



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Children and Young People and Offending Sub-Group

21 October 2011

Present: Paula Jack, YJA (Chair)
Ann Godfrey, HSCB
David Weir, NIACRO
Edel Quinn, Include Youth
Helen Dunn, Action for Children
Una Magee, Barnardos
Peter Luney, NICTs
Martine McKillop, CSU
Brian Grzymek, DoJ
Sharon Beattie, PSNI
Colin McCready, Hydebank Wood
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI
Stephen Lilley, PSNI

Following introductions, Paula explained the purpose of the meeting – to explore how the work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership could be progressed in the Children and Offending sub-group and explore the possibility of joining the Youth Justice sub-group and this group together. The purpose of this meeting was to agree terms of reference and begin to agree a plan of work to move forward.

Ann Godfrey gave a presentation on the aims of the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) and circulated a hard copy of her presentation. The CYPSP has representation at Chief Executive level and meets three times per year. A draft 3 year Children and Young People's Plan has been prepared and is currently out for consultation (closes 09/11/11). The plan is outcomes based, aims to inform individual organisations business plans and has the inclusion of families and young people as integral to the planning process.

It will be important that the Children and offending sub-group of CYPSP has attendees who are mandated to be there and who will be consistent attendees. It was noted that at the CYPSP level, the PSNI need to have representation at ACC level.

Action: Sharon to feedback to PSNI the need for police representation at Assistant Chief Constable

The Children and Young People's Plan drives forward children's rights as well as needs and is grounded in Human Rights legislation and the whole child model.

There are a number of regional sub-groups:

- Children, young people and offending
- Children with a disability
- Transition for disabled children and young people
- Young carers
- Black and Minority Ethnic children
- Children and young people with emotional/behavioural difficulties.

The CYPSP has strategic themes including:

1. Early Intervention – looking at the 6 high level outcomes and integrated planning and commissioning of services.
2. Advising Government – there is recognition that cross-Departmental support is needed to develop a single approach to children and young people.

The next tier consists of the 5 Outcomes groups (1 per Trust) – focusing on the 6 high level outcomes and then:

Locality groups: cross-agency groups consisting of statutory, voluntary and community organisations focusing on particular areas/communities. These groups should be able to access detailed statistical information on young people and offending in their areas. The family support website is now operational and should assist families and professionals in accessing supports/interventions locally.

Action: All organisations to access the website and quality assure the content for their organisation.

Ann advised that DSD have been invited onto the partnership to link their work under Neighbourhood Renewal and Early Intervention. Declan McGeown (Community Safety) also sits on the CYPSP.

Each sub-group has been tasked with developing an action plan and explore what integrated planning and commissioning can be done to deliver services over and above what could be delivered individually.

Paula asked that the group consider:

1. How would the sub-group on children and offending look like?
2. Are the right people involved? Are there any omissions?
3. Each organisation was to look at the action plan and we would convene a further meeting in the near future.

It was agreed that a partnership approach is the way forward and all acknowledged the central importance of early intervention, both early age and early stage and within a whole community approach.

For the purposes of the Children and Offending sub-group it was agreed that the definition of early intervention relates to the prevention of offending and includes:

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

In terms of suggested outcomes, one of the measures could be a reduction in the numbers of children who are at risk coming into the formal criminal justice system. Some useful outcome measures are already in place via the HSCB Early Intervention (8-13 yrs) programmes.

Who needs to attend these meetings?

It was agreed that NIHE and Education need to be involved as well as the Public Prosecution Service, Trust representatives and the Youth Service.

Actions: The template for action plans is to be explored at the next meeting to be arranged in early December.

Ann Godfrey is to give Paula information on the standards for Children, Young People and offending.

Date of next meeting to be arranged but in the meantime the Youth Offending sub-group and the offending sub-group of CYPSP will run in tandem.

**Aideen McLaughlin
3 November 2011**