

**North Belfast Locality Ordinary Meeting
Tuesday 17th August 2021 at 10am**

Attendees:

Claire Allen	Chair
Laura Feeney	Vice-Chair
Catherine Hall	Common Youth
Edith McManus	North FSH
Gabi Mornhinweg	BHSCT
Joe McGovern	Extern
Justine Fricker	EANI
Wendy Stewart	Action Mental Health
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT

Apologies:

A Galway	Currie Primary School
Bronagh O'Dwyer	Now Group
C Deery	Edmund Rice College
Cara McCann	Here NI
Christine McKeown	Ashton Community Trust
Gareth Maguire	Sports Changes Life
Jim Morgan	BH DU
Julie Jamieson	New Lodge Community Health Partnership
Karen McLean	Upper North FSH
Katrina Newell	Ashton Centre
Keeva Watson	Redeeming Our Communities
Laura Forte	NIACRO
Margaret Higgins	Belfast City Council
Paul O'Neill	CSM Early Years Services, BHSCT
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's
Rebecca Duncan	NIACRO
Sharon Quinn	Lighthouse Charity
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI
Stephen Bell	PSNI

1. Welcome and Introductions

Claire Allen opening the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions. Apologies will be noted in the minutes.

2. Previous Minutes

A copy of the minutes from the last North Belfast LPG meeting on 22nd June 2021 was shared on screen. This was deemed a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and no amendments were required.

Claire Allen added that all Action Points from this meeting have been completed.

It was also noted that there has still been no update regarding the appointment of the new LPG Coordinator.

The Agenda for today's meeting was shared on screen.

3. Food/Wi-Fi/Summer of Play Scheme

Food

This money for this provision has now all been spent. There were 12 applicants for 12 programmes around food poverty. The next stage will be the evaluation and monitoring. As of yet this hasn't been received by Christine McKeown but it is hoped it will be through shortly as a quick turnaround is desired.

Wi-Fi

Information has been circulated from the Hubs by Edith McManus and Jennifer Heverin will circulate to the North LPG members after the meeting.

Ashton have been the contract holder for all these provisions. Chair, Claire Allen expressed her thanks to Ashton for undertaking this huge piece of work.

The Wi-Fi scheme was launched last week with a video promotion. Around 82 cards have been issued from BT. Applications for the Wi-Fi can be made via Christine McKeown or Fionnuala Black.

Edith McManus added that, as at the end of July, there were 2 types of Wi-Fi that organisations can apply for:

- i) 56 yearly contracts where the person/family signs up to BT and gets free Wi-Fi in their home for a year.
- ii) 18 cards for people in hostels/single let accommodation; those who are transient. The cards will grant a specified amount of data to be used rather than committing to a yearly contract.

The key point is that the referral needs to come from a services provider or school. It is not open to self-referring individuals. Certain checks need to be made and therefore applications can only come via relevant organisations.

Summer of Play

This funding has come from Belfast City Council and is £14,000 per locality. There are 3 elements to it:

- i) Each LPG would get 15 play packs. Confirmation is still outstanding on the contents of the play packs, their age suitability and when they will be received. The packs were meant for summer schemes, however it is now mid-August and summer schemes are closing therefore the packs will be used for out of school provisions in September. Clarity is awaited from BCC and the Belfast Trust as to when this will be.
- ii) There are an additional 2 pots of money and with more than 15 provisions in North Belfast it was thought only fair that the money would be used to top up other provisions and organisations to enable them to also avail of some packs. An option could be that the organisations buy their own packs then claim the money back.
- iii) Provision for Play funding was £4,000 in total split to 80 £50 vouchers for children. As summer is now almost over, this could now be repurposed to help with school uniform costs. The dynamics of the scheme will remain the same but slightly tweaked to fit the current need. The voucher would be £50 per child regardless of the amount of children in one family. It is hoped by the next meeting the details will be cemented in.

