

## **Newry and Mourne District Council**

Report of Wellbeing Action Partnership Second Facilitation Session held in Newry Arts Centre on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 2.00 p.m.

**In Attendance:** Fergal O'Brien, Community Development Unit  
Eddy Curtis, NMDC  
Aisling Rennick, Investing for Health Officer  
Brian Quinn, Community Representative  
Bertie Flynn, Community Representative  
Eoin Devlin, Environmental Health Dept  
Eileen Murphy, Womens Aid  
Sheila McCullough, NIHE  
Paul O'Neill, Newry Sports Centre  
Una Walsh, Women's Health Development Worker  
Inspector Lorraine Dobson, PSNI  
Brian Dick, Simon Community  
Kathleen Smyth  
Laurence Bradley, CCG  
Patrick Kelly, ROMAL  
Briege Magill, Administration Officer, NMDC

**Others:** Barbary Cook, Facilitator, CDHN

**Apologies** Caroline Speers, N.I. Tenants' Action Project  
Geraldine Donaghy, Confederation of Community Groups  
Liam Donnelly, Simon Community

Barbary Cook, Facilitator welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

Barbary said the purpose of the second facilitation session today was to bring together the Wellbeing Action Partnership to:

- Explore the three options agreed at the first session on 26<sup>th</sup> January,
- Decide which option to move forward on;
- Decide whether or not the current aims and objectives need to be re-written in the light of the above
- Decide what partnership structure is suitable for that option;
- Action-plan according to the decisions above, with specific areas of work for the WAP over the next 3 years (this may necessitate a further session).

The following comments were made in a discussion about each option.

### **Option A**

#### **Pros:**

- There is a need for lobbying
- There's no other equivalent strategic/lobbying voice
- Need for a strategic voice
- There needs to be an organisation who can translate policy work for groups on the ground
- Need lobbying/strategic voice to progress the health and well-being agenda
- It's a pro-active role
- Change under Review of Public Administration, need to have strong link with District Councils for Community Planning which implies need for strategic/lobbying body – can imagine a single N&M District Council community forum, with a health and well-being sub-branch into which WAP would feed issues.

#### **Cons:**

- There are existing strategic organisations – Local Strategic Partnership?
- There are a lot of partnership bodies – the coordination between them is difficult
- How will it link to other strategies?

#### **Additional issues:**

- Need to raise profile of WAP
- There will be shared membership with other bodies
- Need for resources
- Need a SMART action plan

#### **Key decisions on Option A:**

- Need to be an enabler not a deliverer
- Need to ensure there is information sharing between members about lobbying/strategic work

### **Option B**

#### **Pros:**

- Retain character of Newry & Mourne
- Could roll-out good practice
- Way of getting to community who are outside of existing groups

#### **Cons:**

- Too many management issues
- Concerns about taking on staff
- Conflict of interest with members
- Need to run before we can walk
- Roll-out of good practice happens already

## **Option C**

### **Pros:**

- Acknowledge current BME worker
- Can do work on the ground of needed

### **Cons:**

- Very like the existing Community Safety Partnership
- Need to get the strategic role right first

**The group made the following decision based on the discussion above. Everyone present agreed that WAP should be a strategic/lobbying body with the following remit.**

### **What we want:**

- Lobbying/strategic body
- Facilitating others to do the work (clear enabling role)
  - Needs assessment – in terms of using the work of other organisations and filling the gaps
  - Enable and support members and other groups to do the work on the ground
  - Ensure representativeness through membership - Review of membership every 6 months
- Information sharing role (set up database of existing work in area?)
- Sharing models of best practice – coordinating this between partners
- Coordination role
- Need resources for the above – group agreed it would look for/take money to fund these core purposes but it would not take money to re-distribute to other groups (i.e. grant-making of any kind)
- Commitment not to supplant any other strategic bodies' work and not to duplicate service provision
- Use action planning session to decide on the key issues to be addressed (content)

The group noted that previously WAP had lacked a SMART Action Plan. It was agreed to meet a third (and last) time to develop and confirm one. The group agreed to the following actions in preparation for this final session.

### **Actions:**

- New aims and objectives and a draft Action Plan (very basic draft) to be developed by Brian, Fergal, Lorraine, Bertie and Geraldine after Easter and emailed to the group for a final action planning session.
- It was noted that the new aims and objectives would not differ greatly from the existing set, but would incorporate the above decision around Option A and clarify WAP's role as a strategic/lobbying voice.
- It was noted the group would prepare a very basic draft Action Plan based on the above and ideas for key issues to be addressed. The aim is to trigger a productive discussion at the action planning session, rather than have a full draft for a sign-off.
- Action planning session to be held in May – Briege to confirm dates.

### **Physical Activity Sub-Group**

Paul O'Neill informed members that before Christmas, approval was given by WAP to joint-fund, with Newry and Mourne Trust and Rotary Club, the purchase of a special hoist and trampoline for use at Newry Sports Centre. The equipment is required to facilitate Rebound Therapy for people in the district who have severe disabilities. The total cost was estimated at £7500.00, of which WAP agreed to contribute £3750.00.

Recent contact with Aberdeenshire Council has brought to Paul's attention an alternative means of delivering Rebound Therapy. This involves the use of a specialist Belgian-made hoist with the standard trampolines already installed at either Newry Sports Centre or Kilkeel Leisure Centre. This method has a number of operational and cost advantages.

Because no new trampolines would need to be purchased, it would be possible to equip both sites for Rebound Therapy within the original estimate of £7500. The joint-funding partners have also been consulted, and it is proposed that if no objections are received from WAP members, 2no. hoists will be purchased, to be installed at the Newry and Kilkeel sites, with the contribution from WAP remaining at not more than £3750.00, as originally expected.

Members were asked to consider this revised proposal, with any comments or objections being forwarded to B Magill by Friday 30 March 2007. (No objections were received and therefore Paul was instructed to proceed)

There being no further business, the Meeting ended at 4.50 p.m.