

**Antrim/Ballymena Children's & Young People's Strategic Partnership locality  
planning group**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 10am via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

**Attending**

Mervyn Rea	Chair
Lynsey McVitty	Health & Wellbeing Officer (Antrim/Ballymena) NHSCT
Linda Wylie	Health & Wellbeing Programme Support Officer NHSCT
Claire Kelly	Family Support Practitioner, Family Support Hub
Jennifer Todd	Centre Manager, Oasis
Natasha McDonagh	Connections Service Key Worker, Start 360
Denise McVeigh	Play Development Officer, Network Personnel
Michele Campbell	Operations Director, MEACAS
Stephanie Buchanan	Community Development Officer, A&N Council
Fiona Surgenor	District Electoral Area Officer, MEA Council
Nigel Montgomery	Senior Youth Worker, Education Authority
Alison McDaid	Senior Youth Worker Team Leader, Education Authority
Natalie Bell	Co-Ordinator, Network Personnel
Siobhan McCaig	Youth Diversion Officer, PSNI
Sinead McDonagh	Intercultural Education Service Co-ordinator, EA
Chris Lindsay	Education Welfare Project Officer, Education Authority
Grace McCann	Project Worker – Family Links, NIACRO
Stephen Warwick	Health & Social Wellbeing Improvement Officer, PHA
Gerry McVeigh	Co-Chair, Assistant Manager, YES Start 360

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Mervyn welcomed everyone.

**Apologies:-**

Hannah Bowyer, Community Development Officer Ballymena South Community Cluster.

Emma Spence, PSNI

Veronica McKinley, NICHI

Sharon Caldwell, Homestart Antrim

James O'Kane, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Rosemary McKee, Education Authority

Jennifer Campbell, Action for Children

Jude Murphy, Network Personnel

Jude McNeill, Mid & East Antrim Council  
Janine Gaston, Impact Network NI

## **2. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The previous meeting's Minutes accuracy were agreed

## **3. Matters Arising**

Jude McNeill of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council has left post, new contact Fiona Surgenor.

Unique Vaughan of Family Support Hub has left and Claire Kelly is covering referrals

## **4. Stephanie Buchanan, Community Development Officer, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council**

Stephanie brought us a short presentation on the "Re-Use" uniform scheme. This was first begun as a pilot and the Council decided to have a supporting role. Stephanie indicated that the scheme received a lot of very good support last year.

It has been observed that the scheme works better based in the community to alleviate any stigma amongst parents and also to allow access during the summer holidays when schools are closed. Some of those organisations in the community who currently run the scheme are St. John's Church, Ballyclare, First Antrim Presbyterian Church, Randalstown Arches Association and Carnmoney Presbyterian Church. Stephanie indicated that some schools still continue to carry out the scheme and other schools are gathering donations and linking with local community groups.

It was noted that some families perhaps have two family members furloughed so everyone is finding funds stretched tightly. Since schools recommenced in April there has been a high demand.

They currently wish to focus on PE kits which can cost from £150.00 to £200.00 per kit. Stephanie indicated that they wish to expand and to hope to grow bigger and better in the future.

Some partners queried how they could help and Stephanie said that she would encourage people to organise new schemes and they are also looking for feeder outlets.

**Michele Campbell, Operations Director, MEACAS**

Michele brought us an overview of her work with Uniform Exchange Scheme. The Scheme began in 2020. She said it came up as an idea as a result of setting up the Poverty Action Group. It was thought that some practical help in the provision of uniforms would be extremely beneficial as poverty continues to take hold for a variety of reasons. The word “exchange” was incorporated into the title of the scheme to decrease any possible stigmatism. People do not generally exchange and many families just donate.

They will be opening up for face to face in June and have been running throughout Covid.

She said that those interested in receiving uniforms should ring the main number and speak to Margaret with their requests. They have three offices in Larne, Carrickfergus and Ballymena and they can ascertain if any of the offices hold the requested items.

