
Young people, professionals and politicians share their views on future children's services

10 March 2014

Young people, professionals and politicians had their say on future services for children and young people at a workshop held on Friday 7 March in the Millennium Forum, Derry-Londonderry.

The event, organised by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), brought local young people together with representatives from statutory, voluntary and community organisations and local politicians to discuss the services currently available to support children and young people and how these can be improved in future. This event is part of a series of events taking place across Northern Ireland which will help inform the Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2015-2018.



L-R Cliona Boyle (Vice Chair Outcomes Group), Harry Shier (Keynote Speaker – Centre for Children's Rights), Kieran Downey (Director of Women's and Children's Services WHSCT), Pauline Leeson (Chief Executive Ci-Ni) and Mayor Councillor Martin Reilly, meet with young people from Oakgrove College, Lumen Christi College, St Cecilia's College, St Joseph's Boys School, and members from the Youth Council.

Councillor Martin Reilly, Mayor of Derry, welcomed participants and praised the high level of joined up working across agencies in the area. Emphasising Council support for early intervention and the involvement of young people he appealed to the young people in the audience saying: “I am particularly pleased to see such a focus on the involvement of young people in this process. You have an important part to play in shaping services for the future. I would encourage all young people to engage with these opportunities to make sure your voice is heard.”

The event also featured keynote speaker Harry Shier, founder of PLAY.TRAIN, who spoke about effective participation with children and young people. Later he held a workshop with young people to gain their views on how they can become more involved in the CYPSP process.

Kieran Downey, Director of Women’s and Children’s Services with the Western Health and Social Care Trust said: “Everyone at this event is committed to promoting the wellbeing of children and young people in the West. To achieve this we all need to involve children and young people in decisions that affect their lives. We need to listen genuinely to children and young people, give careful consideration to their views and use their insights to inform our work in meaningful and respectful ways. By doing so, we will demonstrate our respect for them and their families as valued members of our communities and gain important information that will make our work and services more relevant to children and young people.”



Back row L-R - Keynote speaker, Harry Shier (Centre for Children’s Rights), Mayor Councillor Martin Reilly, Pat Ramsey MLA, Eamon O’Kane (Director Derry Healthy Cities), Gerry Conway (Health and Social Care Board). Front row L-R, Anne Hardy CYPSP Children’s Services Planning Officer), Sinead Donnelly and Priscilla Magee (CYPSP Locality Planning Co-ordinators), Cliona Boyle (Early Years Organisation), Pauline Leeson (Chief Executive Ci-Ni) Members of Western Outcomes Group, and Kieran Downey (Chair Western Outcomes Group and Director WHSCT).



Young people and practitioners participating during the CYPSP presentations at the CYPSP Stakeholder Event

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) is a multi-agency partnership, led by the Health and Social Care Board. It includes the leadership of key statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

For more information about the CYPSP in Derry-Londonderry please contact Sinead Donnelly 028 8225 9495 or visit the Derry-Londonderry Locality Planning Group webpage, <http://www.cypsp.org/derry.htm>

If you are interested in joining the CYPSP Parent Reference Group in your area please contact Maria Herron on 028 7137 2006.

Media enquiries

For media enquiries please contact Communications, Health and Social Care Board on 028 9055 3740