

## **East Belfast Ordinary Locality Planning Meeting Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 10am**

### **Attendees:**

Maggie Andrews	Acting Chair
Amy Ashe	EBCDA
Barbara Smith	Eastside Partnership
Barbara Wallace	Eastside Partnership
Charlene Mitchell	Outer South and East FSH
Claire Humphrey	Barnardo's
Jennifer Heverin	BHSCT/LPG Administration
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council
Laura Forte	NIACRO
Paul O'Neill	CSM Early Years Services, BHSCT
Rosy McLean	Inner East FSH
Tracey Wilson	East Belfast Sure Start
Wendy Stewart	AMH New Life Counselling

### **Apologies:**

Adrian Green	Mount Merrion Church
Bronagh Muldoon	NSPCC
Danielle Roberts	Here NI
Jonathan Cockroft	EANI
Michael Briggs	EBCDA
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Peter Bryson	Save the Children
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's
Sandra McCarry	BHSCT
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI
Tracey Wilson	East Belfast Sure Start
Zara Monteith	Willowfield Parish Community

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Jennifer Heverin notified the group that the meeting was being recorded for administration purposes. There were no objections.

Maggie Andrews then opened the meeting by welcoming those present and expressing that it was great to have an East Belfast Locality Planning Group again.

Maggie also extended her thanks to Natasha Brennan of South Belfast Locality Planning Group facilitating the South and East meetings.

## **2. Previous Minutes**

The last ordinary meeting was the South and East Belfast LPG meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. There were no amendments required to these minutes which have been deemed to be a true and accurate record.

## **3. Temporary Rota for Chair and Appointment of Vice Chair(s)**

In lieu of a permanent Chair, Maggie Andrews advised that she is acting as Chair for this meeting as she is very keen to get the Belfast Locality Planning Group up and running again. Tracey Wilson from Sure Start, Claire Humphrey from Barnardo's and Barbara Wallace from Eastside Learning have agreed to share the responsibility of chairing the meetings until a permanent chair is in place.

The role of LPG Coordinator is now advertised. This fits in well with the resumption of the group as a good time to think about what is needed for the new LPG Coordinator and also what will make East LPG effective going forward.

This rotation of the Chair is a temporary arrangement in order to get East LPG back on track. Maggie, Tracey, Claire and Barbara have all good connections in East Belfast but the chairing of the meetings are not exclusive to them, anyone can still volunteer as Chair, temporary or otherwise.

Paul stated that the new LPG Coordinator will not have the same role as his predecessor Martin Sloane. The role will be significantly changed and will be shaped depending on the needs of the LPG's and Outcomes Groups. Tracey Wilson added that this is a work in progress and that the most important matter is the continuation of the meetings with strong communication throughout. Maggie also stated that the Family Support Hubs are the most important source of information for the LPG and therefore should be the driver of conversations. Their role within the group should not just be about reporting referrals and data, but also to ask questions of the group. The FSH reports should be front and centre of the LPG discussions and planning.

## **4. Members Updates**

### **Barbara Wallace – Eastside Partnership**

uHub are an organisation offering therapeutic services in North Down. Eastside will be collaborating with uHub over the summer to carry out a workshop for counselling services in East Belfast. They will also be utilising second year Play Therapy students from QUB. It is hoped these students will run sessions for eight hours per week out of Carew Family Centre, starting from September. The details still have to be finalised but the plan is that they will be available to children of any age and their parents.

### **Tracey Wilson – East Belfast Sure Start**

Regarding additional needs, Tracey advised that they are currently processing 150 applications for their Programme for Two Year Olds. From these applications, 16% have been referred to the Child Development Clinic. Overall this is by far the highest number East Belfast Sure Start have ever had and the problem lies in how to place these children into the correct service. There has been an increase in referrals for children aged two with ASD. Tracey has never seen this before so something is changing and shifting in an alarming way. There is a lot of work to do.

### **Amy Ashe – EBCDA**

EBCDA have collated a list of summer scheme opportunities for young people which she can circulate.

