

Lobbyist Update for March 2016

Women's Policy Group Manifesto / Women's Policy Group

Official launch of the Women's Manifesto took place on 9th March at 11am in Equality House. Event was chaired by Dawn Purvis, representatives attended from DUP, Sinn Fein, Alliance, Green Party and People Before Profit. My work going forward and lobbying will be on the key asks from the Manifesto.

Another launch of the Women's Manifesto is being held in Enniskillen.

Lobbying activity

Meeting held with Junior Ministers Emma Pengelly and Jennifer McCann.

Ellen is organising a hustings event. Invitations have gone to the political parties. Event is being held on Thursday 21st April at 11am in WRDA offices.

All Party Group on Children & Young People

Ellen attended the above event at Stormont. The presentation was by June Wilkinson from the Children & Young People's Unit in OFMDFM. Consultation is ongoing for the new Children's Strategy. Will be important WRDA is involved in this to ensure parents' voices are heard.

Community Planning

The community planning events went well. I have been working on the report which will be with us this week. Next stage is to host a launch in Belfast City Hall and feedback to the community planners on our key asks. This will be held at the end of April.

Next stage will be to meet with community planners in each of the council areas.

Research: Why Women Only?

Diane Izabiliza is a student of Social Work from Berlin, Germany and is interning here until March 2016. She is under the supervision of Ellen and working on a research paper for WRDA which explores a question that many women's organisations are being asked, not just by decision-makers but by funders "why are you women-only?" The research will not only address this question but it will also highlight the benefits and value of women only services. Diane has completed all interviews and transcribed the results. Ellen will be writing up the results over the summer.

Member Event

Next member event is being held on 24th March, Joanna McPadden from DOJ will be in attendance to talk about the new DOJ consultation on Domestic Violence. Ellen will be writing a response to this consultation.

Meetings / Events attended

Met with Lindsay Ferguson from Detail Data

Attended All Party Group on Children & Young People

Attended Childcare Stakeholder Group meeting

Met with Junior Ministers

Member event on Domestic Abuse Offence & Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme