

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

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

22/03/2013

Present:	Leslie Boydell (Co- Chair) Paul Yam (Co-Chair) Sergeant Lee Russell Deirdre McAliskey	Belfast Trust Wah Hep Chinese Association PSNI Belong
	Stephen Smith Elaine O'Doherty	Craigavon Intercultural Programme Public Health Agency
In attendance:	Maurice Leeson Andrew Hawthorne Anna Clarke	Children Services Planning, HSCB Children Services Planning, HSCB Participation Network
Apologies:	Justyna McCabe Mary Yarr	Newry and Mourne Council North Eastern Education Library Board
	Eileen Chan-Hu Lisa Moore Jo Marley Martina Flynn Alison McNulty Maria Herron Tommy Boyle Colm McQuillan	Chinese Welfare Association Safe and Well Project Bryson Southern HSCT Parenting NI Parenting NI Belfast Trust Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Introduction

Apologies were received from SAAT and therefore there was no formal presentation. There was no formal presentation from the Stronger Together however an update was possible and included on the agenda.

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 was produced.

Action: Andrew to circulate to the group

Further engagement with children and young people

Anna Clarke outlined the future participation of children and young people. Events have been planned to get feedback from:

- Roma children and young people through Bryson
- Chinese children and young people through Wah Hep (including one from Pakistan)
- With Belong planned for April 13th
- Craigavon Intercultural Programme
- Families seeking asylum through Bryson
- Southern Travellers
- Potentially one with a Muslim youth group in Craigavon
- Also potentially one with Portuguese/African children and young people through Craigavon Intercultural Programme

The group recognised that despite a April 2nd deadline for consultation responses, it was important to be flexible to account for pending feedback. The group raised an issue regarding geographical representation, noting that many groups deal with BME adults only. This was emphasized by Paul Yam who stated the need to report back the gaps to the CYPSP to ensure that there is geographical representation of the participation of children and young people.

Deirdre McAliskey raised a concern regarding feeding back to children and young people as a result of their feedback, in line with best practice. There is a need for the CYPSP to

ensure that this process is robust and transparent so that children and young people are empowered and motivated to continue to engage.

Action: Maurice to take forward to ensure a clear commitment to feedback to children and young people.

Group generally to maintain a robust process of feeding back to children and young people as a result of their consultations.

Leslie Boydell raised a concern about available resources for the group and more generally how the group can take forward any work and link with ongoing work elsewhere, including that of the Outcomes Groups to ensure that BME remains on the agenda. Other concerns included regional representation on the group and member's attendance. Maurice Leeson reminded the group of the influential role it has as a sub group of the CYPSP and it should use this role to influence the work of the Outcomes Groups and other forums in order to influence funding. The group felt that time spent reflecting back to the terms of reference of the group to explore this issue further would be a useful exercise. This is particularly timely as the action plans will be finalised following the consultation process and gaps can be easier identified. A number of actions arose from the discussion.

Action: Andrew to monitor the attendance of the group to date and feedback to the group

Andrew to scan the action plans of the Outcomes Groups for actions relating to BME children and young people

Andrew to provide the terms of reference for the next meeting

Andrew Hawthorne outlined the consultation process stating that there is a template that will aid the analysis of the consultation responses and allow feedback to the group at the next meeting. The group will consider this feedback and determine appropriate actions and rationale for each which will be recorder in the template. The template will then be published on the website to ensure the process is transparent.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Many of the issues had been covered already for this agenda item. It was suggested that an engagement plan for all of the CYPSP would be useful rather than each group developing their own. Deirdre McAliskey informed the group of ongoing work with OFMDFM's child's rights indicators, using this as an example of how the group can better link with ongoing work. Despite the attendance of a number of the group's members, it was felt that a formal invitation to the group and more meaningful engagement would better benefit the status of the group. Maurice Leeson informed the group that there are regular meetings held with OFMDFM and with Delivering Social Change.

Action: Maurice Leeson to follow this up and continue to update the group

Any Other Business

Leslie Boydell updated the group on the work of the Stronger Together Network. This included plans for website development and making data available. It also included the planned conference on Wednesday March 27th 2013 which will explore the role the network can play and sharing of best practice and information.

Contact has been received from the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) who have expressed an interest in the work of the group.

Action: Andrew to follow up the initial enquiry to get more detail

Deirdre McAliskey informed the group of the Belong event being held on April 13th in Armagh City Hotel. The morning event will involve consultations with children, young people and parents and will be facilitated with the help of Parenting NI and Participation Network. The afternoon session will involve a children's court with the NICCY's Children's Commissioner for which everyone is invited.

Stephen Smith informed the group of the ongoing work of Freedom Acts and Human Trafficking and the launch of their DVD in Portadown on March 22nd.

Leslie Boydell informed the group of her pending retirement in June 2013. As a result the group will need to find a new Co-Chair.

Date of Next Meeting

The group decided the next meeting will be dedicated to the consultation exercise and a review of the Terms of Reference. The meeting will take place in Belfast.

Friday 17th May 2013 9.45am to 1pm. Belfast venue TBC