

## **Southern Area Outcomes Group**

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11 September at 10am  
Boardroom, Tower Hill, Armagh

### **In Attendance**

Paul Morgan (SHSCT – Chair)  
Valerie Maxwell (CYPSP Planning & Information)  
Darren Curtis (CYPSP Locality Development – Minutes)  
Donna Weir (EA Youth Service)  
Donna Murphy (SHSCT)  
Taucher McDonald (NMandD Council)  
David Patterson (NMandD Council)  
Alison Beattie (ABC Council)  
James Devlin (PHA)  
Kevin Duggen (HSCB)  
Pauline Magill (SHSCT)  
Martina McCooey (SHSCT)  
Kieran Shields (EA)  
Patricia Gibson (ABC PCSP)  
Peter McKinney (Early Years)  
Monica McCann (Barnardos)  
Gerard Rocks (SHSCT PWB)  
Rachel long (NIACRO)  
Maurice Leeson (HSCB – CYPSP Professional Advisor)

### **Apologies**

Helen Gormley (Mid Ulster Council)  
Barbara McNally (PSNI)  
Michael Heaney (YJA)  
Lesley Waugh (SHSCT: Pauline Magill in attendance)  
Jacqueline Connelly (SHSCT)  
Jacinta Linden (SPACE)

## **1 Introduction and Apologies**

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions followed. Apologies were noted.

## **2 Minutes of previous meeting (08.06.18)**

All agreed

## **3 Matters Arising**

None

## **4 Webpage on CYPSP website highlighting the range of evidence-based parenting programmes available across the Trust – Martina McCooey**

As Chair of the Family Support Task and Finish Group, Martina McCooey informed the meeting about the development of a new page on the CYPSP website which will outline a range of evidence-based programmes (for parents and training for professionals) across each Trust area. Martina is co-ordinating the content with colleagues in the other HSC Trust areas with the resource being NI-wide allowing local programmes to be searched locally in each HSC Trust area.

Martina distributed a screenshot of the proposed format and described the content on what will be available for families across the area. The page will include professional and parenting support, reports, training and post-delivery support for programme participants. Reports will aim to be evidence-based as far as possible. Course referral forms will also be included to be accessed in one place, with an additional link placed on the SHSCT Sharepoint site.

Martina explained that funding is currently being sought for the resource. It will be kept simple and accessible to all, aiming to become live in October 2018. Updates will take place quarterly.

Kevin Duggan commented that it will be a good resource, particularly for those living outside of the Sure Start catchment areas. Valerie Maxwell explained that a

communication campaign will commence once completed and to spread the word across the Group membership – there are no plans for a formal launch but **(ACTION) once live it will be presented to Outcomes Group members.**

Martina informed the meeting that hard copies of forthcoming programmes are available and to approach Martina to obtain a copy. Martina also extended her thanks to Valerie and Michael Hill (CYPSP) for their assistance throughout the process.

Paul Morgan thanked Martina for her input and work towards the resource.

## **5 CHIP Update to SAOG as Reference Group – Rachel Long**

Rachel Long provided an update on the CHIP (Children with Imprisoned Parents) programme, funded through Early Intervention Transformation Programme which is due to run until end of March 2019. To date the programme has worked with 389 children across Northern Ireland – the target has been set at 400 children by the end of September/early October.

There are two proposed Outcomes for the programme:

1. **Early intervention** in identifying children of prisoners, assessing needs and making referral
2. **Demonstrating a more positive visiting experience** for children when visiting prison establishments

**Early intervention:** The most recent Report Card for the programme is from April-June this year, which noted the majority of referrals coming from prisons, NIACRO projects, Barnardo's parenting programmes and healthcare referrals. Rachel will send the latest Report Card to Margaret for distribution to the Outcomes Group: this will include new referral sources from the last Quarter, including solicitors, Education Welfare Officers and Travellers Support.

Within the prisons, there has been 81% uptake in Maghaberry, 67% uptake in Hydebank and 58% in Magilligan.

Evaluation is due to take place on the programme. Rachel explained this will further explore trends and cited an example of a lower uptake of services in Magilligan possibly due to prisoners being moved from Maghaberry to Magilligan for release - possible

reason for non-engagement is parents nearing release date, had been offered other support or had good existing family support networks.