**ACTION:** Amy to send summer scheme list to Maggie for circulation.

### **Kathy Watters – Belfast City Council**

ACDO's & the Play Team are just starting to get back into the centres and are working towards their summer planning. There are a few vacancies so a recruitment drive will be taking place. BCC are looking at their range of summer provisions and trying to produce a more holistic summer offering where they are looking to really engage with young people this year. It is still in the planning stages at the moment but hopefully there will be more to share soon.

### **Wendy Stewart – AMH New Life Counselling**

New Life Counselling are slowly returning to face to face interaction. Much work has been carried out around children with pre and post ASD assessments and how this impacts on families. A forum has been opened to allow families to chat through issues. Over the past ten years, 95% of families have found play therapy to be beneficial. Referrals are still open but there is an eight week waiting list at present for family therapy and twelve weeks for face to face therapy for children. A range of play and art therapists are available, but they are also recruiting more. The plan is for the new recruits to start in August and it is hoped they can provide the service more widely.

### **Barbara Smith – Eastside Partnership**

With the Covid Response Fund for Locality Planning, nine organisations delivered the Healthy Eating Programme. There is still funding available for any other organisations who wish to participate in this. The course would be particularly useful over the summer when there is still a question mark over school meal provision during these months. With the reduction in summer schemes this year, the programme could be beneficial in supporting families who find their resources stretched.

Nineteen organisations applied for the Outdoor Activity Packs for children. The feedback on this has been very positive. The distribution of these packs also

provided the opportunity to speak to organisations about their summer plans where many have reported that they cannot carry out their full remit of usual activities.

The recycled uniform project has been launched through schools and some social media will be released shortly. Carew Family Centre is the hub for this. Scaffolding also have funding to help families needing new uniform items.

## 5. FSH Updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Inner East Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> April – 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	47
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	1812
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Health visitors, self-referrals, GPs, CAMHS, Gateway, voluntary + community organisations, EWOs
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b> ASD Support, ADD/ADHD Support, Play therapy, summer youth provision, BME support	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b> LPG Summer activity packs,	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Outer South & East Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2021 – 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	49
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	1404
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	CAMHS, GP services, Community organisations, Health visitors, self referrals
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
<p>ASD services – pre and post diagnosis.</p> <p>ADHD- limited services available</p> <p>Play Therapy &amp; Art Therapy lists are increasing</p> <p>Support for young people who are experiencing bullying</p>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<p>OSE FSH successfully ran a baby massage group that targeted parents who had their baby during lockdown – feedback was very positive. Another group is now planned to run in September 2021</p>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	

Following on from the FSH updates a discussion then took place regarding the key issues coming from the Family Support Hubs. One common theme emerging is the lack of services for children with additional needs. As a result, a suggestion was put forward to invite a speaker from Autism services to give a talk on what statutory services are available. It was then noted that the lack of services is a city-wide problem and not just confined to East Belfast and therefore it may be prudent to

have the speaker address all LPG's via a webinar. If a webinar is to take place then maybe a few more individuals can attend as speakers and a Q&A session could also be incorporated. However, before any of this takes place, information needs to be gathered to identify what services are available and where the gaps exist. The FSH's are best placed to obtain this information and Paul O'Neill will instruct Lorraine Brennan to liaise with the Hubs regarding collating this data.

**ACTION:** Paul to speak to contact with Natalie Killough (BHSCT) regarding a webinar

**ACTION:** Paul to speak to Lorraine Brennan regarding collating information from Hubs regarding current services.

## 6. A.O.B

- Maggie – Regarding the Action Plan it would be useful to know where we are with this as we need to get back on track with an Action Plan that is effective. A copy of the original/old plan is needed.

**ACTION:** Maggie to obtain existing Action Plan from Jennifer Heverin.

With no other business to discuss the meeting drew to a close with Maggie Andrews thanking everyone for their participation.

## 2021 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES	VENUES
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2021	Virtual
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Virtual
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	Virtual
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	TBC
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	TBC