

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

LAC/ 16+ Regional Sub Group

10th May 2013

Present:	Tony Rodgers (Chair)	HSCB
	Marian Hall	HSCB
	Una Lernihan	HSCB
	Una Turbitt	PHA
	Angela Devlin	Extern
	Carina Boyle	Action for Children
	Paddy Mooney	Include Youth
	Deirdre Coyle	HSCB
	Marion Magill	DEL
	Stephen Knox	Barnardo's
	Anne-Marie Bagnall	South Eastern ELB
 In attendance:	 Andrew Hawthorne	 Children's Services Planning, HSCB
 Apologies:	 Jacqui McGarvey	 South Eastern Trust
	Kathy Maguire	Council for the Homeless
	Vivian McConvey	Voypic
	Maurice Leeson	Children's Services Planning, HSCB
	Member from Youth Justice Agency	

Previous Minutes

The note of the previous meeting on 14th February 2013 was approved.

Matters Arising

Tony Rodgers informed the group that the issue regarding rolling suspensions was being taken forward with HSC Trusts

Action plan

Members reported on the latest round of amendments. With the exception of a few minor changes the plan was agreed as consultation document. Andrew Hawthorne informed the group that the plan would be sent to as many people as possible over a 12 week consultation period. This would provide enough time to feed back the results before the next meeting.

Action: Andrew Hawthorne to publish action plan for consultation

Andrew Hawthorne to collate responses and feedback at the next meeting

Tony Rodgers updated the group on the progress on the implementation on PEPs across the region. The group reflected their satisfaction at the progress to date. The aspiration would be for a logical transition at 16-18 years from PEP into further education, training or employment. This is more likely in those areas with a LAC 16 + service.

Fostering Review

Una Lernihan updated the group on a RQIA review of fostering that has commenced. To date, this has involved an audit of kinship care and a thematic review with looked after children and young people. It will also include a review of Trusts. The deadline for completing and reporting back is July. It is likely that there will be feedback and a number of recommendations for fostering, which is positive.

Residential Childcare Review

This work is on-going having surpassed a March 2013 deadline.

Information Sharing Across Agencies

The group was updated on a recent workshop that was held on formal kinship carers. The findings from research led by Bristol University demonstrated that there was not much difference, in terms of level of need, between children living with relatives and those in the care system. There was recognition in the group that the huge pressure placed on carers was not sufficiently on the agenda regarding family support. The group also noted that,

despite these challenges, the research suggested that the outcomes for these children were better than those in the care system.

AOB

Angela Devlin informed the group HSC Trusts had approached Extern to develop care packages for a particular group of young people, aged 16-18 years who have drug and alcohol problems.

Una Turbitt informed the group that Regional Guidance and Documentation had been published for consultation. There are plans for the Health Journal to print for a pilot this month. As part of this, work is on-going with Fostering Network to devise a plan, developed with young people themselves and facilitated by VOYPIC. This will be integrated into LAC reviews with health visitors/school nurses due to have their own reviews and plans.

Anne-Marie Bagnall informed the group that work is currently underway to develop a LAC resource pack to aid the completion of PEPs in schools with a view to regional rollout.

Date of next meeting:

24th September 2013 10.30am Board Room, Tower Hill, Armagh