Rachel described how 41% of families commencing the programme were not known to other services, nor have been. This has increased to 74% who have linked into services at the end of the programme. 26% did not avail of further support.

**A more positive visiting experience:** Rachel described a number of initiatives which have commenced since the last Outcomes meeting. Maghaberry has started the “Read with Dads” programme which was designed with input from children. Plasma screens are visible which a child can see where their Dad sleeps, has meals and works. Older children can enjoy a hockey table and board games which have made a positive difference.

Rachel informed the Group that CHIP were linking with the EITP funded programme Play Matters and discussions have taken place for staff training and workshops for parents with age appropriate play with children.

Rachel referred to rich data being captured via Outcomes Star including Family Star Plus and My Star (7yrs+). The main outcome improvements for Families and children identified are wellbeing, boundaries and behaviour and support needs, with better outcomes for children, through My Star, being safe, feelings and behaviours and relationships with parents.

A Risk Register is in operation and includes issues such as retaining staff. A vacancy arose in the Western Trust which was filled but then vacated due to the candidate finding alternative employment within the Trust. The post is now filled on 3 day basis but there is a 2 days vacancy which the programme has offered a written submission for this underspend towards fuller evaluation to work with families to explore more details with families.

**(ACTION) Next steps include having the evaluation ready for the end of December/beginning of January to explore sustainability moving forward. A Tender Specification is currently being compiled and Rachel will be in touch with Outcomes Group members about engagement.**

Paul thanked Rachel on behalf of the group for her update. There were no questions.

## 6 Progress of Task and Finish Groups

**Best Start in Life Task and Finish Group:** Kevin Duggan (Chair) reported on the Building Inclusive Communities event at the Epicentre, Armagh on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Social media continued over the summer months and the video has proved useful. Kevin described follow up work on identifying the positive difference made by the event and services becoming more inclusive.

Kevin described the importance of hearing the voices of young people themselves. Paul agreed that the young people, Ben and Caitlin, who spoke at the event, were very good and the event showed good partnership work by voluntary and statutory agencies.

Paul asked whether any further collaborative work has taken place. Darren Curtis reported the directory of summer activities for children and young people with a disability in both Armagh and Newry have been produced and two further events will take place across the trust area which will build on including the voice of children and young people.

Darren informed the meeting that a Report Card is available for the event which was sent electronically to members, hard copy also provided.

**(ACTION) Kevin reported plans to show the Resilience documentary DVD in conjunction with Locality Planning: two planned screenings in the forthcoming months. This will link into the work of practitioners on the ground. Six panel members will be required for the screenings so Kevin and Darren may approach members of the group accordingly.**

David Patterson enquired whether there has been any update on the Children's Services Co-operation Act. Maurice Leeson replied that draft guidance is in the process of being prepared but no official notification has been made as to when this will be issued.

**Family Support Task and Finish Group:** further to (Chair) Martina McCooey's feedback earlier in the meeting, **(ACTION) Martina reported that she will be meeting with Donna Murphy, Valerie Maxwell and Ivor Mitchell (Triangle) to review impact tools including the Outcomes Star.** Martina also stated the group will be reviewing parent programmes and will be working with programmes to provide training opportunities. It was noted that a number of outcomes will be built into contracts for

monitoring through the Outcomes Star for practical family support which can then be fed back to the Outcomes Group.

**Learning and Achieving Task and Finish Group:** Kieran Shields (Chair) reported a hiatus in the summer due to school closures but this is now changing with the onset of the new school year. Kieran informed members that his group are now prioritising the issue at Mount St Catherine's Primary School of poor attendance among Roma, Syrian and Traveller communities. The Principal is host to the Attendance Improvement Group which has been established.

Kieran informed of new staff with the EA: Tracey Devlin as OBA Support Officer, with an OBA Working Group formed working across CYP Services chaired by Pat Ward which will link with this project as an exemplar. Andrea Wills is the new Deputy Chief Education Officer in the Southern area and is based in Armagh.

