

Newry and Mourne District Council

Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry, on Friday, 24th February 2006 at 9.30 a.m.

In Attendance:

Fergal O'Brien, Community Development Unit
Geraldine Donaghy, Confederation of Community Groups
Moira Aiken, Women's Health Development Worker
Aisling Rennick, Investing for Health Officer
Brian Quinn, Community Representative
Patrick Kelly, ROMAL
Bertie Flynn, Community Representative
Mary Doran, Newry Chamber of Commerce
Ann Sarsfield, Orana
Sinead Garvey, Environmental Health Dept
Paul O'Neill, Newry Sports Centre
Briege Magill, Administration Officer, NMDC

Apologies

Jim Bagnall, NIHE
Micheal Keenan, SELB
Eileen Havern, Newry Women's Aid
Liam Donnelly, Simon Community

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

Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held on 9th December 2005

Read: Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held on 9th December 2005.
(Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Brian Quinn, seconded by Geraldine Donaghy, it was agreed the report of the WAP Meeting held on Friday, 9th December 2005 be adopted as a true and accurate record, same having been circulated.

Progress Report from WAP Sub Groups

(a) Mental Health Sub Group

Fergal informed those present that Eileen Havern would be unable to attend today but had forwarded evaluation reports regarding the one day Capacitor Training and the two day Pharmaceutical Awareness Project.

- Capacitor Training - Fergal explained that WAP had contributed £1,000 to the one day capacitor training with Pat Kane to cover the cost of attendance for approximately 37 people from community and voluntary groups in the Newry and Mourne District.

Evaluations showed a high level of new awareness by participants and a high level of satisfaction with the training. The outcome of this training was that several individuals from the Newry and Mourne area agreed to take part in facilitating training in Banbridge, spread over four weekends, in order to deliver this programme within local communities.

Moira said there had been some confusion over who took responsibility for which aspects of the event but this had been eventually sorted out.

At the request of Geraldine Donaghy, Moira Aiken agreed to forward copy of leaflet used to publicise this event, to Briege for circulation to all WAP members.

- Pharmaceutical Awareness Seminar – Fergal explained WAP had also contributed £1,500 to the Mental Health Sub-Group to hold a Pharmaceutical Awareness Seminar delivered by Pam Armstrong on 10th and 11th January 2006, which was targeted at 35 volunteers and staff members from the voluntary and community sector.

Evaluations were very positive and demonstrated that the training was very informative and necessary. The outcome was that several individuals requested that a group be formed in order to continue this process.

Moira Aiken agreed to confirm with Eileen Havern that at least one place was offered to the area's Pharmaceutical Advisor/LHSCG so that feedback would be forthcoming to local GPs.

(b) Physical Activity Sub Group

As Kieran Devlin was not present and to date no executive summary of the "Over to You" project had been made available for consideration, it was agreed Briega contact K Devlin to have same available for consideration at the next WAP meeting in April 2006.

It was also agreed Aisling and Paul take steps to re-activate the Physical Activity Sub Group.

It was noted that a request had come in from Teresa Ross of the Local Health and Social Care Group seeking the Physical Activity Sub Group of WAP to consider part funding a hoist for helping disabled children at Newry Sports Centre on to equipment such as trampolines.

It was agreed Paul would contact Teresa Ross to discuss this matter in more detail and to bring a proposal/recommendation back to the next meeting of WAP in April.

(c) Ethnic Minorities Sub Group

Application to Peace 11 - In the absence of Kathleen Smyth, Aisling Rennick informed those present that the joint application with Louth County Council to PEACE 11 Measure 5.2 Cross Border Cooperation between Local Authorities, for funding for a Cross Border Minority Ethnic Development Project, had been unsuccessful. However it was noted that, although this was disappointing, the Ethnic Minority Sub Group planned to meet again on 28th February to amend the application and re-submit it by 10th March.

Aisling said other sources of funding were also being explored, and warned that if funding for a worker was secured, there was still a lot of work and support required.

Welcome Pack for BME/Migrant Workers – Aisling said she had discussed the production and joint funding of a clear, concise leaflet/pack with Sonya Burns from the Community Safety Partnership. Aisling said this document was not to be regarded as a contact directory but its purpose was to provide advice/information on such areas as legislative requirements, opening of a bank account, how to register with a GP etc.

Aisling said it was hoped to have the English version ready by early April and to launch the final version in different languages by early summer. She said it was hoped to do a series of roadshows to help launch the leaflet/pack.

It was agreed that the draft English version be available for consideration by WAP at their April Meeting.

After some discussion, it was agreed the sub group reconvene, in due course, to discuss issues relevant to ethnic minority individuals and groups in Newry and Mourne.

Progress Report regarding Community Infrastructure Programme

Members considered the following documents as circulated by Geraldine Donaghy giving up to date position regarding the above Programme:-

- (a) Quarterly Progress Report ended December 2005
- (b) Financial Report including Actual Expenditure to 31st December 2005 and details of the re-profiling of under-spend. (Copy enclosed)
- (c) CIP proposal for "Celebrating Communities" Event. (Copy enclosed)

It was agreed in relation to Page 2 of the Quarterly Report – Geraldine contact Jim Bagnall to discuss the recommencement of the "Better Estates" initiative.

Geraldine said it was evident that there would be considerable increase in expenditure between January and June 2006 but it was predicted to be on target for full spend by June 2006.

In reply to a query from Fergal, Geraldine said attempts were being made to continue and build on the work already carried out and the momentum built to date.

