

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership

Children and Young People and Offending Sub-Group

Minutes of Meeting held on 13 February 2012

Present:	Paula Jack	YJA (Chair)
	Eithne McIlroy	PBNI
	Pamela Sweeny	Action for Children
	Sharon Beattie	PSNI
	Ann Maire McClure	Opportunity Youth
	Andrew Hawthorn	HSCB
	John Duffy	HSCB
	Edel Quinn	Include Youth
	Dave Weir	NIACRO
	Stephen Lilley	PSNI
	Angela Devlin	Extern
	Ann Godfrey	HSCB
	Franziska Hewitt	YJA
	Nicola Reynolds	(In attendance)
Apologies:	Una Magee	Barnardos
	Mark Radcliffe	NI Courts and Tribunal Service

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were noted and duly agreed subject to one amendment that the words “early intervention” in paragraph 2, page 3, should be amended to “the purpose of the Children and Young People and Offending sub-group”. (See strategic direction at paragraph 4)

2. Matters Arising

➤ **Attendance at CYPSP:**

A representative from The Department of Education is currently in the process of being identified, with the intention that they will attend the next meeting.

The identification of representation from the Community Safety Partnership is also to be followed up.

➤ **Family Support Website:**

Action: All members are to check that information has been amended on the website and confirm this at the next meeting.

➤ **Standard relating to Young People Involved in the Criminal Justice System:**

The strategic aim of the sub-group has been agreed. The final version will be sent to all group members after today's meeting.

The adherence to the standard in particular the need to work in a coherent manner will be overseen by this group.

➤ **Youth Justice Review – Children and Young People and Offending Sub-group response:**

The members of the group have put a lot of work put into responses to the Youth Justice Review. Our response has been sent to the Department of Justice.

A list of all responses to the Youth Justice Review is expected to be published in March 2012.

Action: To be kept on Agenda

3. Update from Early Intervention Sub-group:

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will map statutory and non-statutory services available and gaps in these services in all geographical areas.

Strategic work is needed, to ensure that young people are able to access relevant services. The two staged process needs to map the services in the areas and then to

define the routes to ensure that young people in the justice system are able to access the appropriate existing ones and to create new ones where there are gaps.

4. Children and Young People and Offending Action Plan

Dave Weir, Stephen Lilley, Ann Godfrey and Aideen McLaughlin prepared points for the group to continue to develop.

The Children and Young People and Offending sub-group action plan is to be drawn up before next financial year.

It was agreed that the group would define:

- Strategic directions for the action plan and
- Lower level outcomes measures

➤ **Strategic direction for the action plan:**

To agree what the sub-group wants to achieve and define our strategy regarding the work with young people who offend.

It was agreed at the Children and Offending sub-group meeting on the 21st October 2011 that the Children and Young People and Offending sub-group will focus on:-

- Young people at risk of offending
- Young people in the youth justice system
- Young people for whom offending and its consequences presents a significant risk

The group's focus needs to be clearly defined in relation to young people who offend. We agreed that the remit of this group is young people **who have come to police attention**. The sub-group may also need to highlight to the Outcomes Groups where there maybe potential risk of offending by young people where this has not (yet) been the case including situations where family members, and not the child itself has come to police attention.

The Outcomes Groups currently have their action plans out for consultation. These do not appear to include a lot of detail on offending. The sub-group's action plan will need to inform the Outcome Groups action plans in relation to young people and offending.

➤ **Action Plan**

The draft definitions below were agreed for the strategic direction for the action plan for the six High Level Outcomes. This will be further developed at a one day work shop in March to provide detailed outcome measures to support the strategic direction.

Healthy

The meeting agreed that this outcome should specifically focus on mental health, emotional well-being and substance misuse.

➤ **Strategic direction for the action plan:**

Children and young people involved in the criminal justice system have the right to access appropriate emotional health and well-being services including support for substance misuse issues.

➤ **Outcomes:**

Outcomes to be achieved include:

- Find out what currently exists
- Map existing pathway and pathways improved
- Ensure that people involved in offending are not excluded from services

Enjoying Learning and Achieving

➤ **Strategic direction for the action plan:**

Children and young people in the criminal justice system have the right for support to remain or be reintegrated into an appropriate education programme.

➤ **Outcomes:**

Outcomes to be achieved include:

- The sub-group will advise Outcomes Groups to monitor truancy by all children and young people. Truancy can be sign of offending rather than an outcome of it
- We will include children/young people leaving custody

Living in Safety and with Stability

➤ **Strategic direction for the action plan:**

- Children at all stages of the criminal justice system have the right to be safe
- Children and young people in the criminal justice system have the right to be offered as much stability as possible

➤ **Outcomes:**

Areas for outcomes to be achieved in relation to safety include:

- risk of paramilitary threat and risk of exploitation
- bullying; to include social networking sites
- safety within the family setting

Outcomes to be achieved in relation to stability include:

- Consistency of key workers
- Being able to remain in appropriate accommodation where possible

Experiencing Economic and Environmental Well-being

➤ **Strategic direction for the action plan:**

- Children and young people have the right to live in environments where they can flourish
- Children and young people have the right to be offered opportunities to contribute positively to the economy and society

➤ **Outcomes:**

Outcomes to be achieved include:

- Opportunities for project work or voluntary work
- Support to get jobs and access to employability services
- Opportunity to access appropriate accommodation for themselves and their families

Contributing to Community and Society

➤ **Strategic direction for the action plan:**

Children and young people have the right to be offered opportunities to contribute positively to the community and society.

➤ **Outcomes:**

Outcomes to be achieved include:

The sub-groups aim is to reduce the re-offending rate for children and young people:

- Reduce offending
- Reduce avoidable delay

Living in a Society which Respects their Rights

➤ **Strategic direction for the action plan:**

The rights of children and young people are paramount throughout all stages of their involvement in the criminal justice system.

➤ **Outcomes:**

A discussion took place in relation to the rights and best interest of the child being paramount balanced with the needs of victims. Best practice in the youth justice system in relation to children's rights needs to be developed. This includes recommendations in the Youth Justice Review Report and UNCRC Observations 2008.

Outcomes to be achieved include:

- Participation
- Voice of the child
- Engagement strategy
- Reducing PACE remands to the Juvenile Justice Centre Woodlands

5. Any Other Business

None.

6. Date of Next meeting:

A full day workshop will take place within the next few weeks. A list of four dates will be emailed out to all members tomorrow, responses are requested by Friday 17 February 2012.

Action: Further dates for 2012/13 to be agreed at the full day workshop.