**(ACTION) Kieran to set up a meeting with Valerie Maxwell and Darren Curtis to assist taking forward the project and track OBA for improved engagement with parents to be pushed over the next 2 terms.**

Kieran reported on the Study Centre in the City of Armagh High School involving Roma children. There are 60 Roma students, 32 of whom are bussed from Newtownhamilton. Poor attendance and behaviour reported by the school. Alison Beattie as the new Chair of the Interagency Group in Armagh, reported disengagement issues with services: good work has taken place in Newtownhamilton which has not been replicated in Armagh. Work has commenced on National Lottery support to mentor Roma children through a Home School Liaison Officer and a bid is nearing completion.

Kieran reported that interagency working has improved, however the issue still remains at City of Armagh High School that older young people do not want to be at school, displaying poor behaviour, sexualised language towards females, leaving school early and causing disruption. Kieran described reports of older men communicating with girls through the school fence. School age children have engaged through workshops and can communicate their needs better, reporting racism towards them by peers including Bulgarian children. Kieran reported around 20 young people in the Greater Armagh area are not participating with services and there are attempts to engage them to come into school earlier and avail of youth interventions. Kieran added that the Study centre at St

Catherine's College has worked well with improved GCSE results – this will be continued into the next school year.

Kieran described Transplant Learning Hub Model, how the funding formula sees schools funded, to Mount St Catherine's with two extra teachers to be employed through extra funding to work with 60 young people with many complex needs.

**(ACTION) Kieran also referred to ABC Council working with City of Armagh High School through Good Relations and also described emerging needs including a growing school population in Keady, risk taking behaviours, emerging racism, with work being planned to address this over next few months and will feed back on progress to Outcomes Group.**

Paul sought clarification of the membership of the Interagency Group in Armagh: this included ABC Council, SHSCT, EA, CIP, NIHE, PSNI and Locality Planning. The group is open to anyone with a remit in this area.

Donna Weir described the restructuring process of EA Youth Services and the Epicentre will be allocated staff who have been redeployed to address inclusion and mental health.

**Positive Mental Health Task and Finish Group:** Valerie Maxwell gave feedback on behalf of Michael Heaney who was unable to attend. The group met on 29<sup>th</sup> August and discussed training on awareness of PSNI recruits on mental health and ASD. Barbara McNally, PSNI, had reported that new recruits were not given in depth training on these. Local recruits have availed of opportunistic ASD awareness training locally. Chris Millar from CAMHS Connect (SHSCT) has offered to carry out more awareness training which Barbara will discuss with senior officers.

Valerie reported the main priority area for the group is the practice of young people with mental health/developmental issues coming into custody for safety rather than crime related actions, incurring a criminal record. The group are looking at the feasibility of a co-ordinator as first point contact to address an FMO assessment and referral. Council, PCSP, PHA and YJA were identified as possible partners in a pilot programme. A suggestion to progress was to identify current contracts with the voluntary/community sector and explore the feasibility of extending these to include the pilot to further meet the needs of young people. A protocol for best practice will be produced and rolled out across Northern Ireland as a result.

Paul enquired whether costings have been identified for the programme – **(ACTION) Valerie agreed to feed back to the group to ask for a business plan proposal including costings.**

James Devlin sought clarification whether the pilot specifically addressed mental health or could include substance misuse: Valerie confirmed that substance misuse would be included as an element of the programme. James raised the work of Breakthru Second Chance programme which offers an alternative to prosecution. **(ACTION) Valerie reported she is speaking with PHA for closer involvement with the Task and Finish Groups.**

Discussion around accommodation: Donna Murphy clarified that a young person is not a Looked After Child at the point of Gateway. Peter McKinney described the Night Stop programme in England which provides a soft landing space for young people affected by drugs or alcohol. Rachel Long reported she had met with Heather Palmer (Head of Custody Reform, PSNI) who is collecting data on young people who come into custody, and exploring alternatives to custody. **(ACTION) Rachel suggested inviting Heather to a future meeting of the Task and Finish Group. Valerie to progress.**

Donna reported increasing referrals to Family Support Hubs of older young people – around 30% are aged 13-15. There are less services available for this age group and more resistance from young people and their families to engage, providing a challenge to the Hubs. Donna reported that there are currently two Youth Homeless Workers in the Adolescent Service who may be able to contribute to the work of the group.

