

Newry and Mourne District Council

Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held in the Conference Room, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry, on Friday, 22 September 2006 at 9.30 a.m.

In Attendance: Fergal O'Brien, Community Development Unit
Aisling Rennick, Investing for Health Officer
Brian Quinn, Community Representative
Patrick Kelly, ROMAL
Bertie Flynn, Community Representative
Paul O'Neill, Newry Sports Centre
Una Walsh, Women's Health Development Worker
Caroline Speers, N.I. Tenants' Action Project
John Farrell, Environmental Health Dept
Laurence Bradley, Confederation of Community Groups
Eileen Havern, Womens Aid
Jim Bagnall, NIHE
Briege Magill, Administration Officer, NMDC

Others: Inspector Lorraine Dobson, PSNI

Apologies Eddy Curtis, NMDC
Liam Donnelly, Simon Community

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

Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held on 23 June 2006

Read: Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Meeting held on 23rd June 2006.
(Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Brian Quinn, seconded by Bertie Flynn, it was agreed the report of the WAP Meeting held on Friday, 23rd June 2006 be adopted as a true and accurate record, same having been circulated.

Update re Southern Investing for Health Partnership and SIHP Issue Groups

Aisling Rennick provided the following update: -

Blood Donation

SIHP are working with NI Blood Transfusion Service on a campaign to increase the number of Blood Donors within the Southern Area. Currently donor sessions in Newry are particularly well supported so the campaign will particularly focus on other areas of the District. It is hoped to encourage an increase of between 100 and 200 donors per Council area. Blood Donation Sessions to be held in Kilkeel on 25/26 October and in Newry on 1st/2nd November.

Debt Counseling

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 to the Citizen's Advice Bureau in the Southern Area to support their work on debt counseling.

It was agreed Aisling would ask SIFH to note that other players such as Welfare Rights and local Credit Unions may have a role to play in this initiative.

Rural Isolation and Poverty Research

The Rural College, Draperstown have completed the interviews and research into the effects of rural isolation and poverty. The report is currently being considered by the Poverty and Disadvantage Issue Group. The report is likely to highlight the real disadvantage hidden by taking an area based approach.

Black and Minority Ethnic/Migrant Workers Research

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

Aisling to circulate to all members the Literature Review which begins with a discussion on the Black and Minority Ethnic Communities: the history and location of these groups in Northern Ireland then follows a review of the needs of the community in general and specific service areas.

Small Grants Programme

Aisling said the Small Grants Programme was being rolled out again and local groups should be encouraged to apply – closing date 6th October 2006.

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 and were hosting a series of Community Consultation Events across the Southern area in October to engage local communities, families bereaved by suicide and community/voluntary/statutory agencies currently delivering services to address rising rates of suicide and self harm. The outcomes of the consultation process would inform the development of the action plan. Flyers publicising these events were circulated to members.

Aisling said that some funding was available to back up the Suicide Prevention Strategy – including a community grants programme where £1,000 maximum could be obtained by

individual community groups but up to £3,000 was available to applicants representing clusters of Community Groups/Partnerships

It was agreed that the Mental Health Sub-Group consider a project and apply for funding for same. The Mental Health Sub-Group to report progress back to the next meeting of WAP.

Progress Report from WAP Sub Groups

(a) Mental Health Sub Group

It was noted there was nothing further to report at present.

It was agreed the above group would meet as soon as possible to discuss a project relating to Suicide Prevention and funding for same.

(b) Physical Activity Sub Group

Paul circulated a summary of programmes running in Kilkeel Leisure Centre, which contributed to improvement of health and wellbeing.

Paul said progress had been made regarding the securing of match funding (£3,500) to provide a hoist to enable use of trampolines for rebound therapy at Newry Sports Centre. He said match funding had been sourced from Newry and Mourne Trust and Rotary Club.

It was agreed that Paul would arrange to make organizations/groups aware that this item of equipment was now available for use and a report detailing its usage etc to be considered by WAP early in 2007.

(c) Ethnic Minorities Sub Group

Migrant Worker Support Network

Aisling said she wished to make members aware of a new initiative developed by STEP (South Tyrone Empowerment Programme) in May 2006. The initiative aimed to develop a more strategic approach to information sharing on migrant worker support issues, by developing a support network for organisations dealing with issues surrounding migrant workers. It was hoped the sharing of information and resources would bring about a more efficient and convenient provision of service. However, the Network would only be a success if the information shared between members remained contemporary, factual and relevant and this would all depend on the input of members.

It was agreed Aisling would arrange for an application form to be completed accepting STEP's invitation that WAP become a member of the Migrant Worker Support Network.