The items will be left in a bag at the premises for folks to collect.

£10,000.00 worth of uniforms was distributed to the end of April and 1,500 children were helped.

## **5. Family Support Hub Update – Claire Kelly**

Claire stated her area of responsibility is Magherafelt/Cookstown but she is currently covering Antrim/Ballymena as Unique Vaughan has moved on

Family Support Referrals are currently high.

Family Support Hub has posters and flyers about FSH. Please contact Claire Kelly know if any of these items are required for group distribution.

Save the Children Fund has now stopped. An emergency fund is now functioning on a bare minimum at present. Previously 35 people per hub area had benefitted from £340.00 of food vouchers.

## **6. Member Updates**

### **Janine Gaston, Suicide Prevention Development Officer, Impact Network NI**

I haven't anything further signed off (flyer wise) since the last meeting

- The children & YP packs will be available from late June all being well
- SPDOs are hosting a joint programme for volunteers during Volunteer Week
- SPDOs are hosting a joint Men's Health Week event in June
- Making Life Better grants – still awaiting PHA confirmation of these but hopeful for July time

## **Jennifer Campbell, Sure Start Manager, Action for Children**

Surestart remains open, phasing back to a blended approach across antenatal, postnatal, child development and parenting services. All sites open daily and referrals can be forwarded to - [Ballymena.LittleStepsSS@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:Ballymena.LittleStepsSS@actionforchildren.org.uk).

Our Munch Bunch programme from CSN concluded on Friday so I have only a few quotes below but the team are working on a report card to share. 20 participants and 23 on the waiting list, it was a huge success. Families especially enjoyed the nutritional goods, simple healthy changes/swaps which weren't too dramatic a change to impact fussy eaters but much more nutritionally healthy and budget friendly; access to a private YouTube channel was welcomed too, filled with recipes, exercise and easier to engage with at times convenient to the families, as opposed to a live class at a set time. The Surestart family support team linked in each week with families on the programme too to chat through how each week was going, to clarify information and support with ongoing nutrition education.

"The munch club has been a big hit with my boys. They love making the food & they are enjoying the sports activities too. It really is a great initiative!"

"What a wonderful course to have been given the opportunity to participate in. Thank you."

"It can be done at a time that suits you".

"A large bag filled with a variety of food",

"Recipe and a link to a video. It really rekindled my love of cooking. I enjoyed it".

"I made all the meals suggested with the assistance of my youngest two children. One of which has a very limited diet and he made and ate his own burger! Never has he attempted to eat any burger before today never mind make one husked. Unbelievable - pic to prove it!"

## **Nigel Montgomery, Senior Youth Worker, Education Authority**

Both Waveney and Ballykeel Youth Centre are now open in line with our Youth Start Guidelines. Ballykeel is open Monday- Friday (incl.) whilst Waveney is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We are providing a slightly reduced provision but hopefully will progress as we recover from the Pandemic.

We have 2 staff working in schools assisting the young people with their confidence, self- esteem and resilience.

We are also in the process of making plans for what hopefully will be a reduction in lockdown guidelines to further enhance our provision.

For further information check out our face book page Mid and East Antrim Youth Service for more information and updates or ring Ballykeel 028 256 41966 or Waveney 028 256 45522.

### **Alison McDaid, Senior Youth Worker Team Leader, Education Authority**

Youth centres continue to operate throughout Antrim and Newtownabbey  
Staff are planning extended summer programmes  
Funding is available to registered and non-registered youth groups for the summer  
4 funding streams

<https://eanifunding.org.uk/summer/>

ACCESS FOR ALL – This funding stream supports all non-EA Registered voluntary and community organisations who work with children and young people aged 4-25 years old. There are 2 camps available under this stream, click the link for more details

<https://eanifunding.org.uk/summer/access-for-all/>

SUMMER JAM – Summer Jam supports EA registered youth organisations with a particular focus on the faith based and uniformed sector, including generic/non-targeted groups! There are 3 camp opportunities within the stream, click the link for details <https://eanifunding.org.uk/summer/summer-jam/>

