

Outline of Belfast Area Outcomes Group Partner Ad-hoc Covid Response Activity identified via Locality Planning Group Priorities

**Presented to Belfast Area Outcomes Group
on Friday 12th February 2021**

Background

The membership of the four Locality Planning Groups in Belfast, made up of organisations both large and small, have been made key contributions in the delivery of community responses made to the current pandemic since March 2020 across Belfast.

By Summer 2020, each Locality Planning Group had established an anti-poverty sub group, which has provided a forum for members to reflect on the impact of different activity, designed to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, in their respective locality areas. They have also provided a forum for feedback on emerging needs and areas of work where LPG members felt current delivery could be built upon.

On November 25th a city meeting of the anti-poverty sub group chairs was convened, under the auspices of the Locality Planning structures. The purpose of the meeting was to explore whether there were any common initial areas of activity that could usefully be progressed collaboratively via LPG's. The meeting identified 4 common initial priorities where current pandemic responses could potentially be enhanced.

Possible Funding

In parallel to this process of need identification, the potential availability of in year budget spends, that could be applied to the broad area of anti-poverty work in Belfast on an ad hoc basis also emerged.

The initial trigger was an approach from the West Belfast GP federation, indicating their desire to offer additional in year practical support to families within their organisation's catchment area. Additional substantive funding was made available by BCC and additional funding secured by the Outcomes Group Chairperson from BHSCT.

Outcomes Group Mandate

The Outcomes Group Meeting on Dec 1st mandated work on the priorities identified via the Locality Planning Group priorities using the available budgets, in as aligned a way as possible.

The mandate was to deliver ad hoc, rapid response spends, to meet developments in the needs frameworks, identified via FS hubs/ LPG and BAOG activity.

Each funding partner has retained its own priorities, operational and governance requirements. Funding partners have worked positively, collaboratively and at speed together to see if coordinated spends based on needs identification via LPG's and hubs could leverage services for families in the timeline available.

Coordination, liaison and facilitation to support the planned activity is being provided by the BAOG Locality Planning Coordinator and other members of the Early Intervention Support Team.

Partner Funding Allocations, Conditions and Geographic Parameters

Belfast City Council, £96k available in total within the BAOG area. This was based upon a £24k, contract based spend, per LPG area, in line with BCC contracting protocols, but otherwise flexible.

West Belfast GP Federation, £40k. clear geographical restrictions and a high level of conditionality on spend arrangements, as the federation is establishing a contracting framework from scratch.

BHSCT/BAOG, £62k No geographical restrictions on spend other than being line with BHSCT contracting protocols and BAOG geography.

Belfast City Council approach based on geographically equitable investments in each of the Five BCC District Electoral Areas. The Colin District Electoral Area lies within South Eastern Area Outcomes Group and SEHSCT and has also been allocated a £24k spend under the same conditions.

The West Belfast GP federation also wished to invest in this area, as a substantive number of patients on the lists of West GP's are resident in Colin DEA. Both organisations have arrived at decisions to roll out the same approach to this area as that taken in other parts of the city via the local neighbourhood partnership.

The BHSCT/BAOG investment is focused purely on the BAOG area.

Additional Delivery Areas identified via LPG Activity

1. Additional practical support to families with Children under Two in the family home
2. Additional activity in relation to digital poverty issues affecting children and families.
3. Enhancements to availability of 'flexible funds to meet particular needs of families in localities.
4. Alignment of some food related activity with fresh food/connecting/healthy eating frameworks which already exist in local areas

Delivery Approach

Since December 1st continued engagement with the LPG chairs and groups has been central to a co-production based approach taken by the funding partners in agreeing responses to the needs identified. Indeed, without the active participation of the LPG's, their members and chairpersons, this approach would not have got off the drawing board.

Spends under each heading are shared between the three funding partners. Or if geographic or other operational conditions preclude this, then particular partners will

invest more heavily in a particular area to ensure as integrated approach as possible is experienced by families benefitting from these supports.

Families with Children under twenty four months

This approach sees:

BHSCT/BAOG leading, using existing BAOG contracting frameworks to identify a single source, for a leveraged purchase of 'Support Packs for Baby' with a range of products including nappies, toiletries wipes etc in them.

West Belfast GP Federation has agreed to fund a proportionate allocation for West LPG area.

Each LPG area has met as a body and identified a partner who would be happy to distribute an allocation of support packs which will arrive into the respective LPG area in February and March.

