

## **East Belfast Ordinary Locality Planning Meeting Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 10am**

### **Attendees:**

Maggie Andrews  
Amy Ashe  
Barbara Smith  
Bronagh O'Dwyer  
Linda Armitage  
Rosy McLean  
Joe McGovern  
Kathy Watters  
Marcela Vielman  
Tracey Wilson  
Wendy Stewart  
Jennifer Heverin

Acting Chair  
EBCDA  
Eastside Partnership  
NOW Group  
EBCDA  
Inner East FSH  
Extern  
Belfast City Council  
Save the Children  
East Belfast Sure Start  
AMH New Life Counselling  
BHSCT/LPG Administration

### **Apologies:**

Alan Wilson  
Claire Hanna  
Laura Forte  
Paul O'Neill  
Phil Lindsay  
Sinead Campbell  
Rebecca Duncan  
Jeanie Rogers

EANI  
Autism NI  
NIACRO  
CSM Early Years Services, BHSCT  
Barnardo's  
Advice NI  
NIACRO  
East Belfast Counselling

## **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Maggie Andrews opened the meeting by welcoming those present to the second stand-alone East Belfast LPG meeting.

## **2. Previous Minutes**

The Minutes from the previous East Belfast LPG on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting and no amendments were required.

Action Points from this meeting were then considered:

**Action 1.** Amy Ashe to send summer scheme list to Maggie Andrews for further circulation.

**Outcome 1.** Summer scheme list was sent to Maggie from Amy and the list was circulated around all the East Belfast LPG members on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**Action 2.** Paul O'Neill to contact Natalie Killough (BHSCT) regarding holding a webinar around Autism services.

**Outcome 2.** Paul O'Neill sent his apologies for this meeting so the outcome of this Action Point is unknown. This will therefore roll over to be actioned by the next East Belfast LPG meeting.

**Action 3.** Paul O'Neill to contact Lorraine Brennan (BHSCT) regarding collating information from the FSH's regarding current services and gaps therein.

**Outcome 3.** As Paul O'Neill was unable to attend this meeting the outcome of this Action Point is unknown. This will therefore roll over to be actioned by the next East Belfast LPG meeting.

**Action 4.** Maggie Andrews to obtain existing/current Action Plan from Jennifer Heverin.

**Outcome 4.** The latest Action Plan was sent to Maggie Andrews on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 from Jennifer Heverin.

**ACTION:** Paul O'Neill to contact Natalie Killough (BHSCT) regarding holding a webinar around Autism services.

**ACTION:** Paul O'Neill to contact Lorraine Brennan (BHSCT) regarding collating information from the FSH's regarding current services and gaps therein.

### **3. East LPG Plan – BCC/LPG Summer of Play Funding**

Some additional money had been made available through Gerry Largey in BHSCT and Israel Hontavilla in BCC around Summer of Play funding. Some activities had already been planned, such as the provision of summer play packs to local groups; Natasha Brennan in South LPG is co-ordinating this for all LPG's. No update is available on where this is.

A plan had been put together for the remaining resources that reflects the need for therapeutic informed play opportunities for children and families. Hubs have been reporting for some time on the unmet need for Play Therapy. It was felt that the programme described, while not intended to a solution, would provide opportunities to support families while they wait for more intensive therapy. In the Action Plan received from Jennifer Heverin one of the major topics was around play which fits very readily with what has been suggested. The ultimate objective is to have play therapy readily available in East Belfast. Other elements of the funding are to provide extra support to the Scaffolding project – vouchers for PE kit and equipment and direct support through the hubs for families for play/social opportunities.

Everyone is very aware that this situation is not unique to East Belfast, it is a city-wide issue. Gerry Largey (BHSCT) and Israel Hontavilla (BCC) have agreed to work with the LPG Chair's and other stakeholders to help develop the BCC Play strategy going forward and to include a very clear element about early years play and the need for therapeutic informed play. The deadline for spend has been extended from September to December and once more information is known it will be passed on to the LPG. No offer letter has been received at this stage.

### **4. Locality Planning Coordinator recruitment update**

Maggie Andrews enquired of Jennifer Heverin if any update had been received by Paul O'Neill to pass onto the LPG. Jennifer confirmed there had not but was of the understanding that the interviews had taken place and believes we are still on plan to have a new LPG Coordinator in place for late September to early October.

### **5. Members Updates**

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

The BCC have their new Children & Young People and Adults at Risk Safeguarding policy in its final draft and will be going out to consultation soon.

Other consultations around Belfast Agenda and the Have Your Say conversation have been ongoing. The East Belfast session is on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 10am - 12.30pm. Information on how to join will be circulated.

Recruitment for Youth Forum for 12-18yr olds is taking place. This is a fantastic opportunity and more information will be circulated once available.

**Linda Armitage – EBCDA**

EBCDA has been developing various programmes for groups on how to be a “well-being”. It is about encouraging people to look after themselves in a way that they will actually put into practice. If anyone is interested they can tailor sessions from a 15 minute coffee break to meetings lasting a few hours.

The Menopause Café resumes on 4<sup>th</sup> October. It is hoped this will develop further as it didn't worked as well as hoped via Zoom.

**Wendy Stewart – Action Mental Health & New Life Counselling**

It is hoped their face to face service for children, young people and families can increase in September when staff return from holidays etc. They currently have a long waiting list but it remains open as they hope to be able to significantly reduce this between September and October.

If necessary they can provide interpreters.

**Amy Ashe - EBCDA**

They are organising an event in partnership with the Our Generation programme, delivering mental health workshops for youth workers in East Belfast in order to provide youth workers with the tools they need.

**Joe McGovern - Extern**

Joe introduced his new colleague Ben and stated that they both work for the Youth Engagement Service in Queen Street. They are currently looking at starting a young men's group for 12-16 year olds. They have a good space at their premises with pool tables etc., so would look to get groups in to play, get to know them and have a short 15 minute mental health talk. The plan is still in early stages and Joe will keep the group posted with updates.

**Marcela Vielman – Save the Children**

Marcela advised they will be talking to schools shortly regarding starting the Families Connect programme in the New Year.

**Barbara Smith – Eastside Partnership**

The Scaffolding Project has the funding to support families requiring uniforms operating alongside the recycled school uniform scheme. The online shop will close next Wednesday but the voucher scheme will continue for a while longer. Both parents and schools can refer throughout the year via the Hubs or Barbara.

## 6. FSH Updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Outer South & East Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> June – 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	48
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	1452
<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, Art Therapy &amp; Counselling in East Belfast is not available</p>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<p>New links with local schools to increase support for hard to reach families</p>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	
<p> </p>	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Inner East Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 – 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	59
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	1874
<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, counselling/therapy for all ages, BME support	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b> Scaffolding Project uniform scheme	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	

Following Rosy McLean's Inner East FSH update there was a discussion about the reduced opportunities to access counselling services as East Belfast Community Counselling appears to have reduced its available services. Following some discussion it was then agreed that the best way forward would be for the LPG to contact EBCC and arrange a meeting if possible, inviting representatives Action Mental Health as well as interested LPG members.

**ACTION:** East LPG to arrange a meeting with East Belfast Counselling and Action Mental Health.

### **7. A.O.B**

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

### **2021 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>VENUES</b>
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	Virtual
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	TBC