

**Minutes of the West Belfast Locality Planning Group Meeting held  
on Wednesday 6 December 2017 at 2pm in Falls Library, 49 Falls  
Road, Belfast**

**Present:**

Deirdre Walsh	Whiterock Children's Centre
Penny Ambrose	Beechmount SureStart
Elizabeth Gracey	Action Ability Belfast
Dympna McKeown	Belfast Lisburn Women's Aid
Shauneen Wilson	Changing Lives Initiative
Gwen Hobbs	Changing Lives Initiative
Nikki Terlik	Libraries NI
Yvonne Cowan	BHSCT
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI

**Apologies:**

Andrea Barr	BHSCT Health Visiting Team Lead
Mairead Gilmartin	Outer West SureStart
Dympna Johnston	Greater Shankill Partnership
Deborah Burnett	Greater Falls Family Support Hub
Ciara Fusco	Youth Justice Agency
Tina Gregory	Clan Mór SureStart
Jackie Redpath	Greater Shankill Partnership
Suzanne Baskin	Extern Reach Out
Andrea McLean	Changing Lives Initiatives
Mairead McCrea	Kids Together

**Welcome and Introductions**

Deirdre welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Falls Library for hosting today's meeting. A round of introductions took place.

**Apologies**

Were recorded as above

**Matters Arising**

Una to email contact details for NICCY on the work they are doing on information exclusions. She advised that the LPG Planners peer group

are hoping to meet the person taking the lead on this research as it is an issue that is often discussed at LPG meetings.

Una shared a report from the questionnaire carried out with the organisations who attended the Family Fund Information event held in Saint Mary's in October. Members felt that there were a few changes that they would make if such an event was held again.

### **Presentation: Changing Lives Initiative – Gwen Hobbs**

Gwen outlined that that the Initiative is funded for three years through the EU INTERREG VA Programme and is in the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, but is open to families outside West Belfast. The service is for children who are at risk of ADHD diagnosis. The programme is based on Global research by the World Health Organisation. The programme involves group based parenting programmes based in the community, information and awareness sessions for teachers and early years practitioners. There is also a framework to ensure sustainability, including a knowledge sharing conference a cross border framework with partnership such as Archways, NHS Scotland and the Genesis programme as well as research on outcomes and cost effectiveness to be carried out by Dundalk Institute of Technology.

The information and awareness sessions with parents or those in parenting roles will include what ADHD is and what it isn't and how to self-refer. There will be screenings carried out with the parents, Gwen stressed that this is NOT a diagnosis; but a screening of three questionnaires. The age group that the programme aimed at is 3 to 7 year olds. If the programme isn't appropriate for a family they will be signposted to other services. Research has shown that there is a 66% beneficial effect from the Parenting Programme. The programme being used is "Incredible Years parent programme focused on managing behaviours consistent with ADHD. This is based on over 30 years of research and development. It optimises parenting skills to meet the above average parenting needs of children and young people with behaviours consistent with ADHD. Whilst the programme is for parents or those in parenting roles is considered a direct intervention for the child. The parents also build up a peer support system with other parents attending the programme.

Research shows that ADHD is highly genetic and the many of the parents attending the programme show traits themselves. The programme also helps them to self-regulate. The project also involves 2 modules with teachers; introducing interventions and strategies to enhance outcomes for children and to provide them with solutions to common academic and behavioural problems related to ADHD. The programme also helps with diagnosis and medication prevention.

The LPG members can recommend the initiative to families with children aged 3-7 and encourage them to attend the information and awareness. Families can also contact the team directly or someone can call them on their behalf and arrange individual information and screening sessions. If members have a group of clients who may be interested and suitable for the initiative the team can organise sessions for them.

There are still a few places available for the parent programme beginning in mid-January in the Suffolk Community Centre and Holy Trinity Youth Centre. Staff training can also be delivered for 20 + people.

**Action: Una to circulate presentation**

**Family Support Hub Presentation**

Has been deferred to the next meeting in February.

**West Belfast Action Plan 2017-2020**

Deferred to the February meeting.

**Any Other Business**

Deirdre noted that the coordinators from Family Support Hubs in North Belfast and Portadown along with Helen Dunn the Regional lead for Family Support Hubs did a good practice sharing trip to the Czech Republic recently to share learning on the structure and hubs.

Kelly highlighted that Ulster University have an Autism NI Research Hub. Una to circulate the booklet and include Kelly's article in the CYPSP e-zine.

Kelly also noted that Autism NI currently have a project for girls with Autism. This project works with girls aged 11 to 18 who have received a diagnosis. It involves individual and family support work.

Yvonne explained that the PCSP had recently launched the Haven: Belfast Area Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership App. The app includes warning signs of DV and SV, types of abuse, myths around DV and also useful contact numbers. Yvonne highlighted that the Family Support Hub contact details are also included.

Yvonne also noted that there is continued consultation on the Children's Hospital taking place. There will be an architect's mock-up of the plans available for viewing in An Cultúrlann Falls Road on 12 December from 4pm to 8pm.

### **Dates of Future Meetings**

**All meetings will be held at 10am; Venues to be confirmed:**

Wednesday 7 February  
Wednesday 6 June  
Wednesday 1 August  
Wednesday 3 October  
Wednesday 7 December