Access to this resource is available across the breadth of Locality Planning Group membership to any Hardiker Tier Two family working with an LPG member organisation, who agree that this sort of practical support as something the family could benefit from.

Budget breakdown and activity:

£36k BHSCT and £12k West Belfast GP federation. Total GP contract will be 16k as they are sourcing an additional £4k of baby support packs for the Colin area that is outside BAOG area. Minimum of 300 packs, per LPG area, by 31st March is the activity projection for this part of the initiative. (Pack Contents sheet and photo attached)

Digital Poverty Activity

Digital poverty. Proposed approach again sees BHSCT using its existing contract framework to identify a single source for a leveraged purchase of wifi cards and fixed term year long family broadband contracts.

Identification of beneficiaries, is again available across all LPG members. LPGs have met and identified an appropriate local distribution partner in each area for this initiative.

Budget breakdown and activity:

West Belfast GP federation £12k, BCC £16k BHSCT £14k = £42k. Total GP contract will be 16k as they are sourcing an additional £4k of wifi supports for the Colin area that is outside the BAOG area. Depending on the mix agreed, a minimum of 50-70 families per Locality Planning Group area will benefit from this initiative

Enhancements to the Availability of Flexible Funds to Families

This section will see additionality added to existing CYPSP investments in flexible funding to support the Belfast Family Support hub network in meeting family need. BHSCT/BAOG and the West Belfast GP federation are making available an additional £2k per FS hub area in the BAOG area, for the final quarter of 20/21 financial year. The purpose of this funding is to assist in meeting the particular needs of individual families who may have fallen through the 'cracks' of other anti-poverty initiatives.

Budget breakdown and Activity:

The West Belfast GP federation is making available a total of £8k to the four FS hubs in the West LPG area. An additional 12k from BAOG/BHSCT has been made available to the other six FS hubs in the BAOG area. Separate contracting arrangements will be needed between the GP federation and the relevant FS hubs, although existing BAOG recoupment criteria and governance are being used to support delivery.

Hard to predict activity as it depends upon the needs being presented although 200 additional families receiving support across Belfast would be expected at a minimum based on current spend levels.

Food Related Activity

BCC will lead on this on behalf of the Outcomes Group, because of the organisational experience they already have in this area, gained particularly across the pandemic period. Given the structural and political issues surrounding this scale of investment by BCC, special arrangements were needed to deliver this spend.

Each LPG was asked to call a special meeting at which a nomination was sought for a member organisation, agreed by the LPG as both being willing and with the governance capacity to enter into an unusual contract with BCC. This contracting arrangement will see them disburse recipe based food programme activity, across the membership of each Locality Planning area.

Extraordinary meetings of each of the four locality planning groups in Belfast were held between 12 January and 14 January 2021. The outline of the planning and delivery approach were put to each meeting. Following discussion the membership of each LPG then nominated an organisation that the membership felt was best placed to take on the contract with Belfast City Council as well as identifying local distribution partners for other aspects of this initiative.

Based on close liaison between partners and the Locality Planning Chairs it was agreed that an 'all in' £15 per person per session will be the fixed, basic building block of this contract. This will include all costs including delivery, costs, ingredients etc. The food activity will have a focus on the following approaches to add value/differentiation to current activity.

Fresh Produce: Veg, Fruit, and Meat to supplement existing approaches e.g. via foodbanks which will be made available to all programme participants

Healthy eating/ budget cooking approaches using recipe packs, video /social media to be the basis for delivery, plus any utensils needed to deliver a particular programme.

Using the delivery off and feedback on the recipes to provide opportunities to Connect People/ reducing isolation. This will be an explicit goal of the activity commissioned.

The contracting body will not be asked to design programmes. Given the time pressures on this spend. Instead each LPG area BCC contract holder will oversee the distribution of 1000 sessions of cook it type activity, across interested partners in each LPG area. Considerable effort has been put into this contracting approach by BCC which is designed to be as light touch as possible, to support the delivery of this approach.

ALL LPG partner organisations are eligible to ask for an allocation of the food programmatic activity in line with above objectives otherwise no stipulations. Other than ensuring that the maximum number of organisations and people benefit from the availability of this funding.

Contracting bodies primary role will be to ensure a fair non bidding based, allocation to all groups meeting the 3 criteria outlined above.

Budget breakdown of each Belfast City Council Contract contract

£15k of direct food related activity which equates to 1000 hours per LPG area.

