

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLANNING
MINUTES OF ANTRIM LOCALITY GROUP**

**TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER AT 2.00PM
IN HOMESTART ANTRIM**

Attending:	Chris Lindsay	<i>EA NI</i>
	Gemma Lutton	<i>CYPSP (Minute Taker)</i>
	Hannah Curley	<i>MPDA</i>
	Janine Gaston	<i>SACN</i>
	Jennifer Todd	<i>Oasis Caring in Action</i>
	Joanne Cleary	<i>Little Steps Surestart</i>
	Kelly Forsythe	<i>Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council</i>
	Maria Herron	<i>Families Together Parenting NI</i>
	Marie McCloy	<i>NRC</i>
	Michael Gourley	<i>Start360</i>
	Nicola Newbury	<i>Childrens Contact Centre</i>
	Pamela Shields	<i>Oasis Antrim</i>
	Selena Ramsey	<i>CYPSP</i>
	William Smyth	<i>AYICC</i>
Apologies:	Charlene McKeown	<i>Women's Aid ABCLN</i>
	Dr Andrew Gamble	<i>PHA</i>
	Kyle Duncan	<i>Autism NI</i>
	Mary O'Connell	<i>Home Start Antrim</i>
	Mervyn Rea	<i>Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council</i>
	Sandra Anderson	<i>CYPSP</i>

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Selena 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 **Tuesday 19th September 2017**.

MATTERS ARISING

Incredible Years Training

Selena has spoken with Jayne Colville (NHSCT) regarding places on the Facilitators training in the Incredible Years programme. Places are filled up until March 2018. There will be another set of training dates and Jayne will keep Pamela updated when training is coming up.

PRESENTATION –MICHAEL GOURLEY, START360

Selena thanked Michael for attending today's meeting and invited Michael to make his presentation to the group.

Michael is attending today to provide information on the Connections Service and the various programmes within Start360.

The operational aim of the DACT (Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team) was explained. There is a DACT in each Trust area who meet to discuss emerging trends, issues of concern, gaps or pressures in service delivery and deliver on a local action and implementation plan.

The Connections Service provides a number of Drug and Alcohol Awareness Raising sessions as part of the service. Information was provided on the different sessions available with hand-outs provided. Sessions can be tailored to suit the needs of each group. Programmes are mainly being delivered to NRC's and Youth Groups at present.

Information on a regional initiative 'Dry January' was provided. A small grant scheme of up to £500 is available with the closing date on 27th November at 4pm. Applications and further information can be downloaded at www.drugsandalcoholni.info

Connectors and Responders Training has also been organised and will be delivered by ASCERT. Responders will be people living or working within a community who will be trained to have effective conversations with individuals seeking help about their alcohol or other drug use and to signpost them to the most appropriate services. This is a 2 day programme and is taking place on 11th and 12th January 2018. An email with further information will be circulated regarding this. Places will be limited.

Information was also provided on other programmes within Start360 as follows:

DAISY – Service for young people who need confidential advice and help for alcohol or drug use. Age range is 10 – 25 year olds and a 12 week programme is usually offered. There doesn't need to be social work involvement for a referral to be made,

Voices – Provide support for children and young people of substance misusing parents/adults and also supports the whole family. One to One counselling and play therapy is offered through this service. Social Services have to be involved initially before making a referral.

Targeted Lifeskills – this programme has been developed following research in a Botvins 13 year study. It looks at issues around drugs and alcohol including risk taking, emotional health and decision making. A lot of work is delivered in Schools, Youth Clubs, Apprentices and training organisations. Programme duration is around 6-7 weeks. Each programme is tailored to each group with 6-20 people in a group. Referrals can be made by anyone and has been very successful to date.

FEEDBACK – ANTRIM YOUTH FAIR

The Youth Fair took place on Wednesday 27th September 2017 in Parkhall Senior School. Feedback from Schools was good. A lot of Take5 packs were given out by SACN who also feedback that the smoothie bike went well and was enjoyed by the young people.

PARENTING NI- Families Together Project

Maria Herron (Parenting NI) is running a project in Antrim and Strabane. Information was provided on Parenting NI with the organisation starting as a parenting helpline. This continues to run and is open Monday – Friday with the helpline number 0808 8010 722.

Information was provided on ‘Families Together’ which is a Big Lottery funded project designed to improve family relationships. It is a partnership between Parenting NI and New Life Counselling. The project is available in six primary Schools in Antrim and Strabane areas with 3 in Antrim and 3 in Strabane. The Schools include: Ballycraigy, Six Mile Integrated, Parkhall, Sion Mills, St. Catherines and St. Mary’s Primary.

