

Newry and Mourne District Council

Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry, on Friday, 17th November 2006 at 9.30 a.m.

In Attendance: Fergal O'Brien, Community Development Unit
Aisling Rennick, Investing for Health Officer
Brian Quinn, Community Representative
Bertie Flynn, Community Representative
Caroline Speers, N.I. Tenants' Action Project
Eoin Devlin, Environmental Health Dept
Laurence Bradley, Confederation of Community Groups
Eileen Murphy, Womens Aid
Geraldine Donaghy, CCG
Loma Wilson, NIHE
Briege Magill, Administration Officer, NMDC

Others: Ann Godfrey, Children's Services Planner, Southern Area
Children and Young People's Committee

Apologies Eddy Curtis, NMDC
Liam Donnelly, Simon Community
Patrick Kelly, ROMAL
Paul O'Neill, Newry Sports Centre
Una Walsh, Women's Health Development Worker
Jim Bagnall, NIHE
Inspector Lorraine Dobson, PSNI
John Farrell, Environmental Health Dept
Kathleen Smyth, Newry and Mourne Womens Limited

Fergal O'Brien, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

Bertie Flynn, on behalf of WAP Members, extended his condolences to Fergal on the recent death of his father.

Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held on 22 September 2006

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(Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Bertie Flynn, seconded by Eileen Murphy, it was agreed the report of the WAP Meeting held on Friday, 22 September 2006 be adopted as a true and accurate record, same having been circulated.

Presentation by Ann Godfrey

Ann Godfrey thanked members for permitting her to make a presentation on the Together 4 All Family Support Project.

Ann said the Together 4 All Family Support Project was a local pilot project which aimed to improve support for all children, young people and their families in the Lurgan, Brownlow, Aghagallon and Bleary areas and also with ethnic minority groups across the Southern Health and Social Services Board area. The project had received significant funding from Atlantic Philanthropies, an independent funding organization, to plan and work with the local community to develop the possibility of a major family support project which could run for the next 10 years.

Ann said a new planning group had been set up as a sub-group of the Southern Area Children and Young People's Committee, with most of its members coming from the community and voluntary sectors, representing parents and local communities. Other members were from local key statutory agencies such as the SELB and Health Trusts. She felt it was important that a link was made with WAPs Ethnic Minority Sub-group to achieve maximum benefit for the area.

Copy of presentation circulated.

Fergal thanked Ann for her presentation and asked members to explain briefly what their respective organisations were going, if anything, to reach out to Ethnic Communities.

Following further discussion it was agreed:

- Caroline Speers forward details of the NITAP Intercultural Awareness Training to Briege for circulation to all members.
- Loma Wilson arrange to provide details of any NIHE projects.
- Micheal Hamill be invited to future meetings of WAP as a representative from SELB Youth Division.
- Micheal McCoy, Rural Partnership and Lyn Donnelly, SIHP, to be invited to meeting of WAP on 26th January 2007.
- Fergal to invite Ann Godfrey, Children's Services Planner, to the strategic planning day in January as part of the context setting for the Ethnic Minority Subgroup Action.

Progress Report from WAP Sub Groups

(a) Ethnic Minorities Sub Group

Aisling said in late 2004 concerns were raised by members of WAP regarding the lack of support for ethnic minority residents of the area and in particular the substantial numbers

of migrant workers who had recently come to the area. WAP hosted a multi agency meeting in March 2005 which was attended by a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community organisations. Following the meeting a survey was carried out which looked at current service provision and gaps in provision.

Gaps identified included: lack of a central contact point; interpreting/translation services; lack of a coordinated approach between agencies; support for host communities/cultural awareness; barriers to access to public services; support in employment and lack of translated information. Having identified the gaps a small working group was tasked with identifying possible funding sources for a project to address these issues.

At that point lottery funding was closed and it was decided the most viable option was for the Council, in partnership with Louth County Council, to submit an application under Peace 11 Measure 5.2 Cooperation between local authorities. An application was submitted in September 2005 seeking funding for the employment of 2 development workers with both a strategic role and a direct support role.

This application was rejected by Special EU Programmes Body and an amended proposal was then resubmitted, in March 2006, with the concerns raised by SEUPB addressed. The second application was also turned down and the two Councils requested a review of this decision. A final review hearing was held on 13 September 2006.

In the meantime, WAP was able to obtain £65,000 funding from a private donor and the Deputy Chief Constable's fund to employ an Advice/Support Worker for Ethnic Minorities for a period of one year.

On 29 September the Council was informed by SEUPB that the review panel had decided to overturn the decision not to fund the Challenge of Change application. This application, with funding of £218,000 had just undergone economic appraisal.

The advice/support worker, employed on a fixed term contract basis, would help develop and operate a "one stop shop" as the initial point of contact for minority ethnic individuals providing information, support and appropriate signposting in Newry and Mourne. This person would collate information on current service provision, undertake research and needs assessment and prepare development plan. It was hoped he/she would facilitate two-way communication between statutory and community groups and ethnic minority groups and individuals.

