

**Craigavon LPG**  
**Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 at 10am**  
**Via Zoom Video Conference Call**

Attendees		Apologies
Deborah Millar (Home-Start Craigavon - Chair)	Alex Clifford (ABC Council)	Tim Strain (Youth Justice Agency)
Darren Curtis (CYPSP)	Caoilin Boyle (ABC Council)	Elizabeth McNicholl (Early Years - Toybox)
Joanne Patterson (CYPSP - Minutes)	Scarlett Czuczor (Women's Aid)	Lynette Cooke (PCSP)
Jane McCann (EA EWO)	Kevin Quigley (EA Youth Service)	Naoimh McMahon (Clanrye Group)
Val Loughery (Intercultural Education Service)	Laura Wylie (Links Counselling Service)	Frances Haughey (ABC Council)
Matthew Matchett (Cedar Foundation)	Marie-Clare McCann (NIACRO, FSH)	Andrew McCreery (SSYCC)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action – By Whom
<b>Welcome, Intros &amp; Apologies</b>	Deborah welcomed all to the meeting. Darren advised that this was the third Southern Area virtual LPG Meeting to have taken place and briefly ran through corresponding housekeeping matters. Apologies noted, per above.	
<b>Previous Minutes - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b>	Previous Minutes shared on screen & agreed, with no amendments. All actions which were not subsequently affected by COVID-19 developments have been followed up on accordingly. Still keen to have Darren from CAMHS speak at a forthcoming meeting, so Darren C. will organise, in liaison with Tim, in due course.	
<b>Member Agency Updates &amp; Emerging Needs in the Craigavon Area</b>	<p>Deborah (<b>Home-Start Craigavon</b>): Home visits postponed due to lockdown challenges however overcome via a mix of online activities and phone contact. Emotional support ongoing via phone calls but practical support delivery has been difficult due to social distancing. Families with younger children are worried about them being unable to effectively social distance. Risk Assessments pending from Home-Start UK.</p> <p>Caoilin (<b>ABC Council</b>): Just prior to lockdown, Neighbourhood Renewal, in conjunction with the Play Development Officer, were in the process of delivering a very successful Peace IV funded Play In The Community programme. In Craigavon in August 120 children attended 16 play sessions with a Celebration Event attended by approx. 600 people. Banbridge &amp; Gilford play sessions ran pre-lockdown had 100 children attending. Programme to run until June but had to be postponed. Now reviewing how to run the remainder of the programme, following social distancing protocol. Recently been assisting with COVID-19 related council activities, e.g. organising food parcels.</p> <p>Matthew (<b>Cedar Foundation</b>): Continuing work with ages 0-18 with an acquired brain injury, ASD diagnosis or a physical disability. Moved Youth Matters programmes online to private Facebook page to stay connected with young people via weekly schedule of activity: Motivational Monday, Try It Tuesday, Work-Out Wednesday, Thursday Quizzes &amp; Bingo, Friday Minecraft. Engagement with parents &amp; young people has increased. Lockdown has given a lot of learning and will be keeping some of their new programmes on post-lockdown, e.g. Minecraft.</p> <p>Val (<b>Intercultural Education Service</b>): Planning as best they can, according to govt guidelines. IES has put a lot of resources up online, e.g. translation accessibility tool. Establishing contact with Roma families during lockdown has proven difficult owing to drop-in clinics in Dobbin St and Mount Zion House being put on hold. Unable to carry out home visits has really restricted maintaining contact with marginalised families.</p>	

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<p><b>Member Agency Updates &amp; Emerging Needs in the Craigavon Area</b> (Continued from previous page)</p>	<p>Scarlett (<b>Women's Aid</b>): Providing phone &amp; Skype support to women &amp; children (aged 5-17 years). Due to start an Amazing Mums programme last April but postponed until after lockdown. Children's services made up and delivered Boredom Boxes (a wellbeing pack) to families. Referrals to children's services are still operating - seen an increase in referrals more recently.</p> <p>Jane (<b>EWS</b>): Keeping in regular contact with their cases during lockdown, lot of families are coping very well. Some referrals made to CAMHS over past couple of months for behavioural issues exacerbated due to lockdown. Families requesting access to food hampers and fuel via SVP. Receiving a lot of queries around Free School Meals money. Many parents anxious about the way forward returning to school or their children progressing to different stages of education. Still a lot of anxiety about a second wave of Coronavirus and the impact of this on their children's education. The service will likely focus on playing a more supportive role when children return to school—no court for non-attendance.</p> <p>Alex (<b>ABC Council</b>): Sports Development's role initially changed during lockdown to assist with helpline efforts. Coaches delivering a range of indoor leisure &amp; sports development online sessions via the Get Active <a href="#">YouTube Channel</a> and <a href="#">Facebook Page</a>. Liaising with Sports governing bodies on phased re-openings in line with govt guidelines. Aim to recommence outdoor activities for families from June: tennis sessions in MUGAs and public outdoor spaces. Aiming to offer boot camp sessions to gym users and harder to reach groups in Neighbourhood Renewal areas. Advising local clubs on their re-start strategies &amp; plans. Disability groups will be difficult to deliver physical activity to due to higher levels of vulnerability, but Zoom classes continuing to maintain engagement. LEAP Employability Programme is being re-purposed to LEAP Online.</p> <p>Laura (<b>Links Counselling Service</b>): Clients include children aged 5+, adults &amp; couples. Based in Lurgan with a site in Armagh. Hold the ICSS contract to deliver counselling to post primary schools in ABC area. Moved to remote counselling at start of lockdown to keep continuity in sessions. Less referrals in March/April, now increasing both in volume and complexity. Issues include depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, emerging historical trauma, relationship difficulties. Play &amp; art therapy delivered online via Zoom. Counsellors check in with clients for continuity. Some children enjoy time at home but others struggled with lack of boundaries &amp; routine. Number of child referrals due to family breakdown e.g. inconsistent boundaries at separated parent's homes. Zoom, telephone, instant messaging and drop-in sessions offered. All self-referral, schools refer too. No charge for community service but encourage donations to cover baseline costs. Schools work fully-funded.</p> <p>Kevin (<b>EA Youth Service</b>): Pre COVID-19 on the Youth Providers Forum: relationship building with partners had been strong and their Voice For Youth and Global Service Learning groups were very active. Trying to maintain connections with both young people and staff to offer emotional &amp; practical support via the 'Stay Connected' and 'Eat Well, Live Well' initiatives. Contact has increased since lockdown with targeted young people in the area. Aim to hold an online summer scheme across July &amp; Aug funded by Neighbourhood Renewal &amp; the Department of Communities, using videos to offer a variety of activities to as wide a youth audience as possible. Strengthening resilience and confidence of young people through CADi, where referrals have been made to FLARE and START. Planning for post-summer through engagement with the Stay Connected forum, to offer OCN online &amp; group delivery for September onwards.</p> <p>Tim (<b>Youth Justice Agency</b> - Via e-mail update): Continuing service delivery primarily using technology-based sessions, e.g. Zoom &amp; WhatsApp. Programmes are also being posted out to families and discussed over the phone. The Juvenile Justice System continues to provide custodial support and are also providing Bail Support and Early Interventions in the community, albeit from a distance.</p>	<p>Send Alex feedback on suggested safeguards or family friendly session ideas (<a href="mailto:alex.clifford@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk">alex.clifford@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk</a>)</p>