**(ACTION) Outcomes group members agreed that there is a gap and scope to address this unmet need: Peadar White and Michael Heaney to submit a business case to the Outcomes Group in order to identify costings and to look at possible ways to progress this initiative.**

**(ACTION) Patricia Gibson offered PCSP assistance to cover cost of a training room for PSNI awareness sessions with CAMHS Connect.**

**Enjoying and Playing Task and Finish Group:** Valerie Maxwell gave feedback from the group on behalf of Deirdre Hasson who was unable to attend. The group are making good progress with the production of a directory of venues and spaces to be piloted in the Armagh and Dungannon areas which are available outside of school hours and during school holidays: to include schools, community, Church and sports venues. A Survey Monkey has been agreed and the group are currently agreeing contacts with the aim of sending out early October. Gerard Rocks asked whether it could be compiled across the whole SHSCT area. David Patterson reported areas of fixed play in NMD Council areas with play pods in each electoral area and survey to take this into account and to link with Conor Haughey at NMDC.

Kevin Duggan suggested including checklist on insurance and risk assessments. Kieran Shields suggested linking with Jim Dunbar (EA NI) who is responsible for community use of schools and can provide Dept of Education policy for the use of schools. Alison Beattie suggested contacting Joan Noade, Play Worker from ABC Council – Joan is taking forward the new Play Strategy. **(ACTION) It was agreed that the Survey Monkey should be sent out for distribution across the Southern Trust area via the Outcomes Group members, Locality Planning Group members, Councils and EA. Valerie to take forward.**

Valerie gave an update on the action to audit and promote play programmes: Angela Stallard from Dept of Education informed the group about the Play Matters programme which will see four individuals trained to roll out play training across the voluntary and community sector in the SHSCT Area. Discussions have taken place to explore participation from foster carers through the SHSCT Children with Disabilities Team, STEP for BME families and a further two through the Locality Planning Groups. Alison Beattie also recommended the group keeps links with ABC Council who are rolling out play initiatives and aiming to increase the usage of community centres.

**(ACTION) Valerie explained difficulties in ensuring attendance and the right people are involved with the Task and Finish groups. Paul recommended Valerie send an e-mail to members in relation to participation to the groups.**

**(ACTION) Valerie suggested a bi-annual newsletter for the Outcomes Group Task and Finish Groups to communicate their progress across the area. This was agreed to be an action. Paul stressed that Valerie provide a template for reporting to each of the Chairpersons for completion and submission to Valerie.**

## 7 Peace IV Update/ Community Planning

**ABC Council:** Alison Beattie reported the continuation of Peace IV being rolled out across the area, piloting around quality of life indicators. The programme includes Training and Employability, Resilience, Risk Taking Behaviour and engaging with hardest to reach groups of families and young people to enable them to become programme ready. Work is ongoing with youth, community and church leaders in relation to training & development needs, and identifying emerging issues including good relations, additional youth engagement and Peace IV play programmes.

Community planning: The community panel is up and running. Action planning groups have met and align to community development within community planning. Development of Skills and Employability the Council are offering 2 weeks work experience with Farrans to support individuals with specific needs and improving routes to employment. Other areas currently being developed are Healthy Communities, tackling drugs & alcohol and risk taking behaviour, and Confident & Welcoming communities. Sports programmes are also being used to engage with communities through the use of local MUGAs. **(ACTION) Alison would be keen that the Peace IV work could link more collectively with the Outcomes Group work and locality planning. Valerie and Darren to liaise closely with Alison re ongoing initiatives.**

It was noted that the University of Ulster are carrying out an evaluation of Peace IV which will provide an evidence base moving forward.

Paul thanked Alison for her feedback there were no further questions.

**Newry, Mourne and Down Council:** David Patterson gave an update on Participatory budgeting currently being rolled out in NMD Council area piloting 2 different events – Mourne district electoral area are hosting an information evening in Kilkeel – with a further event taking place in October where local ideas will be pitched to the community including young people who will then decide who gets the funding. Those currently involved through investment of an initial small budget are NIHE, Trusts, PSNI, Department of Communities and Council.