The Challenge of Change Project proposal was to employ two Development Workers with appropriate administration/research backup. The two posts, hopefully filled by end of January 2007, would be split between the 2 Councils but would work together on cross community/cross border training and strategic development. The main aims of the project were to take a cross border approach to address the barriers to service delivery and to providing services to the Black and Ethnic Minority populations in Newry and Mourne and Louth. It was hoped to build relationships between the staffs of the Councils through a shared approach to learning about ethnic diversity and about how to provide improved

levels of service to BME residents. In addition, the development workers would help communities to explore issues of prejudice and discrimination and draw on best practice in promoting positive relations and challenging sectarian and racist attitudes and behaviour.

It was agreed that a copy of the final job description for two above posts, when available, be circulated to all WAP members for their information.

Welcome Pack for BME/Migrant Workers

Aisling circulated second draft of the welcome pack and said any amendments must be with her by 5.00 p.m. on 17th November 2006.

It was suggested the following additions/amendments to be included:-

- A-Z index at back of pack
- Details of how to register with dentist
- Womens Aid Helpline number
- Cost of prescription
- Details of Welfare Rights/CAB
- Interpreting Service details
- Details of NITAP
- Details of Community Development Unit
- Contact details for Polish Resource Centre, Kilmorey Street
- Details of Newry and Kilkeel Institute Portal website.

It was also agreed that Aisling, as a representative from WAP, would meet with representatives from TASK and HAZ before 26th January 2007 to discuss how best the three organisations could work together.

(b) Physical Activity Sub Group

Read: E-Mail from Paul O'Neill dated 16th November 2006 apologising for not being able to attend WAP meeting on 17th November and informing members that the procurement process for Trampoline and Hoist was underway and it was hoped to have the equipment in place before Christmas.

It was agreed to mark the above correspondence 'Noted'.

(c) Mental Health Sub Group

It was noted the above Sub-Group had considered applying for funding, which was available to back up the Suicide Prevention Strategy, in order to carry out a project relating to Mental Health. However due to work commitments, the Sub-Group had agreed, at present, not to proceed.

Update re Southern Investing for Health Partnership and SIHP Issue Groups

Aisling Rennick provided the following update: -

Northern Ireland Suicide Prevention Strategy:

Aisling said SIHP had been tasked with developing an action plan for the implementation, in the Southern Area, of the Northern Ireland Strategy for the prevention of Suicide and Self Harm. A series of Community Consultation Events across the Southern area had taken place in October to engage local communities. All events in the Newry and Mourne area had been very positive with some excellent suggestions being brought forward.

Aisling also informed members that the community grants scheme in association with the strategy had just closed on 10th November.

Black and Minority Ethnic/Migrant Workers Research

The initial stage of literature review and desktop research to identify themes and gaps had been completed. Based on the outcomes of this initial research, STEP (South Tyrone Empowerment Programme) were now developing the full research which is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.

Rural Isolation and Poverty Research

The research carried out by the Rural College, Draperstown into Poverty and Rural Isolation had now been received by the SIFH Poverty and Disadvantage Issue Group and would be made available following consideration by the Issue Group.

Blood Donation Campaign

SIHP were currently undertaking a drive to recruit new blood donors, particularly for some sessions which were new or less well supported.

Small Grants Programme

The Small Grants Programme, with a budget of £30,000, was now closed with 166 applications being received, 39 of which had been successful.

Education and Lifeskills Issue Group

The Healthy Eating in Schools project, which had now been evaluated, is being rolled out to nine schools in the Craigavon and Banbridge area. The group was also beginning a project in partnership with the Health Promotion Department of the Board to deliver a programme entitled “Minding our Health” which would be offered to young people 14+ across the Southern Board Area.

Neighbourhood and Environment Issue Group

Aisling said the Community Energy Efficiency Project was currently underway in the Craigavon and Banbridge areas with the focus moving to Newry and Mourne in year two.

Healthy Choices Issue Group

Aisling said funding had been made available for pilots of the Play at Home Scheme in Armagh and Dungannon and Newry and Mourne.

Poverty and Disadvantage Issue Group

Aisling reported that the Southern Investing for Health Partnership Poverty and Disadvantage Issue Group were exploring the issue of debt and had agreed to provide £40,000, over two years to the Citizen's Advice Bureau in the Southern Area to support their work on debt counseling.

Progress Report regarding Community Infrastructure Programme

Laurence Bradley then gave a presentation on the Community Infrastructure Programme which had concluded in August 2006. (Copy circulated)

Laurence said mentoring and support had varied from area to area depending on what the local situation required. He said there would continue to be close links with the LSP, DSD Neighbourhood Renewal and with the Newry City Partnership programmes.

Fergal thanked Laurence for the presentation and for all those who had participated in the Community Infrastructure Programme. He informed members of the appointment of Madaleine McCrink, Grant Aid Officer, and said funding was currently being allocated to projects focusing on luncheon clubs and a new fund for tackling isolation of older people would shortly be launched.

Facilitation Session

Fergal said the half-day session, facilitated by Barbary Cook, CDHN, on 26th January 2007 in Newry Arts Centre would help to agree priorities and an action plan for 2007/2008, look at possible funding opportunities, and to revise WAP membership etc.

It was agreed to invite Denise Smyth, Community Safety Partnership, to this session.

Date of Next Meeting

Next Meeting - Friday, 26th January 2007 at 9.30 a.m. in the Arts Centre, Bank Parade, Newry.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.

Signed: B Magill
Administration Officer