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<b>Member Updates (Continued)</b>	Elizabeth ( <b>Early Years -Toybox</b> - Via e-mail update): Continuing to support families and aim to conduct garden gate visits if / when required, maintaining social distancing at all times. Activity and healthy snack ideas continue to be uploaded to the Early Years Facebook page on a weekly basis, to provide inspiration to families. Also, the team are currently working on a third Child Development Book.	
<b>Craigavon LPG Action Plan Update</b>	<p><b>Portadown Gets Active: Easter PGA</b> was delivered using Activity Packs which were sent out to families. Planning for <b>PGA Summer</b> pending.</p> <p><b>Mental Health &amp; Emotional Wellbeing:</b> Finalising <b>Mental Health &amp; Emotional Wellbeing Resource</b>. To print and upload to CYPSP website. Previously scheduled <b>Infant Mental Health Awareness Workshop Series</b> (3 sessions) had to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but still to take place. Format &amp; revised dates TBC with Martina McCooley &amp; corresponding trainer.</p> <p><b>Supporting Families: Needs Assessment for Newcomer Families Group</b> has not recently met. Online meeting recently held focusing on the Roma community to share challenges faced by services in the Southern area and agree on support. Issues raised primarily employment, money and food poverty. CYPSP have been including translated COVID-19 materials in 'FYI'.</p> <p>Feedback received by LPG members on <b>Emotional &amp; Mental Health and Well Being of Children and Young People</b> as a result of COVID-19: it was highlighted that some children are actually feeling better off at home, e.g. if they were being bullied at school.</p> <p>Darren recently sent an e-mail out requesting feedback from parents &amp; workers in relation to <b>Home Schooling</b> in the current climate, to be fed up to SAOG and the Assembly. Mixed experiences shared by members during the meeting.</p> <p>'FYI' has been circulated on a weekly basis due to COVID-19 developments and the increased volume of updates being received from members and other contacts across the past 8 weeks. With the recommencement of LPG meetings, 'FYI' has reverted to fortnightly frequency. <b>Daily E-mail Updates</b>, which were introduced towards the end of March, will continue for the foreseeable.</p> <p>CYPSP Southern Area Locality Planning recently produced an <b>LPG Info. &amp; Action Plan 2018-2021 Leaflet</b>, which has been printed and also shared digitally, via e-mail, with all LPG members. Plan is for LPGs to re-visit the Action Plan, in reaction to changing needs.</p>	<p>Members to send feedback to DC + Various related links to be shared</p> <p>Joanne to resend Info. Leaflet via e-mail</p>
<b>Family Support Hub Update</b>	<p>Less referrals owing to lockdown: March - 33, April - 9, May - 12, June (to date) - 3. Referrals received from: GPs, Social Services, Community Paediatrics. Trends include parenting support &amp; activities for children during lockdown, managing behaviour, emotional support for young people with anxiety, support with home-schooling, parenting pre-school, history of domestic violence, financial support, housing and supporting teenagers at risk. Expect to see an increase in referrals post-lockdown, when helplines such as Stay Connected end. Staff recently trained to assist in Domestic Violence &amp; Abuse Early Intervention and Support Services during COVID-19. Seeing a lot of parents anxious about children returning to school and returning to work (particularly childcare options).</p> <p>Linking in with some PGA families to deliver support through food parcel deliveries.</p>	
<b>SAOG Update</b>	Previously scheduled SAOG meeting has not taken place due to lockdown restrictions. Further details to follow, when available.	
<b>AOB</b>	N/A	
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	<p><b>Via Zoom (Date TBC)</b></p> <p><i>Thank you, as always, for your time and input!</i></p>	