



Southern Area Children's Services Planning

Working Group on Meeting the Needs of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Children and Young People

Notes of a meeting held on Wednesday 7 December 2005 at 2 pm in the Meeting Room, Moylinn House, Brownlow.

Present

Mr Paul Yam, Convenor, Wah Hep Chinese Community Association
Mr George Thompson, Craigavon & Banbridge HSS Trust
Ms Mary Haughey, Newry & Mourne HSS Trust
Mr Michael McGoldrick, Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust
Mr Ciaran Eastwood, Early Years Fora across Trusts
Ms Grace Hamilton, Craigavon & Banbridge HSS Trust (representing Nursing)
Mrs Mairead Donnelly, Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust (representing Nursing)
Mr Paul Finnegan, Southern Childcare Partnership
Mr Kieran Shields, Southern Education & Library Board
Ms Caitriona Hughes, Southern Education & Library Board
Mr Conor McArdle, Craigavon Travellers Support Committee
Mr Seamus Donnelly, An Tearmann Management Committee
Ms Bernadette O'Neill, South Tyrone Empowerment Programme
Ms Priscilla Oliveira, Dungannon Sure Start
Mrs Joan McGovern, Barnardo's NI
Ms Ann Godfrey, Children's Services Planning

In Attendance

Mrs Delia van der Lenden, Chair of SACYPC Family Support Project

Apologies

Mr Jim Maye, Southern Education & Library Board
Ms Pamela Matthews, Banbridge District Council
Ms Geraldine Conlon-Ali, Dungannon Sure Start

Not Present

Ms Mary Yarr, Southern Education & Library Board
Ms Stella McLoughlin, Newry & Mourne Travellers Support Group

Ms Fiona Crawford, Armagh Travellers Support Group
Mr Patrick Yu, Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities
Ms Aida Graham, Filipino Community
Mrs Rukhsar Ali, Al-Flaha
Mr Israr Ali, Al-Flaha
Mrs Tasneem Ahmed, Al-Flaha
Mrs Tasneem Afzal, Al-Flaha

Minutes of Last Meeting

Mary Haughey was present but noted as not present.

Matters Arising

1. Craigavon Council representation was suggested for the workshop.
2. Paul Finnegan had a meeting with Early Years Teams, Bernadette O'Neill and Martin O'Neill last week (Craigavon and Banbridge Early Years Team unable to attend) regarding translation/interpreting needs of children and families in Early Years settings.

Clare Devlin, SELB, and 3 Early Years Teams are going to audit BME children who are accessing Early Years settings.

A further meeting will then be held to identify the needs of those BME children in Early Years settings, and Paul Finnegan will feed this into this group.

It was noted that Ciaran Eastwood will be representing the 3 Early Years Teams at the workshop on the 25 January 2006.

Paul Finnegan also stated that the Investing for Health partnership is carrying out a wide audit.

Paul Yam noted that it is necessary that there is a clear policy regarding translation/interpreting in the Early Years sector.

Priscilla Oliveira mentioned that STEP is applying for funding to BBC Children in Need for a homework club and bi-lingual worker with mother tongue support.

Delia van der Lenden raised that access to SELB nursery classes should be part of the audit. Ciaran Eastwood noted that this should also cover nursery schools.

Michael McGoldrick noted that the Children's Commissioner has also been made aware of the issue of children in Early Years and Education not having sufficient support in English.

Kieran Shields noted that schools now have the responsibility to provide bilingual classroom assistants, for example. The SELB has no power to intervene. This is now an issue between DE and schools. Kieran Shields went on to note that there is no specific policy on language provision but Section 75 covers this, through equal access to services. The SELB has no responsibility to monitor this, but the Educational and Training Inspectorate inspect the schools and include Section 75.

Seamus Donnelly noted that there was a discussion regarding this at the Traveller Thematic Group of the Race Forum. There is no way of monitoring how money for BME children and young people is used by schools. The resource is not targeted or ring-fenced in any way.

Paul Yam noted that these issues will need to be included in this discussion at the workshop.

