

Ballymena Youth Fair encourages young people to make positive life choices

8 November 2016

Over 650 year 11 pupils in the Ballymena area attended the Annual Youth Fair this week. The focus of this year's fair was on Mental Health, raising awareness of support and emotional wellbeing services available as well as to encourage young people to make positive choices in their lives.



CYPSP Smoothie Bike encouraging healthy eating and exercise with Year 11's from Dunclug College

Local organisations such as EA NI Youth Service, Women's Aid, Brook, Start360 Connections Service, Cara-Friend, People Plus NI, Cancer Focus NI, Barnardos Bereavement Service, Beyond Skin were present at the fair to showcase the range of support services available to young people in the area, and how they can access this support.

Veronica McKinley, NICHI Project, North Antrim Community Network said, "This Youth Fair is a great opportunity for a range of services to provide information and raise awareness on health issues to young people attending post primary schools in the Ballymena area".

The fair was organised by Ballymena Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Locality Group and the Ballymena Learning Together Partnership, with funding support from the Public Health Agency and North Antrim Community Network.



EA NI Youth Service along with pupils from Slemish College



Sandra Anderson, CYPSP Participation Worker capturing views of young people on the day



Cara-Friend providing information on their services to Year 11 Pupils from St. Louis Grammar School

Speaking at the event, Hector Deane, Coordinator of Ballymena Learning Together, said, “Today’s annual event is great opportunity for students, and indeed their teachers, to network with the voluntary and statutory agencies that exist within the community to foster young people’s health and well-being during the important years of their development.”

The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), led by the Health and Social Care Board, is a multi-agency partnership that includes the leadership of key statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

CONTACT US

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See the CYPSP Ballymena Locality Planning Group webpage at:
www.cypsp.org/locality-planning-groups/ballymena-locality-group/