

East Belfast Ordinary Locality Planning Meeting Thursday 14th October 2021 at 10am

Attendees:

Barbara Wallace
Amy Ashe
Barbara Smith
Charlene Mitchell
James Neill
Joe McGovern
Kathy Watters
Maggie Andrews
Paul O'Neill
Rosy McLean
Stephen Cruise
Claire Humphrey
Gareth Maguire
Jennifer Heverin

Acting Chair
EBCDA
Eastside Partnership
Outer South & East FSH
EANI
Extern
Belfast City Council
Eastside Partnership
CSM, Early Years Services, BHSCT
Inner East FSH
Oasis
Barnardo's
Sport Changes Life
BHSCT/LPG Administration

Apologies:

Adrian Green
Bronagh Muldoon
Danielle Robert
Gareth Maguire
Laura Feeny
Laura Forte
Linda Armitage
Marcela Vielman
Phil Lindsay
Sandra McCarry
Sinead Campbell
Zara Monteith

Mount Merrion Church
NCPCC
Here NI
Sport Changes Life
Save the Children
NIACRO
East Belfast Community Development Agency
Save the Children
Barnardo's
BHSCT
Advice NI
Willowfield Parish Community Association

1. Welcome and Introduction

Barbara Wallace opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous East Belfast LPG meeting on 18th August 2021 were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting and no amendments were required.

3) Matters Arising

i) Update on Counselling Services

At the last LPG Meeting on 18th August, a sub-group was formed to discuss what services are available, where there are gaps in services and how groups can work together to ease access to these programmes.

This sub-group met on 6th October 2021. Details of which are attached in the separate document.

A question was put to Paul O'Neill regarding Counselling Contracts, asking how groups can find out who holds what contract in each area.

ACTION: Paul will find this out what BHSCT contracts are in place in East Belfast regarding counselling.

A discussion ensued around a meeting that was taking place today at 11am with the EA and BCC and other statutory bodies. It was agreed that Barbara Wallace would attend this on behalf of East LPG and Claire Humphrey would chair the remainder of the meeting after 11am.

ii) Update on Autism Services Webinar (BHSCT)

Paul O'Neill advised that some work has been carried out on this and a paper will be produced to send to the Outcomes Group. Previous discussions around a presentation on Autism Services to the LPG's has been put on hold, and the Outcomes Group will decide on the way forward. More information to follow in due course.

iii) Update on Services Information Collation from the FSH's (BHSCT)

The update was circulated by Paul O'Neill in an email on 30th September 2021 highlighting service demands from the FSH's.

iv) Locality Planning Coordinator recruitment update (BHSCT)

The candidate who was offered the post has since declined the position. The role will now be re-advertised. It is hoped this process will not be lengthy.

4) East LPG plan – BCC/LPG Summer of Play funding

Play Packs

Additional money had been acquired through BHST and BCC around providing access to play opportunities to families. To summarise, a plan had been put in place around how the money could be spent. Natasha Brennan from Lorag/South LPG was coordinating play packs however there has been no update on the status of these packs for East Belfast

ACTION: Jennifer Heverin to email Natasha Brennan for an update.

Therapeutic Play

A plan has been put in place to offer therapeutic play workshops for early years/primary school children and their parents. These sessions are being delivered by UHub and are still ongoing at present. The feedback so far has been extremely positive.

Family Days Out Vouchers

Maggie Andrews added that some money had been set aside to allow for vouchers for family days out such as to W5. These will be allocated through referral from the FSH's and local organisations. The deadline for spending this has now been extended until Christmas.

PE Kits

The Scaffolding Project is coordinating the allocation of funds to support children and families with the purchase of kits and sports equipment in Podium Sport and School Days Two vouchers are available per family valued at £30 per child.

Wi-Fi Contracts and Cards

EBCDA are leading on this contract. Wi-Fi vouchers have gone to Short Strand, Bloomfield, Sure Start and Eastside Partnership. They have also been in touch with local schools who may be able to identify families in need of Wi-Fi. All vouchers will be completely distributed within the coming weeks.

