

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING  
MINUTES OF MID ULSTER LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP**

**THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017 AT 10.00AM  
COOKSTOWN YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE**

<b>Attending:</b>	Aireann Craig	<i>Mid Ulster Women's Aid</i>
	Adele Fulton	<i>Education Authority NI</i>
	Annette McGahan	<i>Mid Ulster PCSP</i>
	Clare McVey	<i>Network Personnel</i>
	Clare McGuigan	<i>Citizens Advice Mid Ulster</i>
	Conall McElholm	<i>SUSE+ South West College</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Hannah McGurk	<i>SUSE+</i>
	Jackson Frew	<i>Magherafelt Learning Partnership</i>
	Joan Reid	<i>SOFT project</i>
	Judith Wilson	<i>Mid Ulster Women's Aid</i>
	Louise Slevin	<i>Northern HSC Trust</i>
	Marie McCool	<i>Autism NI</i>
	Mary Tennyson	<i>Gold Suestart</i>
	Natasha McDonagh	<i>Connections Service</i>
	Roisin McConville	<i>EA Youth Service</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	Stephen Catherwood	<i>Citizens Advice Mid Ulster</i>
	Vanessa Haddon	<i>MUCCC</i>
	Vicky Boland	<i>Mid Ulster Family Centre – NHSCT</i>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Clare McKay	<i>NICMA</i>
	Ursula Marshall	<i>Chairperson</i>

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mary welcomed the group to the meeting and apologies were noted. A round of introductions took place from all members present.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes were agreed as being a true and accurate recording of the previous meeting held on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017**.

## **MID ULSTER ACTION PLAN – FIRST SETPS**

Selena shared outcomes for the Mid Ulster Locality Group following discussions. Outcomes are identified as:

- Support will be available for children, young people and their families at an early stage
- All children and young people in the area will feel included and have a sense of belonging in the community
- Young people have access to programmes regarding Health and Well-Being/Social Media

Information was provided on a number of events organised in the area including a Carnival Event and a Volunteer Fair. A Big Breakfast event is also taking place in Pomeroy with organisations coming together. Selena mentioned events previously organised including a youth fair and parent nights. It was noted to encourage connections service to come to the Mid Ulster area for a Fun Day. Members also thought it would be worthwhile having a list of all the events happening in the area to allow the opportunity to link in and not to avoid duplication by organising similar events. Gemma agreed to try and pull this together, and members are to send information of any events they are aware of.

**ACTION: Gemma**

## **UPDATE – CULTURAL INTEGRATION PROJECT**

The Cultural Integration Project came to an end in March last year after being established 8 years ago in the Cookstown area. Small grants were made available with funding up to £5000 to help support these families in the interim. Selena provided information on the range of applications received, with applications covering a number of areas across the Northern Outcomes area.

The Tender regarding the Cultural Integration Project will be published and information can be found on the tender website.

Link: <https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps/home.do>

## **UPDATE – FAMILY SUPPORT HUB**

It was noted there is good membership at Family Support Hub meetings. Selena provided information on the Family Support Hubs for anyone not aware of the service. It was agreed for contact information and a referral form for the Hubs to be circulated.

**ACTION: Gemma**

Mary noted the level of support needed from referrals. Issues with very young children 7, 8 and 9 years self-harming are coming through. Adele also commented on the education welfare referrals coming through at an early age for stress and anxiety.

Information and discussions took place around Action Mental Health. The organisation have recently got a CIF project. This project will be delivered in School with primary 5, 6 and 7 and is a resilience programme. This will be delivered to the top 10% super output areas. There are also a range of courses funded from PHA that Action Mental Health deliver.

It was suggested to invite Beth Gibb to present at the next meeting.

**ACTION: Gemma**

## **MEMBER UPDATES**

### Joan Reid – SOFT Project

Joan welcomed ideas from the group on how to engage parents.

### Natasha McDonagh – Connections Service

Reference was made to Alcohol Awareness Week starting 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Natasha will be targeting staff, businesses and Schools around this time. Members were asked to get in touch if they would like information on how to get involved. Natasha can provide staff training or talk to any groups. Information was also provided on a Family Fun Day organised in Larne on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

### Stephen Catherwood – Citizens Advice Mid Ulster

Welfare Reform information was explained and Stephen noted Welfare Reform Project Workers have been funded, with 3 in the Mid Ulster area.

### Clare McGuigan – Citizens Advice Mid Ulster

Clare informed members of changes coming into effect around benefits. PIP (Personal Independence Payment) will be replacing DLA (Disability Living

Allowance) and will be a managed progression which should come into place by the end of 2018. Claire also provided information and changes around income support and the mobility scheme. Information sessions will be organised to make everyone aware of these changes.

