

**Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership**

**Children and Young People and offending Sub-group**

**Minutes of meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

**Present:**

Paula Jack	YJA (Chair)
Pamela Sweeney	Action for Children (representing Helen Dunn)
Carolyn Paterson	PBNI (representing Eithne McIlroy)
John Duffy	HSCB
Edel Quinn	Include Youth
Dave Weir	NIACRO
Stephen Lilley	PSNI
Angela Devlin	Extern
Eamon Jones	DoJ
Ann Godfrey	HSB
Franziska Hewitt	YJA
Aideen McLaughlin	YJA

**Apologies:**

Una Magee	Barnardos
Tom Cassidy	WHSCT
Peter Luney	NICTS

**1. Minutes of the previous meeting**

One amendment was noted on page 3 relating to the definition of the work of the sub-group.

**2. Matters Arising**

**PSNI attendance at CYPSP**

This matter has been raised by Stephen, and John Compton is to write a letter to the Chief Constable. Stephen informed the meeting that the new Assistant Chief Constable, George Hamilton is due to take up post on 5/12/11.

**Family Support Website**

The PSNI phone numbers are not accurate and YJA details need to be amended. Community Safety Managers have been tasked with checking the website. Actions to

amend information on the website are to be taken forward by individual organisations and those who have not looked at the website will do so before the next meeting.

**ACTION:** All members.

Standards for Children and Young People and Offending: This information was circulated by Ann and is a later agenda item.

### **3. Children and Young People and Offending Action Plan**

A summary of the task to be completed was made and Ann provided additional information relating to the previous targets that were agreed from within Children's Services Planning, related to the six high level outcomes.

#### Healthy

- Rate of emotional health and well-being

#### Enjoying Learning and Achieving

- Percentage of children in mainstream school

#### Living in Safety and with Stability

- Rates of prosecution of children aged 10 – 17 years
- Rates of crime against children
- Fear of crime/anti-social behaviour
- Numbers of children experiencing serious injury within custody
- Safe and secure and valued by their community.

#### Experiencing Economic and Environmental well-being

- In employment, education or training at the end of supervision

#### Contributing to community and society

- Percentage of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system
- Percentage of children re-offending in 12 months
- Numbers off ASBOs
- Percentage of Looked After Children in the criminal justice system
- Rates of bullying – 9-19 years

#### Living in a Society which Respects their Rights

- Average number of days from charge to disposal
- YJA percentage of parents involved in the care process
- Numbers of under 18 year olds in Hydebank Wood

A discussion took place about the types of outcomes that members would want included. Community Safety Partnerships view ASBOs at the end of the process and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and warning letters could be a useful measure. The partnerships also undertake community audits which would pinpoint specific issues for the locality groups.

With regard to respecting young people's rights it was noted that the N.I. Crime Survey and questions on anti-social behaviour could provide a good indicator of how adults perceive young people.

## 17 year olds

The issues associated with young people transferring into adult services aged 18 was discussed and the fact that there is a different value base, ways of interacting with adults than with young people.

An 18 year old offender is not as supported as a 17 year old – more needs to be done with this age group.

It was agreed that the position of 17 year olds in terms of provision of services and transition should be a focus for the group.

**ACTION:** Member organisations to include actions on transition in their objectives.

## Young people diverted from prosecution

If we are measuring numbers of children diverted we need also to know what they are diverted to and have confidence that it is an objective, non-criminal justice intervention. There is a need also to look at the local action plans and link up with overall Children and Young People and Offending N.I. plan.

The sub-group should also relay to outcomes group what actions they need to do and there should be an influence as to what outcomes they are working to and a link to early intervention etc to jointly deploy resources. It was suggested that soundings could be taken from the outcomes groups as to what needs to be contained within the offending plan.

There was some confusion relating to the remit of the Children and Young People and Offending Sub-Group relating to issues such as:

- What is the remit of the group?
- Who attends?
- How does the group connect with the Early Intervention Sub-Group?
- Where do other organisations working with children fit in?

Paula reported that the CYPSP is the link to feed into government but it has only met on 3 occasions. This sub-group through Paula's involvement will link back into CYPSP. There is a need for crossover to early intervention but the CYPSP is only at the point of agreeing with their understanding of Early Intervention is and what each of the partners can contribute. This group will have a remit to advise the CYPSP and the outcomes groups.

Paula reminded the meeting that the remit of this sub-group is what was agreed at our last meeting namely "to explore how the work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership can be progressed in the Children and Offending sub-group and explore the possibility of joining the Youth Justice sub-group and this group together".

We will need to define what our entry point is. From a PSNI perspective it is at the point of arrest when an article 3 caution is read. This definition would include the under 10s. There was concern that the definitions could result in net-widening and in writing the outcomes for the sub-group there will be a need to make the challenges explicit.

This group will set the strategic directions for the outcomes groups for children and young people at risk of offending.

It was noted that there will be a need to address mental health issues and services for alcohol and drugs etc. and to define how monies invested has impacted on reducing the numbers of children in custody or reduced the seriousness or frequency of re-offending.

**ACTION:** Ann will e-mail the background papers on previous outcomes for circulation to the sub-group members.

Organisations are asked to provide feedback on the qualitative and quantitative outcomes from their organisations perspective within 2 weeks by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011. On the template the particular high level outcome to which the actions relate should be written in the box at the top of the page and then outcomes grouped as to whether they relate to young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system or those who are in criminal justice system.

**ACTION:** All organisations to return outcomes by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

A further meeting will then be organised for early January to discuss and pull together a final version.

It was noted that for these young people who present the highest risk of re-offending there can often be a large number of professionals involved in their lives. At some stage it would be useful to rationalize this and in the longer term all organisations would be working towards this..

## **5. Youth Justice Review – CYPSP response**

It was noted that member organisations will be making individual responses but that collectively we would support recommendations 1, 2, 3, 23, 24 and 26.

It was agreed that Ann would prepare a letter on behalf of CYPSP agreeing with the recommendations in a general way.

It was suggested that for recommendation 23 we agreed with the spirit of the recommendation but that the Inter-Ministerial Sub-Committee on children could be re-energised and become the connection between the CYPSP and government. It was noted that the recently issued programme for government has not reference to early intervention. A query was raised regarding the setting up of an Early Intervention unit – if the Inter-Ministerial Committee on children was prioritised and re-invigorated, such a unit would not be necessary.

**ACTION:** Ann will draw up a response to the Youth Justice Review.

## **6. Children's Services Framework Standard on Youth Justice**

Ann explained that the Health & Social Care Board has in its Children's Services Framework included standards for young people in mainstream services and children in special circumstances.

The Health and Social Care Board are seeking a standard in relation to children and young people at risk of offending.

The Children and Young People Offending sub-group members are invited to submit one or two line proposals to Ann Godfrey in the first week of December on the most important issues which we would like to see in a standard. Ann will be collating the information and formulating it into a standard.

Suggestions discussed were in relation to how young people are dealt with in the youth justice system and about listening to and respecting young people. Edel will be looking at Include Youth feedback from young people. Dave suggested that the theme for the standard might be in relation to 'not making it worse' or 'do no harm' by dealing with young people before they enter or whilst involved in the Youth Justice System.

**ACTION:** All members to submit proposals to Ann Godfrey in the first week of December.

## **7. AOB**

None

## **8. Date of next meeting**

To be arranged.