

**Minutes of the East Belfast Locality Planning Group meeting
held on Wednesday 20 September 2017
at 10am in Dee Street Community Centre,
2-16 Dee Street, Belfast, BT4 1FT**

Present:

Maggie Andrews	EastSide Partnership (Chair)
Una Casey	CYPSP
Amy Gillen	Inner East Family Support Hub (East Belfast Alternatives)
Lorraine Brennan	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Claire Humphrey	Barnardo's Family Connections
Annette McCann	Save the Children
Stephen Cruise	Oasis
Alison Templeton	New Life Counselling
Lorraine Wallace	Belfast City Council
Rachel Howe	Victoria Park Primary School
Tracey Wilson	Sure Start East

Apologies:

Mary McManus	East Belfast Independent Advice Centre (EBIAC)
Linda Armitage	East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA)
Yvonne Cowan	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Donna Murray	Youth Justice Agency
Naomi Doris	CAPS EISS
Paul McComb	NIHE

Welcome and Introductions

Maggie welcomed new member Rachel Howe from Victoria Park Primary and a round of introductions took place.

Apologies

Apologies were noted as above.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 5 July 2017 were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

The Poverty Group has been meeting and have set up the Scaffolding Project, funding from Urban Village for co-ordinator has been secured. The group have been carrying out work in relation to school uniforms, food hampers.

Action: Madeline from Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership to present at the next meeting.

Members agreed that we need to have a coherent plan and to connect to other groups.

Tracey Wilson highlighted that any members of the LPG who would like to be part of the Scaffolding Project can contact Madeline, it is not a closed group and also noted that the Co-ordinator will sit on the Family Support Hub. She explained that it was really important to drive poverty up everyone's agenda. A planning day is arranged for the afternoon of 5th October 2017 to roll out the plan and identify times to deal with specific pressure e.g. winter – fuel, spring – holiday hunger, etc. the Urban village area runs from the Newtownards Road to Grapian Avenue. Members noted that it is often difficult outside inner east to develop projects and to draw people in/share benefits. Members noted that it was so important for services and funding to come together to do things better together and that often it doesn't necessarily have to be funding that practical inputs are also important.

Locality Planning Group Standards – Members agreed that the exercise on standards at the last meeting was useful and helped identify some of the LPGs strengths and weaknesses.

Action: Una to e-mail Standards report to the group.

Maggie noted that the BME workshop had taken place where LPG members and attended a BME Forum, she will share the notes that she took at this meeting. One of the main outcomes of this was that LPG members learned about services for BME families, and it had been agreed that people were to follow up individually. Good contacts had been made. It was agreed that we needed to go back to the BME Forum to agree on some actions for the LPG action plan.

Tracey Wilson is meeting with Belfast Met to explore provision of free English classes in East Belfast. This is complex due to issue of childcare, and people wanting a mix of conversation and formal. Met looking into what they can do. Members agreed that the LPG is great at creating discussion around the needs of families in East Belfast. Lorraine Wallace noted that Inver Area Community Group would have the capacity in mornings for classes and is free of charge.

Action: Tracey to pass Lorraine's details on to Jonnie Curry.

Members discussed how to get BME families to get involved in community activities. It was noted that Knocknagonie could also possibly be available. Need to work together in joined up way to address this.

Tracy noted that SureStart Ethnic Minority stay and play has had increasing numbers of Indian mums, they seem to be quite socially isolated. This group is generally mixed race, English class has grown from this.

Lorraine Wallace noted that there is an Indian after-schools at Donegal Pass and also that there is the Indian Community Centre on Antrim Road and may do Outreach; and that Chinese Welfare Association offer support and services for the Chinese community and there are Roma drop in groups in South Belfast.

Action: Tracey to forward details on Stay and Play to Una for circulation.

Action: Lorraine to send details to Tracey Wilson re: Indian Afterschools clubs.

East Belfast Locality Planning Group Action Plan 2017-2020

Maggie highlighted that the group have had several themed meetings in order to identify priorities for the Action Plan. These priorities are

- Family Support Services
- Education.
- Parenting
- BME

Maggie explained that the plan needs to reflect need in east and to divide up what the members of group can do and not take on too much.

Tracey agreed that it is important to look at the need and look at what is happening organically and to ensure that the plan is deliverable and members can identify that they can do something.

