



Press release

Supporting families in Fermanagh

18 November 2014

Fermanagh Parents Forum joined over 80 representatives from local community, voluntary and statutory organisations on Friday 14 November to renew, refresh and reinvigorate partnership efforts to improve outcomes for children and young people in the Fermanagh area.

Anne Hardy, Children's Services Planning Officer with the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), stressed the important role that local partnerships, parents and children and young people play in improving outcomes through an early intervention approach.

The Fermanagh Parents Forum supported by Maria Herron, Parenting NI, used a photographic collage to highlight issues such as isolation and loneliness experienced by new parents including fathers, the need for more proactive support for families with children with a disability, and improved access to activities and facilities for young people. One of the parents on the panel, acknowledging the significance of parents and decision makers meeting up said: "I hope something comes from all of it" while another thought that the event helped to highlight that "Parents do have a voice too". Priscilla Magee, Locality Planning Development Officer, set out some preliminary findings from a survey on the impact of the economic downturn on families across Fermanagh.

Neville Armstrong, from Church and Community Work Alliance and Chair of the CYPSP Fermanagh Locality Planning Group, said:

"Fermanagh has a long history of partnership working. Today has provided an opportunity for this work to be strengthened. The excellent turnout shows the dedication of local services to improving the lives of our children and young people and sets the scene for future collaboration."

The event also raised awareness around the services provided through Fermanagh Family Support Hub. The hub coordinates necessary services which result in families receiving support in a more timely manner. Helen Dunn, Regional Co-ordinator for Family Support Hubs praised the work of Seána Connor, Action for Children, Co-ordinator of the Fermanagh Hub and author of a new booklet detailing local services which was launched at the event.

Seána said: “Today marks the official launch of the Fermanagh Hub which will work alongside our Early Intervention, Floating Support and Supporting Families services. The Hub is comprised of partners from across the voluntary, community and statutory sectors which offers a blend of early intervention support.

“Operating in a large rural area like Fermanagh, it’s important that we work with families through difficult times, ensuring we give early support where need to avoid crisis.”

For more information about the CYPSP visit www.cypsp.org

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Media enquiries

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