and was officially launched in April 2015.

Those partners involved in the project were outlined including CWSAN, CRUN, and NACN as well as SACN. The aim of the Health Alliance was provided. The website is a mechanism to network, share information, access training and provide a central location for all health improvement related information and also services as an interactive platform to enable information exchange between community, voluntary and statutory sectors.

There are 250 members at present. Website information was given: <http://healthallianceni.com/> and leaflets were distributed to all present. Pamela can be contacted by email: Pamela@southantrimcommunitynetwork.org if anyone has any queries.

FEEDBACK – YOUTH FAIR

The youth fair was held on 7th February 2017 with students from Carrickfergus College, Carrickfergus Grammar, Downshire School and Ulidia Integrated College attending. The Youth Fair provided Year 11 pupils with valuable information on organisations they can approach for help, advice and support.

Comments from members who were in attendance expressed it was a successful event. Formal feedback was requested and will be shared with the group. The key aspect of the success of the youth fair is through partnership working. Thanks were given to Hedley Webb, Principal Carrickfergus College who is very proactive.

UPDATE EDUCATION SUBGROUP

Selena provided background information to the education subgroup for any members not present at the previous LPG meeting. The goal of the group is to work in partnership to improve educational outcomes for Children and Young People in Carrickfergus, with emphasis on the wards highlighted as below the Northern Ireland Average in recent statistics.

The group have not met in some time and the last steps for the group were to develop an Education Facebook page. The purpose of the page is to share information on courses to ensure critical numbers are attending to enable the courses to continue to run. Administrative rights of the page will be given to those running educational courses. Selena will share the Facebook link with the group.

ACTION: Selena

ACTION PLAN

Discussions took place regarding the current action plan with the overarching outcome being; Young People age 16 plus have opportunities for employment and have received the support they need to tackle low self-esteem, low aspirations, depression, substance misuse and relationship issues.

The need for parental support was raised and Sandra agreed to link in with Una around this. Selena noted a model of good practice would be useful.

ACTION: Sandra

Selena agreed to circulate the action plan to the group.

ACTION: Selena

CARRICKFERGUS/LARNE HUB UPDATE

Phil Joyce provided a brief update in advance of the meeting on the Family Support Hub and issues arising:

- Educative work/early intervention in regards to online safety and or healthy relationships. Also parenting groups in regards to online safety.
- Educative work/support for young people and children who are impacted by parental mental health difficulties.

- Early intervention/support for children and young people who are displaying sexualised behaviour and language.
- Parenting programmes for parents of children/young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Possibly with a particular emphasis on either anger or anxiety management.
- Support for children and young people who are experiencing social isolation.

The above issues/gaps would be also similar in the Ballymena area. Both areas benefit greatly from having the Northern Early Intervention Support Service.

MEMBER UPDATES

Hedley Webb – Carrickfergus College

Hedley wanted to comment in reference to the Youth Fair on behalf of the 4 post primary schools. Very positive comments were feedback from the pupils and the day ran very smoothly.

Francis Loughlin – EA NI Youth Service

Summer Intervention funding will be released this week or next and is open to all registered groups. Information was given on 4 summer schemes running in Greenisland, Sunnylands, Downshire and Whitehead.

Phyllis Lewis – EA NI, Education Welfare Service

Staff levels are poor with 2 ½ posts empty and Phyllis noted the difficulties running the service with fewer staff. Concerns were raised around the EOTAS provision, due to cuts it is now moved to Ballymena. Any child referred from Carrickfergus will now be offered an EOTAS place in Ballymena.

Discussions took place around EOTAS provision from other members and Hedley noted the 4 Post Primary Principals have spoken regarding this. Principals are writing a letter to express concern of the change and raise the concern that services are being moved to Ballymena as a central location. It was noted young people currently are not travelling to Greenisland or Monkstown and views were expressed in the young people not travelling to Ballymena. No consultation was carried out around the move of the EOTAS service.

Selena noted she will feed concerns to the Northern Outcomes Group around the relocation of the EOTAS Service and how it will prove very difficult for young people to get there.

ACTION: Selena

Gabrielle Rawashdeh – PHA

Leaflets were distributed on the Self Harm Intervention Project in the Northern Locality. SHIP provides people who self-harm with quick access to support and counselling to help deal with the issues that are causing distress. It is a pilot funded service and coming to the end of a 3 year tender with the hope to extend for another couple of years. GP and CAMHS referrals have increased since opening the service out to young people.