Lorraine Brennan noted that LPGs were networking of networks for example that it included members of the Early Years Network, and that groups can provide really good focus for area, for members to work more effectively and recognise the current state of work. The LPG was very good at highlighting and raising gaps, this is also reflected by Family Support Hubs and gives a good familiarity of issues and now describes what needs to be better co-ordinated, resources, supported. Claire noted the value in small group that has energy to work to address a defined couple of actions and to create momentum to really get in behind the 4 priorities and that LPG creates a mechanism to examine what services are doing, what are the gaps, and the key organisations. The LPGs are also really useful to hear about work going on in other areas. The plan should get people to see what they need to do but to recognise that some things are not 'fixable' at local level and needs to be dealt with at a higher level. The plan needs balance and reflection to add value to work. The plan should also highlight the needs to the Outcomes Group that might need more resourcing.

In order to finish the Action Plan it was agreed that Una will organise 4 subgroup meetings to work through logic models, these should involve Linda, Johnny, Tracy and Madeline the Family Support Hub coordinators.

Action: Una to email members to ask them to attend subgroups and members to identify other people to bring to subgroup.

Belfast Area Outcomes Group Update

Maggie updated that the BAOG were working on a timeline for planning re procurement. She also explained that at the last BAOG Helen Dunn updated on the Family Support Hub Annual Report. Maggie noted that regionally there had been 6077 and that 2223 were from Belfast, the main reason for referral was for services for 5-10 year olds. There had also been a discussion on the pathway to mental health services and the work happening in Trust. The funding for Family Support Hubs was also discussed that the BAOG and that currently the contracts are only secured until March 2018.

Family Support Hub Updates

Amy updated the following from the Inner East FSH

Referrals:

- 15 in July,
- 28 in August
- 18 so far September

Types of referrals:

- Crèche placements
- Parental - home visiting,
- Separated relationships
- Befriending
- Youth counselling
- Parenting programmes needed in evening for working parents.

Members noted that Parenting NI are currently doing courses on a change model in Antrim and Strabane partnership with NLC. This is delivered in a workshop which is very focussed and offers bite size tasters. Maggie suggested that East side learning could pay through SIF and can be done in evening.

Amy explained that she had been linking to Connswater Homes promoting hub.

New members to the Inners East Hub:

- Victoria Park Primary School,
- Red Cross – Befriending,
- PIPS – counselling,
- Kenny McIvor SBPB (as the Woodstock ward falls into the South Belfast SIF funded early intervention project.

Claire updated on the Outer South and East Family Support Hub.

Main reasons for referrals to this FSH were:

- Disability, this is an area where services should be a priority especially as it is not linked to deprivation or poverty.
- Primary aged emotional and behavioural issues
- Early Intervention routines including parental self-confidence – parenting support
- Anxiety – young people access counselling - supporting parents.

Referral Sources.

Increase in self referrals

- Referrals from health visitors, referrals 0-3 with no SureStart services

- Increase from CAMHS of children and young people who are not meeting thresholds, query has there been restructuring
- CAMHS – clearer what is step 3
- EI prevention parental confidence to manage child's anxiety
- Get messages out

Any Other Business

Save the Children – Annette McCann – families connect is being delivered in Victoria Park Primary School. Also working with SureSart on behaviour change tools. Save the Children are also delivering Journey of Hope pilot in Nettlefield Primary School. This was developed to help families deal with feelings after disaster in England. Save the Children are currently looking for a Mental Health service to partner with to deliver Place to Be which works with groups of 5-6 children to work in school to help them manage anger, etc. Currently carrying out research child care, back to work, sleep, learn, play - grant under review. Annette is also working with poverty group.

Eastside Learning - Maggie Andrews – Maggie had been looking into increasing the uptake of Roots of Empathy with Maria Morgan. There has been low up take in East Belfast schools. There is no preparatory work going on in school now to get them ready to start next year in Dundella Infants and Strandtown Primary School.

There is also a new literacy support group in East Belfast Mission in Skainos 6 weeks facilitated by the Better Reading Partnership. The roll out ABC club as an add on to existing homework club. It is open to P4-P7 Ballybeen and Brookfield and is targeted children not reaching reading level. And also P1-P3 Victoria Park, Knocknagonie between 2-3 pm. These homework clubs more evidence based and take referrals from schools.

New Life Counselling - Alison Templeton - have secured Children in Need funding for

- additional child counselling
- family difficulties age 5 and under
- family group counselling in East Belfast

Una Casey noted that the Family Fund were holding an information event in St. Mary's University College on 25 October, this will include services that are city wide and regional and is open to everyone. The

Family Fund has a grants scheme for families with children with disabilities.

Action: Una to circulate the Family Fund Flyer

Dates of Future meetings:

Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 10am	TBC
------------------------------------	-----