The council are beginning to think about reviewing their community planning process to understand the range of partnerships already in place and to move focus to additionality and collaborative working with fewer strategic actions. The Council recognises both

SAOG and EAOG are doing phenomenal amounts of work, and how it all relates with outcomes based approach and how we hold onto it.

Paul thanked David for his update – there were no further questions.

Gerard Rocks commented that it was good to have conversations across councils for greater synergy across Departments. He also provided a summary update in the absence of a Mid-Ulster Council representative – they have agreed a Delivery plan for short term actions based on 5 Themes with areas related to Families included under their themes on education and skills and Health - aging well, healthy for life, recreation and active lifestyles and mental health and wellbeing. Much is scoping the areas and setting a workplan in place. Ageing well initiative tender exercise was completed earlier in the year and procurement took place.

## **8 Early Intervention Family Support Services**

It was noted that EISS have received funding to extend for another year. Updates will be provided as and when available.

## **9 Update from Locality Planning Groups**

Darren Curtis, Community Development officer for the Southern outcomes area provided an update on locality planning initiatives across the area and shared a number of report cards with members of the Outcomes Group:-

**Safe place initiative** – Domestic Violence and it's impact on children, young people and their families has been identified as a High Priority action across Locality Planning Groups in the Southern Trust area. There are 21 new safe places across the ABC area have been established, including Tower Hill. There are a number of ongoing events taking place where staff receives a briefing on actions that may be required. For more information - <http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Scorecard-18.3-Safe-Place-Training.pdf>

Darren provided an update and referred to the report card on the **Building Inclusive communities** event that was held in May 2018 noting 73 new links were made and 16 individuals arranged follow up work around positive outcomes working with children and young people with disabilities due to the event. For more information - <http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Scorecard-18.4-Building-Inclusive-Communities-Armagh.pdf>

Darren updated on the Newry locality planning group **Disability inclusion workshop** aimed to gain a fuller understanding of issues for those working with children and young people with a disability through networking and sharing good practice including an OBA approach. The day proved very successful with 150 new contacts made through a speed networking event. For more information - <http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Scorecard-18.5-Disability-Inclusion-Workshop.pdf>

In relation to Dungannon Locality Planning Group Darren updated members and shared a report card on a **Healthy Relationships Programme** delivered at St Patricks College, Dungannon. 24 Students participated in all 6 sessions with 96% rating the programme as excellent. For more information - <http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Scorecard-18.6-Healthy-Relationships-Training.pdf>

Darren updated members and shared the Report Card on the **Portadown Gets Active** Summer Programme an approach to address holiday hunger and wellbeing, A total of 93 children attended during the 6 days with an average of 75 participants per day. 35 young people volunteered with 20 Peer mentors successfully completing the OCN level 1 in Youth Leadership. Parents agreed that they would participate in further activities/support for parents as part of PGA and identified Internet Safety, Confidence Building/Self Esteem, Cookery sessions, Healthy Sleep and Positive Mental Health sessions as beneficial to them as parents/carers for future activities. For more information - <http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Scorecard-18.7-Portadown-Gets-Active-Summer-2018-1.pdf>

In respect of Craigavon Locality Planning Group, Darren updated on another successful **Milkshake and Maths** project run in Portadown YMCA. 6 young men who attended regularly all obtained Grade C in their Maths GCSE. Feedback included “Its nice getting to work together, I learn better that way” and “I wish we had this for other subjects”. For more information - <http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Scorecard-18.8-Milk-Shake-and-Maths.pdf>

South Armagh Locality Planning Group ran Bessbrook Summer Scheme over 5 days in July at Bessbrook Community Centre in partnership with SPACE. There were 42 places offered to children within the Bessbrook postcode area with all places up taken with full attendance each day. This was the first Summer activities programme run in the area for primary school aged children with very positive feedback. For more information - <http://www.cypsp.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Scorecard-18.9-Bessbrook-Summer-Scheme.pdf>

Darren updated that all of the groups are currently action planning with emerging issues being highlighted around mental health, resilience, risk taking behaviours and identifying gaps for children with disabilities.

