

**Minutes of the East Belfast Locality Planning Group Meeting held
on Wednesday 10 of January 2018 at 10am in New Life Counselling
Boardroom, Newtownards Road, Belfast**

Present:

Maggie Andrews	Eastside Partnership (Chair)
Kris Morrison	NIACRO EISS
Barbara Wallace	Eastside Learning
Alison Templeton	New Life Counselling
Yvonne Cowan	BHSCT Community Development
Una Casey	CYPSP
Stuart Greer	CYPSP
Tracey Wilson	East Belfast Surestart
Rachel Howe	Victoria Park PS
Amy Gillen	Inner East Family Support Hub(EB Alternatives)
Roberta Richmond	East Belfast Counselling Centre
Nicola Hannigan	Outer South and East Family Support Hub

Apologies:

Gemma McAuley	Women's Aid
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Claire Humphrey	Barnardo's

Welcome and Introduction

Maggie welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions took place.

Apologies

Noted as above.

Minutes of the previous meeting

were agreed as accurate.

Matters Arising

Dates and venues for future meetings were discussed. It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for 11 July would be brought forward to 4 July.

Una followed up on the query with Helen Dunn about the information collated for the annual report on Family Support Hubs, it is not currently possible for this information to be collated at locality planning level.

Una also informed members that CYPSP had access to the resilience documentary. Tracey confirmed that the Early Years Network were planning on screening the documentary in the Strand Cinema and would include the LPG members in this.

Action: Tracey to liaise with Una on the planned date of the screening

Locality Planning Group Survey

Una highlighted that Locality Planning Groups have been running for 18 years in some parts of Northern Ireland and as there is now full coverage of LPGs it was timely to carry out a survey of the members. Una and Stuart have developed a survey monkey that has been circulated to all members. Una encouraged members to take a few moments to complete the survey as this would give CYPSP the opportunity to evaluate the process.

Action: a weekly reminder with the link to the survey will be circulated to members

Action Plan 2017- 2020

Members discussed possibly mission statements for the action plan. Members agreed to remove the column that will be involved and instead have a table of membership of the LPG in the plan.

Maggie reinforced the need to have the action plan finished, and it was agreed that Friday 19 January would be the final deadline for suggestions to the plan so that at the next meeting members.

Yvonne felt that two sections in Priority 3 could be merged into one. Will re-word and get back to Una.

Maggie noted that the Action Plan needs to have realistic dates and that members must consider timeframes.

Tracey highlighted the success of a recent re-gifting fair in East Belfast. Una noted the success of school uniform fairs that LPGs in the SE OG area organised highlighted that there was a toolkit available to help run these in other area. This has been shared with the Scaffolding Project.

Members agreed that it would be useful to update and share the training calendar that had been developed last year.

Members were asked to identify where their organisation fit in the plan's priorities and actions.

Action: Members to submit any changes to the Action Plan to Una before 19 January

Family Support Hubs

Outer South and East Family Support Hub - Nicola Hannigan

Nicola noted that there had been 46 referrals from East Belfast to the Hub over the last quarter. These included referrals from CAMHS, Health Visitors, GPs, Community groups and Gateway. The main reasons for referral were behaviour, parenting, financial which included oil, food, benefits advice and housing issues; counselling for 7-10 year olds mostly boys but some girls and in particular social anxiety for children not meeting the threshold for CAMHS; Nicola noted that more creative therapies would help this age group. Incredible year's programmes for parents living outside SureStart areas are a big gap in the area. A discussion took place for the need for childcare to be provided for these parents to enable them to attend such courses. Nicola also noted that mentoring for adults and young people is also a gap. Una noted that the Magherafelt and Cookstown LPG were able to secure funding to told Incredible years programme outside a SureStart area, she will contact the Planner for that area to find out more. Nicola also noted that she's had some referrals recently for families living in privately rented accommodation having issues with pests. Tracy mentioned that when

she raised pest issues with politicians and city council the matters were dealt with promptly, suggests this as a course of action.

Action: Una to contact Northern Area Planner re: Incredible Years.

Inner East Family Support Hub – Amy Gillen

There had been 70 referrals in the previous quarter to the Inner East hub. These included social and emotion behaviour issues, mental ill health of both parents and children and respite crèche places for children for children to receive peer socialisation or for children with mental health issues; outside SureStart areas. Social isolation for ethnic minorities was also a reason for recent referrals. Members noted that the Red Cross Befriending Service. Tracey also highlighted that the SureStart have a stay and play on Mondays at 1pm-3pm for Indian families and on Wednesdays for mixed families. These groups have child development built into them and also help with language.

Information sharing

The meeting discussed Compassion Belfast which is part of the Ulster Temple on the Ravenhill Road. This is a church and community centre which operates a foodbank. They strive to treat their users in a dignified manner, for example they refer to their foodbank as a 'living room' and provide users with an invitation rather than a voucher. The church tries to provide a relaxed place where people can have a coffee while waiting for their food parcel, shop for clothes and get advice; they do not proselytise.

The meeting discussed the good work that churches do in the community, though noted this may lacked a strategic view. The group was informed that Jonny Curry was attempting to establish a forum for churches in East Belfast, with the hope of getting them more involved in the work of the LPG, and to encourage sharing their learning. Also possibly help with facilities for the delivery of Incredible Years programme.

Kris told the meeting how NIACRO had facilitated the attendance of 75 families at a pantomime prior to Christmas 2017.

Members were also told that Oasis was at capacity, and that the Bright Sparks programme had a waiting list and Pathways was at capacity. Parents could see the excellent developmental progress that their children were making, and that Oasis provided much more than respite. Tracy told the meeting that 12 weeks of respite was often inadequate for some children due to the level of need and complexities of family issues. During the 12 weeks children's development improved greatly.

Some members mentioned that they felt East Belfast organisations were not especially good at accessing funding or services. Maggie mentioned that when funding was allocated it was sometimes not shaped by on the ground. Members agreed that there would be a task and finish group to discussed collaboration in accessing funding for early years.

Action: Maggie to convene task and finish group to include Steven, Tracey, Kris, Amy, Nicola and Alison.

Any Other Business

Una informed the group that the LPGs in the Northern Area were holding a Body Image conference on 26 January in Ballymena which members from other LPGs can attend.

Una also noted that there was a Regional celebration of Locality Planning workshop taking place in the springtime.

Dates of Future Meetings

Wednesday 9 May at 10am	Victoria PS- Rachel
Wednesday 4 July at 10am	TBC
Wednesday 12 September at 10am	TBC
Wednesday 14 November at 10am	TBC