

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Regional Sub Group on Black and Minority Ethnic Children and Young People

17/05/2013

Present:	Leslie Boydell (Co- Chair) Paul Yam (Co-Chair) Sergeant Lee Russell Eileen Chan-Hu Conor Smith (substitute) Stephen Smith Tommy Boyle Justyna McCabe Kieran Shields	Belfast Trust Wah Hep Chinese Association PSNI Chinese Welfare Association Northern Ireland Housing Executive Craigavon Intercultural Programme Belfast Trust Newry and Mourne Council Southern/Western ELB
In attendance:	Maurice Leeson Andrew Hawthorne Paula Keenan Maria Herron	Children Services Planning, HSCB Children Services Planning, HSCB Participation Network Parenting NI
Apologies:	Lisa Moore Jo Marley Martina Flynn Elaine O'Doherty Deirdre McAliskey Mary Yarr	Safe and Well Project Bryson Southern HSCT Public Health Agency Belong NEELB (Kieran Shields deputising)

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters arising

A children and young person's version of the action plan has been produced and was agreed to be circulated at the last meeting

Action: Andrew to circulate to the group

The importance of feeding back to children, young people and parents when their views have been sought was reflected in the group.

Maurice Leeson outlined the role of Delivering Social Change (DSC), stating that a formal link has been made between DSC and the CYPSP. There is also on-going work to link OFMDFMs work on child rights indicators with the CYPSP information system.

Andrew Hawthorne fed back to the group on correspondence with BAAF. The group agreed that it was appropriate to invite BAAF along to do a presentation at a future meeting.

Action: Andrew Hawthorne to follow up

Kieran Shields informed the group of publications by Adoption UK- 'Let's Learn Together: A guide for parents and teachers of adopted children in primary school in Northern Ireland' with a view to having translated and also 'Moving On'; an information resource for transition from primary school to secondary school which has been subtitled in 5 languages for use in the Southern Area but with a view to regional roll out.

Consultation Feedback

Andrew Hawthorne outlined the process of consultation feedback including that the group will need to determine its response to the issues raised by other organisations. There was a response from SELB/WELB in particular that raised a number of issues. Kieran Shields was able to present on these and the group decided to redraft some areas as a result. The group also decided that all information should be referenced where possible, known projects and programmes that were making a positive impact and issues regarding vulnerable groups of children and young people should be included where appropriate.

Action: Andrew to work with Kieran to make amendments

Feedback from Parents

Maria Herron provided feedback on the 3 consultation events that took place with parents. It was agreed that the feedback from parents, along with that of children and young people would be analysed further within the context of what has already been included in the action plan in developing a final draft.

Action: Andrew to work with Maria to determine what needs to be included

Action: The group to provide feedback on the draft to ensure that there is consensus on the decisions reached and any further inclusions necessary

Members of the group agreed that it would be useful to use the information gathered in consultation with parents, children and young people as much as possible. Members agreed that distributing this information, particularly to Equality Units within agencies would be useful. Following some discussion, it was agreed that individual examples from parents provide a rich source of qualitative data, and it was also clarified that the role of the facilitator was to report this and not to try to resolve or raise individual cases with agencies, unless there was a child protection concern. This decision will be reflected in an additional proviso to be included in all future reports. The documents could then be used by members of the group and published accordingly.

Action: Parenting NI to draw up a brief proviso to include in future reports, in consultation with CYPSP Co-ordinators.

Action: Group members to distribute within their organisations as appropriate

The next meeting of the Parent's Reference group will take place on June 22nd 2013 in Belfast and Eileen Chan-Hu agreed to attend to represent the group.

Action: Eileen Chan-Hu to attend the next meeting of BME parents

Feedback from children and young people

Paula Keenan presented the feedback from children and young people and the group agreed the same as for the parents above. Paula informed the group that this would likely be the last meeting of she would be attending as the group already had a robust structure to ensure the engagement of children and young people and any direct feedback should be done through that structure.

Terms of Reference

The group explored their role and next steps. They agreed that the role of the group was to implement and monitor the action plan and determine which actions the group can do, not as a commissioning body, but rather through better coordination.

The attendance of group members was highlighted. The group was informed that they could now send one named substitute in the event that they could not attend meetings.

Due to the pending retirement of Leslie Boydell a new chair needs to be nominated. Eileen Chan-Hu and Paul Yam offered to continue their roles as Co-Chairs in the interim. It was felt that a Co-Chair from the statutory sector would also be useful.

Action: Maurice Leeson to seek a volunteer for Chair from the Statutory sector

SAAT

The group discussed the strategic link with SAAT and agreed this would happen in principle. The group will determine exactly how this linkage will work.

Young Carers

Maurice Leeson reported that the Young Carers group is seeking advice and support on expanding service in the BME community. The group felt that the Regional BME Carers Group would be more useful to get advice from.

AOB

Paul Yam discussed the potential to share information from this group with the ongoing work of OFMDFM's Race Equality Strategy, particularly the views of children, young people and parents when those documents are finalised.

Stephen Smith informed the group of ongoing research into BME still births being conducted by the University of Ulster and available at the end of the summer. Stephen also informed the group of successful funding obtained to continue a number of programmes.

Maurice Leeson led the acknowledgements of Leslie Boydell's role in the group and her continued commitment to improving lives for BME communities. The group shared in wishing Leslie a happy retirement.

Date of Next Meeting

Friday 6th September 2013 10am Bagenal's Castle, Castle Street, Newry, Co. Down
BT34 2DA