Paul Morgan praised the work the Locality planning groups were taking forward and the importance of sharing learning, good practice and facilitating mainstreaming and helping communities take ownership, leaving them stronger and healthier. Paul commended Darren on the excellent work across all groups.

## **10 Update Family Support Hubs**

Donna Murphy updated the outcomes group that Hubs continue to operate at a high level, the target is 45 families with all hubs averaging 68 referrals. Noted more referrals for older age range 70% 5-12 age range, 30% above 13+ age range. Issue identified are boundaries, alcohol, drugs & community issues. Funding has been confirmed 100k up to 160k year 2 to extend remit of Family Support Hub co-ordinators so need to look at how this can be utilised to enhance the role.

Rachel Long queried when report cards would be ready for circulation. **(ACTION) Valerie Maxwell agreed to talk to Helen Dunn to finalise Report Cards and circulate to the Outcomes Group.** Paul Morgan queried self-referrals? Rachel doesn't have figures to hand but they are on the increase. Donna Murphy also noted increases from schools, gateways, GP's, Paeds, CAMHS. Rachel noted the well mind hub starting and hubs will be represented.

## **11 Agency Updates**

There were no Updates.

## **12 Any Other Business**

Maurice Leeson reminded members that the recruitment for voluntary & community sector membership closes at lunchtime on Friday.

Kieran Shields – Una Turbitt has now started in EA as new Assistant Director for Children and Young People services coming from PHA.

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 13 November 2018, Tower Hill Armagh**

## **Presentation – Sean McGrory, MACE Project CAWT**

Attending David Douglas, SHSCT Asst Director

Sean was recently appointed programme manager for the cross border MACE Project (Multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences) and was keen to meet with members of the Outcomes group to share progress to date and make any necessary links in particular with those working along the border areas.

Sean advised that the key partners involved in the project were Southern and Western Trusts HSCB, PHA, HSE and TUSLA. Sean is currently based with and employed by TUSLA.

The project will run for 3 years to 2021 with a target population of 0-3, 11-13 but with a whole family approach.

Sean Presented on the Project – download presentation here.....

### **Queries/discussion:-**

How can we capture adversities across disciplines and cross border based on a uniformed approach.

Making an ACE aware workforce – how we can complement coming from intervention aspect and how we work in tandem and deliver training in areas. Maurice Leeson also identified opportunity to link in with EITP ACE project and regional CYPSP ACE's reference group.

Adversity Matrix Tools – need stratification tool – what are adversities and what interventions can be introduced to support children and their families. Maurice Leeson queried if screening tool will be a form of assessment and what tools are being looked at. Sean noted a range of tools can be inserted which can give info about ACE's with E-health technologies to help with interventions to be developed – Universal, targeted and specialised.

Networks are there and its about looking at what is already working and to work in partnership for example Family Support Hubs, Sure Starts, Locality Planning Groups.

Alison Beattie offered support from ABC Council and would be happy to meet up with Sean and have conversations about link in through Peace IV and the range of interventions that lead to risk taking behaviour.

There will be a full time worker based in each cross border area hub/network with a total of €520K to help deliver the interventions with training for staff to use the screening tool.

Kevin Duggan queried if posts have been advertised? Sean advised that they would be interviewing in the next week and there had been a healthy interest in working across Armagh & Newry Hubs/networks.

Kevin stated it was positive that there is actual provision of interventions and the need to develop tools to evidence and record interventions. Staff need to have an understanding of ACE when working with families. Pleased about inclusion of infant mental health. Work needs to be done with pre-school children in emotional and mental health and he referred to great programmes being run in Sure Start that can be replicated in other areas and are evidence based – how can we share the knowledge and pass it on – how can we plug the gaps together?

Paul agreed to circulate the presentation to members for consideration and it would be useful to get Sean back when all staff have been recruited to link in. He highlighted we need to use opportunities of collaboration around the table to establish best interventions: they may not be evidence based but ones with an impact. It is about sustaining communities and building resilience that when you are gone there is a healthy community.

Paul thanked Sean for his presentation and will circulate it to members. It was also noted that the official launch of the Project will be on 28<sup>th</sup> September in the Millennium forum, L/Derry.