SUMMER BOOST – EA Local Registered groups who are in receipt of Local Area Based Funding can apply for the Summer Boost funding which gives organisations the opportunity to increase their provision over the summer period. Click the link for details <https://eanifunding.org.uk/summer/summer-boost/>

CAMP EQUIPMENT GRANT – This funding stream is to provide all EA Registered groups (Regional and Local) the opportunity to purchase new camping equipment to facilitate camps through the summer period! Click the link for more details <https://eanifunding.org.uk/summer/camp-equipment-grant/>

### **Natalie Bell, Co-ordinator, Network Personnel**

CFSP are currently still working remotely with the hope of returning to the office in the next few months, at present a date hasn't been agreed as of yet. CFSP work with individual's aged 16+ to help progress towards employment, training and education. There is the family mentor aspect as well with health and social support being provided on either a 1-1 basis or group setting. All internal training is being carried out via Microsoft Teams with the majority being accredited such as mental health first aid, health improvement and personal success & wellbeing to name a few. At present we do not have a waiting list and are accepting referrals for both Mid & East Antrim and Antrim/Newtownabbey. In order to tackle social isolation and confidence we are continuing to develop online workshops in small groups, these consist of: book club, creative arts/wellbeing, confidence & motivation, resilience building etc.

### **Jennifer Todd, Centre Manager, Oasis**

## Oasis Caring in Action Antrim

- Our youth provision has recommenced alongside our Thursday night Gaming Group and a new cross-community group will be commencing on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June.
- The Youth and Adult Befriending roles are now undertaking face-to-face meetings and we are happy to take new referrals into this process.
- The Antrim Foodbank is now open again 11am – 1pm on a Friday morning at Oasis and Tuesday morning at Elim Church - although we will still offer a delivery service if required.
- We will be running a cross-community summer scheme in July and August this year
- Our women's group continues via zoom with eight of them coming into the Centre for face-to-face group.

### **Natasha McDonagh, Connections Service Key Worker, Start 360**

#### **Northern Connections**

- Currently planning for the next regional campaign NI Alcohol Awareness week- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June - Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- Continuing to deliver Drug & Alcohol Awareness sessions online and if requested out in the community,
- We have a vast majority of free Drug & Alcohol resources- Leaflets, booklets, Coffee Cups, unit cups, pens etc. available. We are more than happy to deliver these to any groups or organisations upon request or they can be collected from our Ballymena office.

For more information on support, awareness session or resources contact [natasha.mcdonagh@start360.org](mailto:natasha.mcdonagh@start360.org) 07814641326

#### **Start360 Daisy**

Daisy is a Drug & Alcohol intervention service for young people aged 11-25yrs old with substance misuse issues. It is delivered in a partnership between Start360 and Ascertainment. The Service operates in Belfast, South Eastern, Northern and Western Health and Social Care Trust areas.

- Offer young people and their families with one to one counselling, key work, family support & family systemic work.
- Family members can also get advice and support - regardless of whether their significant other is seeking help.
- Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted 4 week waiting list at present.

Contact [Catriona.fitzsimons@start360.org](mailto:Catriona.fitzsimons@start360.org) or Download referral form: [www@start360.org](http://www@start360.org)

#### **Targeted Life Skills**

Targeted Life Skills Programme is delivered in partnership between Start360 and Ascertainment. Targeted Life skills programme is aimed at young people aged 11-13, 14-15 and 16-21 who may be deemed at risk of misusing alcohol and other substances or those who are likely to take part in risk taking behaviours.

- Currently working in Primary schools (P7), Secondary schools, EOTAS and online.
- Planning to do a summer roadshow and would be open to holding a stall or small taster session for any interested groups.
- They are also available for summer schemes etc.  
Contact [Claire.thompson@start360.org](mailto:Claire.thompson@start360.org)

### **Start360 Voices**

Voices are a service within Start360 that provides support for young people between the ages of 8-18yrs who have been impacted by parental substance misuse. The Service operates in Northern and Western Health Social Care Trust areas.