Denise Margaret – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Pop up Play sessions are taking place across the borough in villages and green open places. The next pop up play is in Kells on Saturday 6th May. A free event is organised on Saturday 13th May from 2pm – 4pm in Marine Gardens, Carrickfergus. This will be a public launch of the Play Strategy as well as a free family event. Denise will also be trying to get young people to complete surveys. A lot of events are being developed for the summer.

Beth Gibb – Action Mental Health

Action Mental Health has secured a Social Investment Fund for the next 2 years. Work will be delivered around mental health, resilience and self-harm and programmes will have a lot more visual materials. Mindset is still on-going and provoking thought on bullying, resilience and transition. Information was given on the 'Healthy Me' programme aimed at Primary Schools. This programme engages teachers and young people focusing on resilience and self-esteem. Beth noted 2 workers will be recruited to take on programme delivery through the Social Investment fund.

Hedley noted for Beth to attend the cluster groups of Learning Together Partnerships.

Pamela Davis – South Antrim Community Network

SACN are putting together a training calendar and will be circulated when finalised. A Men's health event is planned for 15th June. Pamela noted she is attending health fairs during the summer. Small grants are now closed. Free health and wellbeing talks will be given to groups during 8th-14th May in the South Antrim Community Network area.

Janice Cherry – Carrickfergus Community Forum

3 qualified workers were on the ground last year and proved very successful, the forum are on a 3 month funding contract at present. Janice noted the forum are working on current need and dealing with issues as they arise. An AGM is scheduled on 15th June in the hall buildings for 7pm. A lot of women's programmes are being delivered under the Fresh Start agreement. A number of consultations are being run

through the forum. OCN computer courses are also running and Janice is looking to run an essential skills starting in September.

Nicola McCall – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Nicola provided information on the 'Keeping Warm, Keeping Well' energy efficiency advisory service funded by PHA. Nicola delivers Cook IT, Food Values as well as other programmes. A slow energy efficient programme was delivered using slow cookers to young carers and feedback from this was excellent. Store cupboard kits are being put together and these include salt, dried milk etc. and will be distributed for people moving out of care and setting up on their own. Nicola is trying to link with all the food banks and identify what Mid & East Antrim Borough Council they could add to their existing service. Information was also given on an idea of a mobile kitchen. This could be taken to Schools to demonstrate cooking.

Lynn McKenzie – Relationship Resource Centre

January to April has been a busy period in schools, the relationship resource centre have been working with approx. 1800 pupils this school year to date with a few more programmes scheduled for May and June. The counselling service has gained momentum and the service has regular adult and teenage clients attending. RRC are preparing to launch a children's counselling service in January as Lynn will be a specialised children's and young people's counsellor by then having trained with Barnardos for a year in this field. This is a systems based counselling approach that works in conjunction with parents and teachers to ensure all the child's systems are working together for the child's mental health benefit. This will be advertised locally once arrangements are in place. From July we are able to take referrals for children aged 5+ under a trainee placement arrangement so please make contact with Lynn regarding access to this service.

The crisis pregnancy service for teenagers and adults continues to run with low uptake but will remain as an available service. The teen mums programme 'The Princess Diaries' is mid-way through, with Sure Start, and working with approx. 6 teen mums.

David McAllister – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

David is supporting groups to identify funding and get constituted. Anti-social behaviour with young people was noted as still an on-going issue and this is being looked at. There is also a huge issue with young people involved in drug taking and underage sex with some in public places. Woodburn group first identified the problem. Whatsapp is being used to coordinate meeting places with numerous locations being used. Community groups are being very proactive and looking at late night patrols to try and engage with young people. Community groups are also

looking to organise coffee and chocolate for handing out and having a simple resource card to give young people.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Discussions took place regarding the young people gathering outside Sunnylands/Woodburn, it was noted the group have to be commended for their work they are doing on this. There is a task group next Wednesday with the Chief Executive of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council at 3pm in Woodburn to help further address this issue.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed the next meeting will take place on **Friday 8th September 2017** at **10.00am in Town Hall Buildings, Carrickfergus.**