#### Conall McElholm / Hannah McGurk - SUSE+

SUSE+ will work with any groups if they are between 16-65 years and anyone unemployed. A Summer Scheme has been arranged and will take place for 2 weeks for 16-19 year olds. Participants will gain relevant qualifications as part of it and a number of trips will be organised. Performing Arts Tutor will be providing dance lessons as part of it. Conall is also looking to set a programme for a week around sports with coaching qualifications. Contact has been made with High Schools / Grammar Schools regarding this. Information was also provided around CV writing / application forms and things to help young people with college which are completed with those of appropriate age. Confidence and motivation workshops also take place. SUSE+ are based in Dungannon and the Summer Schemes will be run in Cookstown.

Hannah added to the information provided around SUSE+ and noted she wants to offer young people alternative routes if they are coming out of School not getting the qualifications they had hoped for. Young people have to be unemployed or working under 16 hours per week.

#### Vanessa Haddon – Mid Ulster Children’s Contact Centre

An Awareness day is taking place in Medowlane to promote the services of the Contact Centre. It was noted volunteers will be recruited from the age of 17 and good experience is gained from volunteering. Current volunteers are getting trained up and it is hoped for them to all have a good awareness and understanding of mental health issues. Magherafelt need volunteers at present and any interested young person can contact Vanessa.

#### Aireann Craig / Judith Wilson - Women’s Aid

Domestic Violence Awareness sessions run every Friday of each month and are free. Domestic Violence is on the increase with young people as well as self-harming. Alcohol / Drugs abuse are also on the increase along with dating violence. One to One work is carried out but Women’s Aid will also deliver a 6 week programme to Schools. Aireann noted this is a good programme to cover with young people but it is not suitable for under 14’s. Aireann is happy to facilitate training to this group or for anyone to attend any session running on the last Friday of every month.

### Roisin McConville – Education Authority NI

Roisin provided feedback on a recent inspection which involved 4 inspectors over 3 days. The report was available after the 3 day inspection took place and an outstanding result came back. This will be formally written up. Roisin noted all the links with community, voluntary and statutory organisations helped the education authority with understanding what the needs are and how to respond. Young People also provided feedback which was very good. Education Authority worked very closely with the Schools for young people to be viewed in Schools. The BME Project raised an interest with the inspectors and they expressed an interest in this work.

### Annette McGahan – Mid Ulster PCSP

PCSP provides funding to other organisations to deliver on particular projects. Annette provided examples of these including a youth engagement programme, youth alcohol engagement sessions. There has been a new initiative in place, if any young person underage is caught drinking alcohol their parents will be contacted, and they would be required to attend an alcohol programme together with the child. To date over 230 have participated in the programme.

### Marie McCool - Autism NI

One of the projects RAFT 'Reaching Out to Families Together' is covering Newtownabbey and Carrickfergus at present. All referrals come through the ASD team but referrals can also be taken from Family Support Hubs. Marie noted for parents to be able to attend Autism Awareness training there doesn't need to be a diagnosis for the child. Autism NI has a helpline available and support groups are established in Maghera, Dungannon and Antrim.

### Clare McVey – CFSP Network Personnel

The Project is receiving a high number of referrals with a lot of parents coming through. There has been a significant increase in the past 6 weeks. A lot of work is being done around benefit checks with people feeling very anxious. Clare is also trying to get people onto training courses. It was noted families can do online training in the home and this works well with parents who have children. A Job Fair is being organised with the aim to have 20/30 employers present with vacancies available.

### Vicky Boland – NHSCT

Vicky noted the team have been reorganised to the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service. This is a major transition period for the department.

### Adele Fulton – Education Authority NI

Adele provided information on her role as a School Age Mum Coordinator based in Education Authority. Adele covers North Coast area into Antrim / Ballymena. Her role is to support young mums in education and takes referrals from GP's and Schools etc. An education support plan is drawn up looking at childcare and the project will support with paying for childcare. In some cases costs will be covered for taxis to get young mums to School.

A 3 day programme is offered to young people covering a range of topics. A lot of young mums can be isolated when they have a baby and this helps with peer support for these young people. Young Mums are supported up to A Level stage but they have to be in education. No support will be given to young people who leave education.

### Jackson Frew – Magherafelt Learning Partnership

Information was given on Careers Conventions held for Year 10-12 in Schools. Conventions are based around studying with usually 100 stalls in attendance. Schools in Magherafelt have been developing 6<sup>th</sup> a 6<sup>th</sup> Forum programme and now offer vocational type subjects.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### Social Media

Information was given on a Social Media Subgroup planned for Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June at 10am in Start360 Ballymena. The aim of the group is to have a holistic approach to social media. Members were asked to send an email if they are interested in being involved.

**ACTION: All Members**

### Gold Sure Start

Mary noted Aware delivered fantastic sessions targeting anti natal and post natal wellbeing. Other programme 'living life to the full' is 6x2 hour sessions with all programmes free.

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

The next meeting is scheduled on ***Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 2017 at 10:00am in Magherafelt Youth Centre.***

Meetings will alter between Cookstown Youth Resource Centre and Magherafelt Youth Centre.