Kieran Shields noted that SELB still ask schools for figures regarding attendance among BME children and young people.

An Early Years teacher (Karen Turner) has started. Karen Turner has asked that all letters to Traveller families regarding offer of Early Years plans are copied to her so that she can support take up.

Connor McArdle suggested that a Person Centred Planning approach would be much better for Traveller children, through which a personalised approach to the needs of each child could be adopted.

Mapping Exercise Feedback

Bernie O'Neill reported that quite a lot of information has come in and some is still awaited.

Work Plan for Development Worker

Delia van der Lenden noted that the Southern Health and Social Services Council is publishing a report on uptake of dental services on the 8 December 2005. It has found that the lack of interpreting service significantly blocks access to dental services.

Grace Hamilton raised that GPs in Portadown and Lurgan are now beginning to use Language Line.

George Thompson noted that pharmacists also need to be drawn into the loop regarding use of Language Line.

There is now a booklet written in a number of languages by Board and Trusts regarding how to access health and social care. In Craigavon and Banbridge all new families with children 0-5 are referred to Grace Hamilton and an interpreter to

complete a full interview regarding signposting to services. This is now being extended to school age children's families through school nurses.

There are specific issues of migrant workers who have virtually no entitlement. There are huge needs here which are only able to be picked up by voluntary organisations at present. Paul Yam noted that this needs to be addressed at the workshop.

Kieran Shields asked that if there are specific issues regarding specific children, it is best that information is passed to the relevant authority e.g. if it is a particular school in which a child is left at the back of class with no help, the SELB could ask by advising school as to child's needs and rights.

It was agreed that the work plan was comprehensive and that action is required from all members of this group to support this work.

Preparation for Workshop – 25 January 2006 (all day)

Paul Yam noted that the workshop will be key in identifying what services are required for BME children and young people across the Southern area and to design services that will be long term and comprehensive.

It will need to:

1. Provide information on the CYPC Family Support Project.
2. Share information regarding available services and gaps.
3. Start thinking about solutions:
 - New services
 - Changes to existing services
 - Policy changes required.

Paul Yam also noted that the workshop needs to look at needs of all BME communities across the Southern area, and that it will be to start work on a plan going forward to the Family Support Project in particular and to all agencies, through the Children's Services Planning process.

Workshop Planning

AM Information regarding needs.

PM People to report/speak on good ideas on addressing solutions.

Each Working Group member should nominate people to attend workshop by 13 January 2006.

A subgroup will meet to plan the workshop in detail and think about it running in the afternoon and evening. The subgroup will consist of:

Paul Yam
Ann Godfrey
Delia van der Lenden
George Thompson
Bernie O'Neill
Caitriona Hughes
Priscilla Oliveira

Workshop Subgroup will meet on the 20 December 2005 at 2 pm in Wah Hep.

It was agreed that the workshop will be held in Armagh City Hotel and this will be booked. A letter will be sent to all members asking for nominations for the workshop and ideas about good practice that could be shared.

Action: Ann Godfrey to send letter to all Working Group members asking for nominations by 13 January 2006.

Any Other Business

Education Action Zone

Kieran Shields fed back that there is still no official information on this.

Family Support Project

Delia van der Lenden, Chair, CYPC Family Support Development Group, said that a process is being developed for the formation of a Management Committee, as well as other routes for information to be fed to the project.

This BME Working Group has responsibility for the BME aspect of the Service Development Plan. In terms of the Management Committee the BME aspect will be represented by 2 people, including the local Lurgan/Brownlow BME and Board wide BME issues, to be nominated by this group.

The group decided to nominate:

Paul Yam
STEP representative.

Action: STEP to confirm representative to Ann Godfrey.

Date of Next Meeting

The Workshop Subgroup will meet on Tuesday 20 December 2005 at 2 pm in Wah Hep to organise the workshop on Wednesday 25 January 2006.

The Working Group will meet again on Wednesday 18 January 2006 at 2 pm (venue in the Brownlow area to be confirmed).

The All-Day Workshop will be held on Wednesday 25 January 2006 in Armagh City Hotel.