

Western Area Outcomes Group (WAOG) partner synopsis

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

We are a national charity that supports and speaks out on behalf of the most vulnerable and neglected children and young people in Northern Ireland. With over 20 services we are based in the heart of local communities. We help thousands of the most vulnerable and neglected children and young people to transform their lives each year and we've been doing so for over 15 years. The children and young people we support face the most difficult problems in life. Some don't have the basics, from the love and care of family to regular routines such as mealtimes or the guidance that all children need to grow to be healthy adults. Others have to overcome physical or emotional challenges that hold them back. We help these children to fulfil their potential by providing services to support their individual needs. We succeed in helping children and young people to overcome difficulties at an early stage to tackle problems before it is too late. We also provide Family Support Projects ranging from working intensively with vulnerable families to running parenting programmes and supporting young people with mental health, emotional, learning, behavioural or housing difficulties or those who are living with domestic violence.

EARLY YEARS ORGANISATION

Early Years is the largest organisation in Northern Ireland working with and for young children. We are a non-profit making organisation and have been working since 1965 to promote high quality childcare for children aged 0 - 12 and their families. Early Years is a membership-based organisation, a registered charity, a company limited by guarantee and is governed by a Board of Directors. On 1st November 2007 we changed our name to Early Years - the organisation for young children. When we started our work in 1965 NIPPA stood for Northern Ireland Pre-School Playgroup Association, but as our work developed we realised that this did not fully reflect all that we do so we changed our name to NIPPA - the early years organisation. In 2005 we realised that our work had moved on again and after consultation with members and stakeholders we voted to change our name to Early Years - the organisation for young children. Currently Early Years provides information and training for parents, childcare providers, employers and local authorities. We hope this website will help you to find out more about early childcare and education.

PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY

The Public Health Agency (PHA) was established in April 2009 as part of the reforms to Health and Social Care (HSC) in Northern Ireland. We are the major regional organisation for health protection and health and social wellbeing improvement. Our role also commits us to addressing the causes and associated inequalities of preventable ill-health and lack of wellbeing. We are a multi-disciplinary, multi-professional body with a strong regional and local presence. We have four key functions: health and social wellbeing improvement, health protection, public health support to commissioning and policy development and HSC research and development. We were set up to provide a renewed and enhanced focus on public health and wellbeing by bringing together a wide range of public health functions under one organisation. We are also required to create better inter-sectoral working, including enhanced partnership arrangements with local government, to tackle the underlying causes of poor health and reduce health inequalities.

YOUTH JUSTICE AGENCY

The Youth Justice Agency was launched as an Executive Agency, as recommended in the Criminal Justice Review 2000, on 1 April 2003. It replaced the former Juvenile Justice Board. The Youth Justice Agency aims to make communities safer by helping children to stop offending. The Agency works with children aged 10-17 years who have offended or are at serious risk of offending.

The Agency provides a range of services, often delivered in partnership with others, to help children to address their offending behaviour, divert them from crime, assist their integration into the community and to meet the needs of victims of crime. These front-line services delivered by the Youth Justice Services and Custodial Services directorates.

NIHE

We were established in 1971 as Northern Ireland's strategic housing authority. We offer a range of services to people living in socially rented, privately rented and owner occupied accommodation as well as supporting and working with a number of other public bodies.

Our goal is that everyone has access to decent, affordable housing and our task is to work with communities and other organisations to meet the housing needs of existing and future generations.

Our key strategic objectives are:

Delivering better homes, supporting independent living, building stronger communities and delivering quality services

PSNI

The Police Service of Northern Ireland is the police force that serves Northern Ireland. The Police Service will work in partnership with other key agencies, the business sector and the community, through the use of restorative interventions, to help a child or young person to understand the consequences of their behaviour, the impact on others, and to encourage them to take responsibility for their actions. The PSNI have a Youth Independent Advisory Group, which is a community-led group of young people aged from 13 to 18 years old who provide independent advice to the Police Service. The PSNI have a Youth Strategy to make sure that the Human Rights of children and young people are upheld when they deal with you as a victim, witness or if you get into trouble. The Police Service will work in partnership with other key agencies, the business sector and the community, through the use of restorative interventions, to help a child or young person to understand the consequences of their behaviour, the impact on others, and to encourage them to take responsibility for their actions.

MENCAP

Mencap is the leading voice of Learning disability. Everything we do is about valuing and supporting people with a learning disability, and their families and carers. We run various projects and programmes for people with a learning disability and their families and professionals our vision is a world where people with a learning disability are valued equally, listened to and included.

All children with a learning disability have a right to be supported to enable them to live full and independent lives in the future and children and young people with a learning disability have a right to an inclusive education with the right support.

MIGRANT CENTRE NI

Our overall aim is to tackle racism and eliminate barriers against new and settled migrant communities in NI.

We provide advice and advocacy in two areas through our bilingual support workers: financial health and wellbeing and supporting victims of racist hate crime and incidents. Our service is free of charge and confidential. We also provide interpreters. The service covers all of Northern Ireland and is delivered in partnership. We also continue to promote good relations through our Belonging Project. A

multimedia photography project coupled with workshops that facilitates discussions about identity, migrant experiences and community in a non threatening and safe environment. Through this project we also provide training for facilitators from the migrant community free of charge

CAW/NELSON DRIVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Caw/Nelson Drive Action Group provide a range of programmes, activities and services to meet the needs of local residents. These include parenting courses, womens group, senior citizens luncheon club, befriending scheme, a variety of recreational and educational courses as well as health & wellbeing initiatives, environmental projects, community safety and crime prevention initiatives, volunteering opportunities and training along with programmes to help make people more employable. The group also provide a range of outreach services ie. Welfare Rights through the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Job Assist, Skills 2020 and counselling and therapy sessions through Action Cancer NI.