£1k to support admin/ marketing costs of the above.

A £4k contribution per LPG area has been top sliced by BCC from the original proposed awards to make a single budget transfer to make up the BCC contribution to the wifi support activity outlined previously.

In addition BCC have agreed to make available a £4k unrestricted spend to meet particular local gaps or priorities identified by the LPG available in each area. Contractor to act only on the direction of the LPG chair in relation to this spend.

An outline of which Locality partner organisations have agreed to support relevant local delivery follows at the end of this report.

Process Issues / Learning

From a BAOG perspective, maximising the opportunities to draw learning from this activity is essential. While not a pure CSCA approach, the ability to respond on an ad hoc basis to particular needs using a 'coalition of the available' type approach has large scale potential going forward.

As differing needs emerge and different variations of Outcomes partners find they have the opportunity/capacity to respond to relevant pressures drawing learning from this kind of approach has an obvious appeal.

The identification of relevant need, from effective local partnerships has been the bedrock in developing this initiative. Without the active engagement of the Chairs and the partnerships they represent, none of the activity outlined in this paper would be possible.

The overarching requirement to foster cooperative funding and working while reducing any unneeded duplication / competition, alongside minimising the administrative burdens upon Community and Voluntary sector delivery agencies, are already key learning points from this exercise.

Learning how to best utilise the experience and strengths of individual agencies, willing to respond to the presenting need, by working to understand their organisational parameters for responding is key.

It is already evident that explicitly committing to minimising the impact of organisational processes to delivery partners is also an important learning area. Other learning on what does and doesn't go well will emerge as we go forward. Underpinned by the already well understood fundamental learning points, that there is no such thing as either 'free' money or painless delivery of course!

Agreed Delivery and Distribution Partners

West Locality Planning Area

Council - Upper Springfield Development Trust

Baby Bags- West Sure Starts

Wifi - Support – Education Project West Belfast Partnership Board

East Locality Planning Area

Council –Scaffolding Project

Baby Bags – East Belfast Sure Start

Wifi - Support- East Belfast Community Development Association.

North Locality Planning area

Council - Ashton Project

Baby Bags Glenbrook Sure Start

Wifi -

South Locality Planning area

Council - Ballynafeigh

Baby bags - South Belfast Sure Start

Wifi - Forward South (Partnership Board)

Appendix 1



Appendix 2



Belfast
City Council



Baby Care Support Pack Contents

Baby Bag Contents List

Baby Products

- 4 Packs of Flo and Fred Nappies
- 3 Pack of Huggies baby wipes
- 1 Bottle of Flo and Fred Shampoo
- 1 Bottle of Flo and Fred Baby Wash
- 1 Bottle of Flo and Fred Baby Bath time
- 1 Pack of Baby Sponges
- 1 Pack of Baby Cotton Wool
- 1 Tub of Cotton Buds

Hygiene Products

- 2 Packs of Always Sanitary Towels
- 1 Alberto Balsam Shampoo
- 1 Alberto Balsam Conditioners
- 1 Tube of McClean Toothpaste
- 1 pack of toothbrushes
- 1 Tub of Antibacterial Hand Wash
- 1 Sure Deodorant Spray
- 2 Packs of Dove Soap
- 1 Radox Shower Gel

Household Items

- 1 Packet of 12 Tesco Toilet Rolls
- 1 Tesco Cleaner Spray
- 1 Tesco Washing Up Liquid
- 1 Laundry Gel

Bag for Life

Appendix 3

Baby Care Support Pack

Family Contact details	
Name	
Address	

(Only Children under 24 months are eligible)

Gender (please circle)	Ages in Months	Nappy Size
M / F		
M / F		

GP Details			
GP Name		Tel. No:	
GP Address:			
Health Visitor		Tel. No:	

Contact Details for Person requesting support for the above family:	
Organisation:	
Name:	
Address:	
Tele:	
Email:	
Signed (Referrer) Date	

Parental Consent received to share information with other agencies:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I understand that my information on this Service Request Form will only be shared on a 'need to know' basis with the agreed service provider organisation/s. I understand that my information will be managed and secured at all times in accordance with requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. I understand that I can withdraw my consent for engagement at any point 	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

No more than one support pack per family can be requested in a calendar month. Two packs will be the maximum allocation to any one family up until March 31st.

*It is the responsibility of the person requesting support to collect the pack and deliver it to the family they are identifying.