- Voices offer one- to one counselling, family support, family systemic work, & key working.
- There is no set number of sessions and the work is guided by the young people.
- Referrals from social services & any other profession e.g. doctors, teachers

Contact [Catriona.fitzsimons@start360.org](mailto:Catriona.fitzsimons@start360.org) or Download referral form:

[www@start360.org](http://www@start360.org)

### **YES- Youth Engagement Service Start360**

Youth Engagement Service Based in Ballymena town centre provides support, information and signposting for young people 11-25 & parents. Drop in & after school social space for 15-25 year olds. Outreach to schools & Youth Groups.

- Working with 4 schools in Ballymena and Ballymoney provided targeted programme, individual work and Chill & Chat spaces for young people:  
St Patricks College: Mon-Thurs mornings.  
Castle Tower: Mon- Thurs mornings.  
Our Lady of Lourdes: Wed & Thurs lunchtimes - also recently provided two full days of wellbeing sessions to 120 YP.  
Ballymoney High- Mon & Tues lunchtimes
- Facilitating Young Men's Thursday evening football for aged 16+ at Ballymena Showgrounds.
- Delivering a Walk-In support service at YES 3 afternoons /1 morning per week (for a chat, cuppa, information, support or signposting to services)
- Delivering online and walk & talk support to a small number of young people
- Planning for reopening of Drop-In service in June and a Summer programme of activities

Contact [Gerry.mcveigh@start360.org](mailto:Gerry.mcveigh@start360.org) or Download referral form:

[www@start360.org](http://www@start360.org)

### **Lynsey McVitty, Health & Wellbeing Officer, NHSCT**

- Nutrition talks for various ages of children ongoing
- The NHSCT will be relaunching a scheme that entitles young people 16-25 to free sexual health advice and condoms using the C-Card
- Foster care Fortnight: Trust is looking more supported lodgings for young people leaving care and more foster carers

## 7. ACTION PLAN UPDATE

- PANTS campaign (NSPCC Campaign which trains parents to talk to their children to prevent sexual abuse for children aged 4-8 years) is finished but still can get support with training sessions, parents' awareness raising sessions, parents' booklets & posters. Any queries please contact Lynsey.
- Relax and regulate training re: resilience and mental health has started and delivered by Fresh Minds Education.
- CSN Physical activity programmes have started, evaluation is positive
- Outdoor toy box will be placed in People's Park to encourage outdoor play
- Looking After Me transition journal: The journal is to help with emotional health and wellbeing. It includes questions and exercises to prompt young people to think about their feelings and gives space for emotions they want to explore. They are also used by some pastoral care people as a talking tool or they have given them to young people as a follow up tool that the young person can use on their own.
- AMH MH awareness training with adults and staff positive
- AMH 7 bitesize (30 mins) children's programmes and 2 more adult programmes planned
- Aware NI Online Mood Matters for Young People Programme
- Aware MHFA training in June
- Demystifying Disability Hate crime webinar completed

### Future Actions

**Physical Activity** - Encouraging outdoor activity sub group begun. There will be 1-2 actions coming from that in the next few months

**Other- Poverty/money management** Staff Talk, Learn, Do training 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am-12.30pm (Staff working with parents with children ages 3-11)

Online safety Gam Care training (ages 11-19)

- 7<sup>th</sup> June: One-hour Gambling Awareness Workshop
- 14<sup>th</sup> June: 3 hour training
- 20<sup>th</sup> September: Gambling and gaming
- 27<sup>th</sup> September: 3 hour training

## 8. AOB

CYPSP Antrim & Ballymena Facebook Page, please share and promote items of interest.

**9. Date of next Meeting - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 at 2pm via Zoom.**