

**Minutes of the West Belfast Locality Planning Group Meeting held  
on Wednesday 11 October 2017 at 2.00pm in The Spectrum Centre,  
Shankill Road Belfast**

**Present:**

Deirdre Walsh	Whiterock Children's Centre (Chair)
Karen Burns	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Tina Gregory	Clan Mór SureStart
Yvonne Cowan	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Dympna Johnston	Greater Shankill Partnership
Ihintz Oleden	Upper Springfield & Whiterock Family Support Hub
Leontia McKenna	Outer West Family Support Hub
Naomi Davis	NIARCO
Elizabeth Gracey	Action Ability Belfast
Marie Therese Cassin	Cedar
Una Casey	CYPSP
Ciára Fusco	Youth Justice Agency
Grace McCann	NIACRO CHIP
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together
Mairead McCrea	Kids Together
Jackie Redpath	Greater Shankill Partnership

**Apologies:**

Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Nicola Burns	Rise NI (Belfast Health and Social Care Trust)
Catherine Ferrin	Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid
Nikki Terlik	Libraries NI
Sue Pentel	Ionad Uíbh Eachach
Andrea McClean	Changing Lives Initiative
Martina Curran	Education Authority

**Welcome and Introductions**

Deirdre welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Greater Shankill Partnership for hosting the meeting. A round of introductions took place.

**Apologies**

Were noted as above

## **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 2 August were agreed as an accurate recording of the meeting.

## **Matters Arising**

Big lottery is to be invited along to a future meeting.

## **Presentation: Changing Lives Initiative**

Andrea was unable to attend today's meeting, so will give a presentation about this new initiative at a future meeting.

## **NIACRO Chip Service – Grace McCann**

Grace informed members that the Chip Service is the new EITP funded partnership between NIACRO and the Prison Service. It works with children and young people ages 0-18 years of age with a parent or sibling in prison, this group often has a number of vulnerabilities. The service will meet with the family where they feel most comfortable and they use Outcomes Star to assess the outcomes for the family. If the service are unable to meet the needs of the children and young people they will link and support them into other services. This will help the transition of the prisoner into a well-functioning family on their release. It was agreed that a family's needs and behaviour often changes whilst the person is in prison. The service supports the child or young people to develop a relation with the person in prison on visits, sending letters and so on. The family member in prison can do recorded books. The service aims to improve outcomes for both the prisoner and their family.

The service will take referrals from community, voluntary and statutory services. They can meet the family at the visitors centre of the prisons and in the family home or somewhere confidential such as a community organisations meeting room. The prisoner doesn't have to give their consent for the family to be involved. The CHIP service will also link and bridge with other services such as Barnardos Family Matters Service.

Yvonne noted that through some of her previous work she was aware that the mental health of both prisoners and their families can be really impacted on their release as there is a change to the equilibrium of the family.

Grace explained that the service was funded for 18 months and that the service is not just a once off engagement. Families can be referred into the service again. Members queried if grandparents with a parenting role could be in the service. Grace explained that they could be.

## **Feedback on Standards for Locality Planning**

Una shared a report from the work on the Standards that had been carried out at the last Locality Planning Group meeting. It was agreed that the feedback was subjective to that time and those attending the meeting, but members agreed with the comments and scores given. Members also acknowledged the importance of Locality Planning Groups in building relationships between services. A discussion took place around standard 7 “Measures of Success” and how many different funders use different measure to monitor progress. Tina expressed that she didn’t like the use of the work “Scores” and she felt that it was pitching LPGs against each other, especially if the scores are presented in the same paper. Karen Burns highlighted that the Standards gave the group the opportunity to reflect on achievements and also identify which standards that the group may need to work on. Members agreed that it was important that members support each other and the families that they are working with and LPG really strengthens that.

## **West Belfast LPG Action Plan 2017-2020**

Una explained that she incorporated the comments from the last LPG meeting into the most recent draft of the action plan. She noted that the Priority One and Four were very similar and suggested merging these. Members discussed this and agreed to reword Priority One as: “Promote resilience for parents and children through education and support and empowering good enough parenting”.

(New) Priority Four – Poverty

Actions to include:

- Awareness raising about changes to benefits, and to inform support staff know where to signpost families to e.g. Universal credit, food banks, and warmer homes scheme.
- Take learning from CiNI around Holiday Hunger.

At a recent conference on inequality in areas of deprivation and children on the Child Protection Register it was acknowledged that the vibrant community and voluntary sector helped to plug a gap.

- Recognise impact of funding cuts on local services and Family Support Hubs.

- Raise awareness of childcare staff wages, they are on a low income and leaving the sector as there is living wage in supermarkets etc. this is creating a crisis in the childcare sector.
- Working poor
- Children with Disabilities.

#### Priority Five

Children on Reduced timetables – information is being collected by the Children's Commissioner's Office.

**Action: Members to report any issues to Children's Commissioner, Una to circulate contact details of person leading on this.**

LPG members noted the impact that this is having on family life, children's mental health, anxiety, learning needs etc.

Services noted that in some cases they aren't allowed to work in some schools.

- Need for inclusion of children with disabilities into all areas of community and for them to feel accepted
- Presentation from SENAC and Children's Law Centre.
- Raise awareness of Children's Rights to be included.

A discussion took place about the increasing need for interpreters and high costs for them. It was noted that Trust managed SureStarts have access to interpreters.

There is also a telephone translation service that members noted that they've used.

- Need for appropriate English Classes with Childcare, taking in cultural sensitivities. Raise with Belfast Area Outcomes Group
- Raise awareness with BME families around nursery and school registrations
- More cultural integration

#### **Feedback from Family Support Hubs**

Deirdre noted that the Family Support Hubs were due to give their in-depth six monthly update at the December meeting so suggested that today's update could be deferred until then. Members were in agreement.

#### **Feedback from Belfast Area Outcomes Group**

Tina informed the group that a membership paper will be circulated to BAOG members which highlights the process of membership, and noted

that the Voluntary and Community representatives' term of three years will be coming to an end in March. There is one space on the BAOG for a community representative from West Belfast; Tina encouraged members to think about applying as she has been on the group for two terms already. Tina noted that all four LPG chairs will also have a place on the BOAG so Deirdre will be attending too.

Una circulated the Belfast Area Outcomes Group Action plan and Summary of the Plan and noted that the plan had taken cognisance of the priorities identified by the four Locality Planning Groups and Family Support Hubs.

Tina also noted that a discussion about the BOAGs funding and how it would be moving to full procurement.

Jackie highlighted that the BAOG gave the opportunity to influence policy on common issues from LPG through the BAOG to CYPSP.

He discussed other ways that the BAOG can influence policy in other partnerships also such as the Belfast Strategic Partnership which has representatives at Chief Executive level from PHA, HSCB, Trust and Belfast City Council. He noted that BAOG is the Early Years and Early Intervention Subgroup of the BSP. He noted that the BAOG had responded to the consultation on the draft Belfast Agenda.

### **Any Other Business**

Dympna noted that the Belfast Strategic Partnership's Lifelong Learning Group invites you to be part of the 2018 Belfast Festival of Learning. There is also a Family Friendly around the themes of Connectivity and Food. There is a small grants scheme of up to £500.

Action: Dympna to forward information to Una for circulation.

Jackie noted that the Greater Shankill Festival is taking place on 28 October and will include an Indian Festival of Light.

### **Dates of Future meetings.**

Wednesday 6 December at 2pm in Falls Library

### **2018 Dates All meetings will be held at 10am; Venues to be confirmed:**

Wednesday 7 February

Wednesday 4 April ? (Easter week)

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