WESTERN AREA CHILDCARE PARTNERSHIP

The Childcare Partnerships aim to develop and support quality play and learning environments within the early years sector to ensure quality play and learning experiences for children. Services within the early years sector include Out of School services, Childminders, Day Care and Playgroups.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES

Northern Ireland's Department for Communities formally known as Department for Social Development has strategic responsibility for urban regeneration, community and voluntary sector development, social legislation, housing, social security benefits, pensions and child support.

PARENTING NI

Parenting NI has been supporting families across Northern Ireland since 1979. We believe that effective parenting is the cornerstone of strong families. We aim to provide parents and carers with the support and resources they need to ensure the most positive upbringing for their children and young people. Our focus is on prevention and early intervention, in order to ensure the best outcomes for children and young people. All of Parenting NI services have been developed based on the needs of parents. **Our vision** of the future is one where parenting is highly valued, and family members receive the support and resources they need to provide a happy and safe environment in which children and young people can achieve their potential. **Our aim** is to contribute to the well-being of children and young people by supporting parents and to influence policy and practice on parenting.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY

The Education Authority (EA) was established under the Education Act Northern Ireland 2014 and became operational on 01 April 2015. It is a non-departmental body sponsored by the Department of Education. EA is responsible for ensuring that efficient and effective primary and secondary education services are available to meet the needs of children and young people, and support for the provision of efficient and effective youth services. These services were previously delivered by the five

Education and Library Boards: EA employs over 39,000 people across Northern Ireland in a wide variety of roles. This includes teachers in controlled schools, school-based support staff and staff in administrative headquarters.

EXTERN

Extern is the trusted, forward-looking charity that changes people's lives by meeting them at their point of need. We bring solutions and deliver quality services, reconnecting people with society, building better communities for us all. Extern believes that people should be able to find stability to change their lives and contribute to the community in which they live. We address homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse and rehabilitate offenders to build safer communities. We intervene with adults, vulnerable young people and their families to improve their lives. Across all of our work in supporting children, young people and their families, people who are homeless and in building safer communities, Extern works in a way which is:

Life-changing, forward-looking, trustworthy, delivers quality and brings solutions.

Through 30 years of enterprise, innovation and experience we have developed services that help ensure that families and children stay together, people have somewhere to live, offending is reduced and that we can all live in a safe, fair and inclusive society.

We work across Northern Ireland and Ireland, employing over 450 staff and reach over 15,000 people every year at our 40 bases across the island. We work with people because the risk is worth taking and because we believe that everyone can make a positive contribution to society.

Extern's work delivers:

Outreach and accommodation for people who are homeless

Resettling, monitoring and supervision of people who have offended

Early intervention and prevention work with children, young people and their families

Learning and skills for those who are homeless and who are excluded

BARNARDOS

At Barnardo's we believe in children – no matter who they are, what they have done or what they have been through. We will ensure their needs are met and their voices are heard.

This belief started with our pioneering founder, Thomas Barnardo, who stood up for the most vulnerable children in society. We continue to fight for the UK's most vulnerable children to realise his dream of a world where no child is turned away.

Our vision is his vision – a world where no child is turned away.

Our purpose is to transform the lives of the UK's most vulnerable children.

Our mission - Reach and help those children whose voices are unheard and whose needs are unmet.

Defend, safeguard and support them at key moments to change their lives for the better.

Fight to change policy, practice and public opinion.

Inspire our people and partners to unite behind our purpose.

We value and embrace diversity, and are committed to creating a society for our staff, our volunteers and the children we work with that is free from discrimination, victimisation and harassment.

WOMEN'S AID

Women's Aid is the lead voluntary organisation in Northern Ireland addressing domestic and sexual violence and providing services for women and children. The Women's Aid movement in Northern Ireland began in 1975 and is made up of nine local Women's Aid groups and Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland. Each Women's Aid group offers a range of specialist services to women, children and young people who have experienced domestic violence. They are all members of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland. Women's Aid exists to challenge attitudes and beliefs which perpetuate domestic violence. We seek through our work to promote healthy and non abusive relationships.

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland strives to welcome and support all women, children and young people, including those with disabilities and those without, women from minority communities, different cultures, races, languages and sexual orientations and from a wide age range.

LIFESTART FOUNDATION

The Lifestart Foundation is an all-Ireland charitable body offering a high quality, evidence-based programme for parents of children from birth up to age five years. Our core programme – *the Growing Child* – is delivered within the family home on a monthly basis. The programme has been **proven** to reduce parental stress; strengthen the relationship between parent and child; and support parents in their understanding of how a young child develops and learns. We work with parents so they can support their child to grow and develop in areas of speech and language, problem solving, better self-esteem, and of course, in preparing the child for their later successes in school. Lifestart has 30 years' experience in helping people develop as parents. Our work focuses on the building blocks of child development: parent/child attachment, bonding and interaction, language development, play and most of all, love.

CYPSP

The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) brings together a range of agencies, including voluntary and community sector organisations, that aim to improve the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland for children and young people, and their families and wasted resources. The CYPSP aims to plan and provide services for children and young people more efficiently by making joint decisions about the services needed, and funding these services together. Importantly, the CYPSP emphasizes a rights-based approach to its work. This means planning services that uphold children's rights and encouraging children, young people and their parents to participate in the process.