4. Presentation: Common Youth by Catherine Hall

Catherine Hall gave a presentation on who Common Youth are and the role they play. Please see separate document for copy of the presentation.

5. Members Updates

Keeva Watson – ROC Tele-Mentors Ballysillan (update via email)

ROC are continuing to provide support to families who are finding this time difficult. Their volunteers provide a listening ear and support to parents/carers in the wider Ballysillan area. They are open to referrals for families with at least one child under the age of 12 years.

Claire Allen – New Lodge Community Health Partnership

NLCHP are starting the 'Better Days Pain Support Clinic'. This is in conjunction with the PHA and Healthy Living Centres. It is an 8 week programme funded by the Pharmacist Federation and will involve local pharmacists and physiotherapists. It is open to anyone living with chronic pain. Most sessions will be held through Zoom but there will also be face to face activities and transport will be provided for these.

The programme is starting mid-September and this is almost now fully booked. However, 2 grants have been given so another clinic will begin in the New Year. If anyone has a person in mind who would benefit from this, please contact Claire Allen and she can add them to the waiting list for January.

Wendy Stewart – Action Mental Health

New Life Counselling has resumed face to face on all services. There is a very long waiting list for child counselling but referrals are currently open for children over the age of 16 years who are at risk of homelessness. The programme would consist of 8 sessions of family therapy and can be conducted via Zoom or in person in Duncarin Gardens.

6. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Upper North FSH
Timeframe:	June- August
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	June- 33 July- 17 August- 16 so far
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1560
Source of Service Requests:	Self, school, GP, EWOs, Allied Health Professionals, community, voluntary, CAMHS, Gateway, H.V
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>Pressures throughout July- family support requests- in my last update to LPG I had reported my concerns on the amount of referrals and the impact on our members to meet the demands. Several members reached capacity and therefore had to temporarily close to referrals, some were closed for holidays and others were operating on reduced capacity, due to recruiting new staff. Therefore family support services were extremely limited. Some families were offered an alternative service were available/suitable and others were recorded as unmet need.</p> <p>Same trend in referrals- children and young people with asd/waiting a/s- with anxiety requiring 1-1 support and family support for the parents.</p> <p>Anxiety is a theme throughout a lot of referrals especially with the return to school. Primary school children feeling sad/low self-esteem/ poor self-worth. The ages of the children are getting lower for anxiety support- 5 year olds. Play/art therapy waiting lists are long.</p> <p>Summer schemes were requested- there were none to offer parents- so signposted to those that had been identified on social media. Some places did become available through Belfast City Council- which we could signpost parents to.</p>	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition from Zoom to Microsoft Teams for our Hub meetings. 	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Lower North Belfast
Timeframe:	July 2021- Mid August 2022
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	26
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1315
Source of Service Requests:	Self, School Nursing, GP, Community
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>Increasing demand for 1-1 Family Support and 1-1 mentoring with availability of these quite limited. Requests for counselling for young people also increasing especially from GPs. Families requesting support with school uniform expenses.</p>	
Key Successes identified:	
<p>Claire Allen spoke at our latest Family Support Hub meeting with LPG update and we have agreed that this will now be a standing item on our monthly Hub meeting as this will make LPG more relevant to our Hub members.</p>	
AOB for Sharing:	

7. A.O.B

Claire Allen reminded the group that all North Belfast LPG meetings take place bi-monthly on a Tuesday morning at 10am and the next meeting will be held on 19th October 2021. The format will still be via Microsoft Teams and it is anticipated it will continue this was for the foreseeable future. However, it may be an idea to have a discussion towards the end of the year about how everyone would like to move forward, i.e., stay via Teams or resume physical meetings.

No other business was discussed. Claire Allen thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was drawn to a close.

Date of 2021 LPG Meetings

DATES	VENUES
Tuesday 20 th April 2021	Virtual
Tuesday 22 nd June 2021	Virtual
Tuesday 17 th August 2021	Virtual
Tuesday 19 th October 2021	Virtual
Tuesday 7 th December 2021	Virtual