Fergal congratulated Geraldine on the programme content for the Celebrating Communities Event to be held in June/July 2006.

Update re SIHP Partnership and SIHP Issue Groups

Aisling Rennick provided the following update: -

BME/Migrant Workers Research

SIHP is commissioning a major piece of BME/migrant worker research covering the whole southern area. Invitation to tender was advertised w/c 27 January and an assessment panel has been agreed. It is hoped that the initial desktop research will be completed by June 2006.

Small Grants Programme

SIHP again provided a small grants programme giving funding of up to £1000 to community and voluntary groups towards activities which address the key Investing for Health targets of healthy choices, poverty and disadvantage, neighbourhood and environment and education and lifeskills. This year 86 applications were received and SIHP were able to fund 33 projects including 10 from the Newry and Mourne District. Projects assisted included purchase of a tandem for Newry and Mourne Watch Club to enable cycling for people with visual impairment, purchase of a kayak for the A Team to

encourage physical activities for people with learning difficulties and support to Carnagat Area community Association to provide healthy snacks and drinks to the children attending a Saturday club. Other groups which received help were Culloville Community Association, Martins Lane CA, Atticall Health and Wellbeing, Kilkeel Swimming Club, Linen Hall CA, Annalong Parent and Toddler Group and Newry Simon.

Schools Environmental Programme

The Neighbourhood and Environment Issue Group provided funding to 13 primary and nursery schools to carryout environmental projects involving the pupils and teachers. Schools receiving funding included St Colman's, Kilkeel and St Mark's Dromore Road, Warrenpoint.

Mental Health Funding

SIHP provided £30,000 to Mental Health projects. The funding was distributed through the 3 Health and Social Services Trusts (£10000 to each area). As agreed at the last WAP meeting £2,500 each was supplied to Health in the City and South Down Family Health Initiative with a further £5000 to a joint project between the Rural Health Partnership and Mental Health Forum.

Community Energy Awareness Worker

Funding has been provided to employ a Part time Community Energy Awareness worker in partnership with TADA Rural Network. Interviews were held on 13 February and an appointment has been made.

Environment Week

The Neighbourhood and Environment Issue Group has provided funding in the sum of £5,000 to Newry and Mourne District Council towards ECO week activities.

Healthy Eating

The healthy choices issue group has funded the following projects:-

- Cook-it training – Board wide
- Unicef Baby friendly status – Armagh and Dungannon
- Human milk bank project – Newry and Mourne

Accident Prevention

£10,000 towards 10 year smoke alarms to be provided in conjunction with NI Fire Brigade – Board wide.

Safety awareness booklet for all Primary 1 children – Board wide.

Smoking Cessation

Contribution of £1000 towards Southern Area Health Promotion Department initiative on policy development and awareness raising within the youth sector.

Address the high rates of suicide among young people.

Group to fund ‘Mind Out’ Programme: curriculum based programme developed for use in schools with young people aged 15-18 yrs. Programme aims to promote positive mental health for young people through an exploration of stress, coping, sources of support (family and community) Module runs over 2 yrs. 10 1 hr sessions delivered in the first yr, three follow up sessions in the second yr. £4,000.

Promoting positive mental health in older people

WEA completing the delivery of courses to engage ‘older persons’ groups in educational, social and wellbeing activities in the Armagh, Dungannon & Newry Council area. Extension of programmes in the Craigavon and Banbridge council area.

Capacity Building

Tom Moore, Newry & Mourne LSP is being supported to participate in the All Ireland Institute’s Public Health Leadership programme
Poverty & Disadvantage Issue Group is facilitating awareness raising sessions on BME & Migrant Workers. 2 sessions are complete, 2 planned and 2 more will be planned for January.

Rural Isolation

Main area of work is the commission from the Rural College Draperstown to carry out a mapping exercise / needs assessment / research on the impact of rural isolation on poverty and the impact of poverty on rural isolation. Desktop exercises have identified 3 rural disadvantaged wards (Altmore, Bannside and Binnian) and 3 pockets of disadvantage in rural areas (Loughgall, The Birches and Silverbridge) where primary research with families with children under 5 will take place.

Breast Feeding Welcome Scheme

Aisling explained the Council had recently signed up to the Breast Feeding Welcome Scheme and would be publicising same in the near future.

Receptacles at entrance to Newry Arts Centre

Following a complaint from Brian Quinn, it was agreed Briege contact Mark Hughes in Newry Arts Centre to have receptacles placed outside Newry Arts Centre for cigarette ash/butts.

Newry and Mournne Safety for the Elderly and Vulnerable

Following a query from Mary Doran, it was agreed Sonya Burns, Community Safety Partnership, contact Mary Doran to discuss possible assistance to the above organisation.

Booking System

Paul O'Neill said that Newry Sports Centre were in the process of installing a new computerized booking system which would in the future be able to produce useful demographic information.

Mothers from Ethnic Minority Groups

Ann Sarsfield from Orana, expressed concern regarding mothers from Ethnic Minority Groups who were often socially excluded.

Fergal informed Ann there was a meeting schedule for 4th April in the Market Bar.

Fergal to arrange for Ann Sarsfield be included on invitation list of Polish Resource Centre.

International Women's Day

Moira Aikens informed those present of an event to be held in Mullaghbawn Community Centre on 7th March 2006 to celebrate International Women's Day.

Date of Next Meeting

Next Meeting - Friday, 28th April 2006 at 9.30 a.m. in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 11.10 a.m.

Signed: B Magill
Administration Officer