Staff of the project includes a Family Key Worker and 5 counsellors. Counselling for parents is available for up to 6 weeks. The key worker can meet families at home to identify what support is needed and also to signpost families to other services if necessary. Parents can refer themselves to the programme.

Further information can be found on the website

<https://www.parentingni.org/parents/families-together/> or by emailing Maria Herron mariah@parentingni.org

UPDATE – FAMILY SUPPORT HUBS

A member feedback on the Family Support Hubs and noted 54 referrals were received this month. There are an increasing number of referrals for 8-11 year olds with a gap in services. A lot of organisations are at full

capacity. Selena noted she will continue to feed up to the Northern Outcomes Group of the gap in services for age range.

A Strengthening Families Programme has been organised for 25th January 2018 in OASIS Antrim with referrals open. These referrals can be made to Emma McElhone emma.mcelhone@northerntrust.hscni.net Dinner will be provided each night for families and the programme runs for 7 weeks.

MEMBER AGENCY UPDATES

Pamela Shields – OASIS

OASIS are at full capacity and currently work with 12-14's in Schools, 14-16's in centres and 16 young people are on a waiting list for support. 16+ come into the centre in evenings. The Women's group will start again in January. Pamela noted the Foodbank was very low in food and the Schools were very good in donations with harvest days. There are no hampers this Christmas but money has been set aside for meat vouchers/fuel vouchers as a possibility.

Kelly Forsythe – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Home Safety and Energy Efficiency information was provided. A lot of referrals for home safety checks etc. are submitted from Health Visitors. Antrim & Newtownabbey Council have grants for heating and insulation. There are also oil stamps with the launch of an oil club in Antrim – Town Parks area. Everyone will get the same rate of oil regardless of how many litres are ordered. Keep Warm packs are available for the council areas and packs range from infants – Extra Large Men's. Kelly can be contacted at Kelly.Forsythe@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk for more information on schemes noted.

Autism NI

The support group has moved to Farranshane House on 8th November 2017. Stay and Play session on 26th in Funky Monkeys for families to attend. The Christmas party is fully booked up with a lot of interest.

Nicola Newbury – Childrens Contact Centre

This service covers Antrim, Ballymena and Larne but after 8 years Larne has had to shut. Carrickfergus has taken over the operation of the centre. It is now hoped to have Antrim weekly. 23rd December will be the last session before Christmas. Nicola noted Childrens Contact Centre are looking for more volunteers in order to help run weekly sessions.

Laura Totten – YJA

Youth Justice Agency have recruited some volunteers and have now amalgamated into the Civil Service. Laura is continuing to use funding from the EITP fund with young people and have got gym memberships and driving lessons for some young people to date. Laura noted it is good to have funding for these initiatives for young people.

Marie McCloy – NRC

The Empower project have released courses for 2018 and can be found on the website <http://empowernetwork.co.uk/> Siblings sessions are returning due to high demand from parents. There is a Conference planned for 1st March 2018 around Dyslexia. There will also be a programme of activities for youth workers and teachers etc. on sleep / sleep deprivation.

Joanne Cleary – Little Steps Sure Start

Programmes are continuing with a lot of referrals. 30+ referrals were received at the last meeting. A timetable is being confirmed for January

– March 2018. Joanne is working with Kelly on the keep warm packs and noted there will be a big need with families.

William Smyth – AYICC

There is currently a 2 month waiting list for referrals for counselling within AYICC as it is very busy. Heads Up Programme is still over capacity with workers working above their hours. William noted this will have an impact on funding. 13 young people went on a residential to Woodhall after completion of a drug and alcohol programme and this went successfully. William noted there are big issues with grooming and sexting at present. William is providing counselling to some of those referred around these issues. AYICC are Junctions chosen charity for November and December. There are further fundraising activities planned including a table quiz in February and a Sky Dive in March.

Janine Gaston - SACN

Information was given on an NICHI annual conference 'Live Life Well' on 29th November from 6pm – 9pm in Tullyglass Hotel. The key note speaker is Shane Martin – author of Your Precious Life. Janine noted she completed engagement with Antrim Grammar around emotional wellbeing and St Benedict's Primary School and St Comgalls Primary School are interested in taking part also. Self-care is also needed within Schools for Teachers. Information was given on recent training delivered and plans for Bereavement training in Antrim in the New Year. Understanding Self Harm is coming up in the Carrickfergus area also.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing noted.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed for the next meeting to take place on **Tuesday 30th January 2018 at 2.00pm in Homestart Offices, Antrim.**