Welcome Pack for BME/Migrant Workers

Aisling said Antrim Borough Council had produced a welcome pack for BME/Migrant Workers in DVD format and she wished to let members view a short clip from it.

Aisling said she felt the group should examine the possibility of a video as a format for a welcome pack. She suggested such a video could be beneficial for welcome meetings and for groups, support agencies etc. However, she cautioned that the Antrim video had been very expensive to produce, with the bulk of the costs being incurred in respect of translation.

Lorraine Dobson suggested that a website or link from a website might be a more useful way of making information available to the maximum number of people.

Aisling said the content of the draft written welcome pack was now virtually complete and a decision was required re format, translation etc. It was noted should the written version proceed £2,500 approximately would come from the WAP budget with match funding from the Community Safety Partnership.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that the Ethnic Minority Sub-Group meet to consider this matter further, to consult with groups/organisations such as St Vincent de Paul regarding the format, creation of a website or attachment to an existing website etc.

Funding for Ethnic Minority Worker

Inspector Lorraine Dobson from the PSNI said £65,000 had now been secured to employ a one-stop shop and Ethnic Minority Worker for one year. It was envisaged that the Council would employ, provide accommodation and operational management of this worker.

She said it had been agreed that the priorities of this worker would be as follows:-

- A. Collate existing research in partnership with Investing for Health, and where gaps are identified, undertake further research on the ethnic minority populations in the area, this will facilitate a needs assessment and preparation of a development plan.
- B. Development and operation of a “one stop shop” initial point of contact for BME people providing information, support and appropriate signposting in Newry.
- C. Development of outreach “one stop shop” services to rural areas and workplaces.
- D. To work with local community groups to increase understanding of ethnic diversity and assist the integration of migrant workers and other ethnic minority individuals into local communities.

- E. To identify and support a number of individuals within ethnic minority communities who can act as a voice for the needs of their communities.
- F. To work with and support existing and new groups from within the ethnic minority populations.
- G. To encourage the participation of people from Ethnic Minority backgrounds in cultural and civic events in Newry and Mourne.

It was agreed that a small sub-group, comprising those listed below, would meet on Wednesday 27 September 2006 to discuss the role, profile, recruitment etc of this worker:-

- Aisling Rennick (NMDC)
- Fergal O'Brien (WAP)
- L Dobson (PSNI)
- P Kelly
- B Flynn

Draft Logo for WAP

Members were circulated with a proposed draft WAP logo.

Following some discussion, it was agreed that the following amendments be made to the draft WAP logo and which would then be circulated to WAP members for further consideration:-

- *Young person to be added*
- *Wheelchair to point inwards and to be central - not at the end of the line*
- *Another female to be added*
- *WAP logo to be oval shaped*
- *Rainbow at the back of the people*

Progress Report regarding Community Infrastructure Programme

Laurence Bradley then circulated the April to June Community Infrastructure Programme progress report. He said as the programme had been extended to August, Geraldine Donaghy would bring the final progress report to the next meeting of WAP.

Laurence said the programme had been very beneficial but said community infrastructure was not being properly funded in the area.

Fergal said WAP would be happy to provide whatever support or assistance it could. He thanked all those who had participated in the Community Infrastructure Programme.

Patrick Kelly said he wished to record his thanks to ROSA and CCG for their assistance and said it had been a pleasure taking part in the Programme.

Facilitation Session

It was agreed to hold a half-day session, facilitated by Barbary Cook, CDHN, on 26th January 2007 in Newry Arts Centre to agree priorities and an action plan for 2007/2008, to look at possible funding opportunities, and to revise WAP membership etc.

Together 4 All Family Support Project

Read: Letter dated 19th September 2006 from Ann Godfrey, Children's Services Planner, Southern Area Children and Young People's Committee, requesting that she be permitted to address the next meeting of WAP to be held on 17th November to discuss the above project. The Project to cover the needs of Black and Minority Ethnic children and young people in the Newry and Mourne Health and Social Services Trust area.

It was agreed that Ann Godfrey address the WAP Meeting to be held on 17th November 2006.

Womens Aid Crisis

Eileen Havern said she would like to alert members to the crisis currently being faced by Newry Women's Aid. She said the refuge currently needed to raise over £30,000 to break even in order to cover core service costs. She said she had applied for funding but to date, no funding had been forthcoming. She said the Resource Centre may have to close in the near future.

Fergal said those organizations represented here today should consider if there was anything they could do to assist.

Date of Next Meeting

Next Meeting - Friday, 17th November 2006 at 9.30 a.m. in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 11.30 a.m.

For consideration at the Monthly Meeting of the Council to be held on Monday, 2nd October 2006.

Signed: B Magill
Administration Officer