



CYPSP Children, Young People and Offending Sub-Group
Minutes of meeting held on 30th January 2014
YJA Waring Street, Belfast

Present:

Paula Jack	YJA (Chair)
Orlaith McGibbon	YJA
Andrew Hawthorne	HSCB
Koulla Yiasouma	Include Youth
Maurice Leeson	HSCB
Lee Russell	PSNI
Tony Martin	NIACRO
Helen Dunn	Action for Children
Mark Dennison	PSNI
Angela Devlin	Extern
John Duffy	Health & Social Care Board
Gary Reid	PSNI
Jim Wharton	YJA (minutes)

Apologies:

Yvonne Cooke	PSNI
Una Magee	Barnardos
Stephen Donaldson	PPSNI
Sinead Simpson	CSU
Anne-Marie McClure	Opportunity Youth
Alex Barr	WELB
Michael Heaney	YJA

Paula asked for a round of introductions and this took place.

Declaration of Conflict of Interests:

None declared

Minutes of last meeting:

Agreed by all

Matters arising:

UNOCINI – PBNI Database

In the absence of Paul Thompson it was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

Update from CYPSP Strategic Partnership:

Maurice advised that a meeting of Chairs had included discussion on the following:

- Refreshing of membership every 3 years - Maurice stated that ideally it was hoped that a balance could be struck between continuity and change
- Action Plans – it was felt that these should be reduced to 3 or 4 things which could be focussed on and achieved more fully than a large number of things, some of which may not be achieved
- Overlaps between regional groups – Maurice spoke about the need for information sharing between groups. Paula agreed that it was desirable for overlapping groups to meet to look at work being done by each and to share knowledge and information. Paula stated that the joint strategic group needed to know about the work being done by the CYPO sub group.
Maurice stated that the Safeguarding Board understood and agreed not to set up groups that can be covered by our working groups

Update from work streams

Accommodation

Orlaith updated the meeting on the work of the Accommodation work stream stating that there were concerns around the lack of readily available accommodation for young people and how this impacts on bail decisions etc. Orlaith stated that she had met with Deirdre Coyle from Health and Social Care Board and Brian O’Kane from Supporting People who had indicated that it may be possible to access supported housing accommodation. It is planned to develop this further at the next meeting in the near future.

There was discussion around issues relating to the status of young people who might be accommodated, the basis on which they could be placed in accommodation and their suitability to be housed should they continue to offend or breach bail.

Orlaith stated her understanding that young people in this situation would be regarded as a 'child in need'. John Duffy advised that after 24 hours they would be a 'Looked After Child'

It was agreed that work needs to be done to ensure that there would be no unintended consequences in providing accommodation.

Orlaith stressed that numbers were small, stating that in the previous month 3 young people had been refused bail because of lack of accommodation.

Koulla stated that young people needed support as well as accommodation. It was agreed that there were a multiplicity of reasons for young people finding themselves in homeless situations.

Education, Training and Employment

Orlaith stated that this group had met twice to date. The group included representation from the following:

Opportunity Youth

Youth Justice Agency

Include Youth

NIACRO

An invitation had been extended to Education but they declined to attend.

Extern plan to attend next meeting.

The group initially met to decide the purpose and scope of their remit, to look at the current situation and background context.

Orlaith reported on the results of a survey of 23 young people in the JJC looking at education status and attitudes/perceptions towards employment.

Orlaith also spoke about the YJA/DEL partnership agreement which was launched in September 2012, numbers referred, and indicators being used to measure effectiveness.

It was felt that more work needs to be done in the collating of data and statistics in relation to DEL involvement with young people involved in offending.

Orlaith outlined the groups planned next steps and their intention to involve representation from education. It is hoped that Alex Barr, who was unable to attend today's meeting, will become involved in this work stream.

Maurice stated that he would forward Orlaith's contact details to Damien McCann, Community Family Support Programme. Koulla also suggested that Lorraine Boyd, co-ordinator of NEETS strategy group could provide useful information.

Paula spoke about ongoing work being done by Belfast MET.

ACTION POINT: Maurice to forward Orlaith's contact details to Damien McCann – Community Family support programme.

ACTION POINT: Koulla to send Orlaith contact details for Lorraine Boyd – NEETS Strategy group.

YP Advocacy Service

Koulla briefly outlined ongoing work within this work stream. The group met in December to try to define what needed to happen.

There was discussion around what constituted a good advocate and what advocacy services are already in place, including the Youth Advocacy Service.

Koulla stated that the group had a useful meeting and that work was ongoing and a date for a further meeting would be set.

ACTION POINT: The group to invite representatives from PSNI and YJA.

Early Intervention

Maurice reported on ongoing work within this work stream stating that work had begun on the creation of a database of services providing Early Intervention. Maurice spoke about the possibility of working jointly with the PSNI re: services currently available – Mark stated that PSNI would be happy to do this.

Maurice highlighted the upcoming DoJ Early Intervention Transformation Programme. Paula stressed the need to move quickly to put together a proposal on how we move this forward.

Koulla informed the meeting of the publication of a PhD thesis on Early Intervention and agreed to forward this to Jim for circulation to CYPO sub group members

ACTION POINT: Koulla to forward paper to Jim for circulation to sub group members.

Paula stated that good progress was being made by all working groups.

CYPO Sub group scorecard

Maurice circulated copies of the scorecard and briefly spoke about same. There was discussion around young people involved in or at risk of offending behaviour affected by the sectarian divided society.

Paula asked that the group think about what we can do to help prevent such offending.

Discussion also re: Integrated Plans – Maurice agreed to contact Catriona Rooney in relation to this.

ACTION POINT: All group members to consider possible ways to help prevent sectarian related offending.

ACTION POINT: Maurice to contact Catriona Rooney re: Integrated Plans.

Offending Monitoring Report

Andrew went through the report stating how figures were arrived at. There was some discussion around the report. Paula asked members to read this document and stated that this would be on the agenda once again at the next meeting.

ACTION POINT: All members to study Offending Monitoring Report in preparation for next meeting.

Key messages/Summary/Communication Items

Maurice asked for any key messages we wished to send to other groups. Paula suggested offending Monitoring Report and CYPO sub group scorecard should be shared.

AOB

Helen announced that this would be the last CYPO sub group meeting which she would be attending.

Paula wished to acknowledge her valuable contribution to the work of the group.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 1st May 2014