

**South Armagh LPG**  
**Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 10am**  
**Via Zoom Video Conference Call**

Attendees	Apologies
Taucher McDonald (NMandDD Council - Chair) Darren Curtis (CYPSP) Kerry O'Hagan (CYPSP - Minutes) Rhiannon Gallagher (Clanrye Group) Dannielle Gibson (EA / EWS) Jenna McCool (CAPS)	Stephanie Armstrong (Homestart) Sharon Campbell Allison Slater (Bolster Community/Family Support Hub) Valerie Berry (SHSCT) Elaine Trainor Ita Gibbs (Newtownhamilton Community Centre) Annie Clarke (SHSCT)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action – By Whom
<b>Welcome, Intros. &amp; Apols</b>	Taucher welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies noted, per above.	
<b>Previous Minutes</b>	Previous Minutes (16 <sup>th</sup> December 2020) agreed, with no amendments.	
<b>Member Agency Updates &amp; Unmet Needs in the South Armagh Area</b>	<p><b>Jenna (CAPS):</b> Work with children aged 8-131 years, early intervention programme. Children at risk of difficulties at home or in the community would be referred, most having multi-agency involvement. Provide therapeutic intervention in school and support to parents. Offer a variety of Zoom and some in school sessions for SEN children. Half are engaging in Zoom activities. Emerging needs: Engagement in schoolwork not working for all children this time round. Group work more difficult due to restrictions and over Zoom some children are struggling to engage. Delivery of typical service is more difficult. In terms of referrals 4 children on the waiting list and will be allocated in the next few weeks.</p> <p><b>Sharon (Meadowlands Surgery):</b> Social worker based in the GP Practices, part of the new GP Federation. Based in Meadowlands Surgery in Newry, covering a 5-mile radius coming into parts of South Armagh. Trying to get a feel of what is available for young people, parents, and families in the area.</p> <p><b>Valerie (Clanrye Surgery):</b> New to Newry area, background of Adult Services. Today is great for finding out information.</p> <p><b>Alison (Bolster Community):</b> Host Family Support Hub and deliver children's services across all Newry &amp; Mourne area. Upcoming English language classes starting for Bulgarian Community, running until end of March. Youth Leadership programme "Youth Upfront", Peace funded and aimed at developing youth. Friends Resilience programmes, evidence-based programme aimed at developing resilience, coping with anxiety among children of all age ranges, currently running 8 Friends programmes. One to one work still ongoing with huge number of referrals. Have an additional Family Support Worker for families. Upcoming Autism Conference – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Being Autism Awesome. Filming 3 young people, their stories are fascinating. Conference is being held by Remo, virtual conference and very interactive.</p>	
<b>Member Agency</b>		

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<p><b>Updates &amp; Unmet Needs in the South Armagh Area (Continued from previous page)</b></p>	<p><b>Danielle (EWO):</b> Continuing with pathway through casework, some new referrals but not as many as pre-Covid. Emerging issues: Lack of routine and structure in children’s lives, anxiety among GCSE age group on cancellation of exams. Number of Newcomer families not returned after the summer, struggling to get flights, trying to keep as many spaces in schools. Newcomer families struggling with access to laptops and internet and receiving food parcels. Still accepting referrals. Providing telephone and Zoom support to parents and children.</p> <p><b>Stephanie (Home Start):</b> Family support charity and support families with children under the age of 5 years with practical and emotional support. Provide home visiting volunteers, family support workers, Incredible Years training and family groups. All switched to remote platforms. Providing practical support with food parcels. Online Incredible years classes, Baby massage classes, Mood Matters and weekly family time classes. Emerging Need: Mental health especially parental mental health. Open for referrals.</p> <p><b>Rhiannon (Clanrye Family Foundations):</b> Currently still proving one to ones, everything still online. Weekly Driving Theory classes via Zoom, Gardening workshops for adults and parents and kids, weekly parent group. Recently held MAPS sessions, GIMME 5 and wellbeing classes. Healthy Family programme running, big uptake on this. Mainly supporting parents around motivation and routine. A lot of housing support required.</p> <p><b>Taucher (NMANDDD Council):</b> Still working with the schools on Shared Schools programmes around health and wellbeing and good relations. District wide programme. Primary School Intercultural programme starting early March. All school programmes via Zoom. Emerging needs: issues around risk taking behaviours, drugs, and alcohol. Theresa Burke delivering sessions on Drug awareness, linking in through youth groups and clubs.</p>	<p>Stephanie contact details: <a href="mailto:stephanie@homestartnewry.com">stephanie@homestartnewry.com</a></p>
<p><b>South Armagh LPG Action Plan Update / Future Action Plans</b></p>	<p><b>Action Planning</b></p> <p><b>4 priorities from CYPSP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing in particular children in the 5-10-year age group</li> <li>• Early Intervention support for children with disabilities and their families</li> <li>• Support to children whose wellbeing is being affected by disruption to their schooling.</li> <li>• Contribution to Strategic cross departmental actions in response to od and fuel poverty as well as locality-based services and responses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Feedback:</b> Referrals and trends coming through FSH reflected in CYPSP priorities. In particular an increase in families with children with a disability and struggles they face with closure of respite and schools. Slight change in direction on age group, more referrals coming through for early adolescence 12–14-year group. High school age groups an increase in anxiety, an increase in poverty and need for Food Banks on a weekly basis. A lot of families stuck in limbo regarding assessment, minimum waiting time is 1 year on assessment list. This is affecting learning. A lot of parents worried more about older young teenagers, especially around transition to secondary school. Pressure around return to school and support for children. Lack of access to services, especially early intervention Services which are vital such as Speech and Language, Autism and Statemented for schools.</p>	<p>Darren to send through link from Paula Keegan – looking to speak to parents on how lockdown has affected families with children with a disability.</p>

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	<p>Widening of age group around children’s menta health. Parental Mental Health issues. CAWT/MACE project will be hitting the ground soon with universal interventions.</p> <p><b>Infant Mental Health Awareness Workshop Series</b> Free and available via Zoom. Available to book via Eventbrite. Dates of upcoming workshops 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Mar 2021.</p>	<p>KO’H to send through booking links</p>
<b>Family Support Hub Update</b>	<p>Hub incredibly busy, 41 referrals in December 30 in January and 30 in February. Usually, this time of the year is quiet. Referrals: lack of Services, sitting on waiting lists as partner agencies struggling to get through waiting lists. Poverty is high on referral trends, parental mental health, children’s mental health, increase in relationship breakdowns. Now have a dedicated Family Support worker for families with a child with a disability – this is a very busy service.</p>	
<b>SAOG Update</b>	<p>SOG planning workshop took place last week. Achievements have been good.</p> <p>Updates on Task and finish groups through SOG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newcomer Families Need Group: Low uptake on vaccine among BAME communities.</li> <li>• Our Journey Disability Report recommendations, opening this up and spread across Southern Trust.</li> <li>• Young People: Had feedback from young people on the CYPSP priorities. They focused on emotional wellbeing and mental health.</li> </ul>	
<b>AOB</b>		
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	<p><i>Via Zoom on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021</i></p> <p><i>Thank you, as always, for your time and input!</i></p>	