Healthy Eating Programme

Barbara Smith wanted to discuss an underspend from the Healthy Eating Programme. Barbara and Israel Hontavilla at BCC have been discussing best how to spend this excess and wished to bring their proposals for LPG agreement.

The initial Healthy Eating Programme was really well received and it is proposed the programme is run again. Not only will families be feeling the impact of the Universal Credit reduction, but also the landscape in which this programme would be delivered has changed allowing more organisations to participate where they perhaps couldn't before due to restrictions.

The floor was opened for discussion and everyone agreed with Barbara's proposal.

5) FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Inner East Belfast
Timeframe:	13 th Aug – 13 th Oct 2021
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	65
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1939
Source of Service Requests:	Primarily Health visitors, self-referrals, GPs, CAMHS
Key Gaps identified: Counselling/therapy for all ages, Family support for behavioural issues, ASD support, BME support, financial support, social isolation	
Key Successes identified: East Side Learning + uHub partnership	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Outer South & East Belfast
Timeframe:	17 th August 21– 12 th October 21
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	43 Year to date 157 referrals
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1495
Source of Service Requests:	CAMHS, GP services, Community organisations, Health visitors, Self-referrals
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>ASD services – pre and post diagnosis – families want to be able to access home visiting support and support programmes.</p> <p>ADHD- limited services available</p> <p>Play Therapy, Art Therapy & Counselling waiting lists are increasing</p> <p>Increase in information requests for Baby & Toddler groups in South Belfast</p>	
Key Successes identified:	
<p>Baby massage group funded through the Hub Covid response flexible funding finished – great feedback from parents</p>	
AOB for Sharing:	

At this point Barbara Wallace left the meeting and Claire Humphrey stepped in to chair the remainder to the meeting.

6. Members Updates

Stephen Cruise – Oasis

Oasis operate Prince's Trust Team and they have just started their 13th course. The course runs for 12 weeks and the next one will begin in January. It is a fantastic opportunity for young people so please keep in mind.

James Neill – EA

James advised that he is new to the area and finding his feet. He is out in the streets at the weekends engaging with group as well as running various programmes. At the moment he is in Blessed Trinity School carrying out an accreditation course with KS4 pupils.

Joe McGovern – Extern

Extern are a youth engagement service carrying out a lot of 1-2-1 work, not counselling but more informal chat mainly around mental health. They will also work in schools offering transitional support for Primary 7/1st Year pupils.

Amy Ashe - EBCDA

EBCDA have been looking at ways to celebrate youth volunteers as they have done so much for their communities. 81 young people will be receiving their zip hoodies and having a pizza night within their organisations. There will also be a video capturing young peoples' experiences of volunteering, why they do it and what they have gained from it. It will also have input from the organisations as to why youth volunteers are so important.

7. A.O.B

Stephen Cruise – Oasis

On the back of Family Support, BHSCT have been trying to tender for 18mths. Stephen advised the group that he had a meeting with Maedbh Hillen who is the Interim Head of Social Procurement for Social Service & HSC Procurement and Edel McKenna who is the Interim Co-Director of Early Intervention and Safeguarding. Concern was expressed that a dangerous precedent was being set with the government tendering for family support services in people's homes.

Oasis have sought legal advice about this and there is an equal and opposing view in the Child Protection Act 2015. Stephen wants people to take a note of it and to be aware that the Children's Services Co-operation Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 *"requires public authorities to co-operate in contributing to the wellbeing of children and young people, in the areas of; physical and mental health, enjoyment of play and leisure, learning and achievement"*.

Politicians from every party have now engaged and want to use this legislation to enter into a discussion with Procurement around separating out physical commodities from people services.

Stephen stated that he has real concerns that that the wrong legislation is being used. If big companies win the contract and need to carry out extra visits they will get more money for this which falls outside of contract and therefore doesn't accurately reflect the full costs.

Although Oasis are working on this this, they would also appreciate others support and the legislation wording can be circulated if required.

No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close.

2021 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES	VENUES
Wednesday 22 nd April 2021	Virtual
Wednesday 16 th June 2021	Virtual
Wednesday 18 th August 2021	Virtual
Thursday 14 th October 2021	Virtual
Thursday 9 th December 2021	Virtual