

**North Belfast Locality Ordinary Meeting
Tuesday 19th October 2021 at 10am**

Attendees:

Claire Allen	Chair
Alix Jackson	Hazelwood Integrated College
Bronagh O'Dwyer	Now Group
Caroline Milligan	Glenbrook Sure Start, BHSCT
Edith McManus	North FSH
Gabi Mornhinweg	BHSCT
Karen McLean	Upper North FSH
Keeva Watson	Redeeming our Communities
Laura Forte	NIACRO
Paul O'Neill	CSM Early Years Services, BHSCT
Sadie Reid	NB Housing
Paul Barton	Ashton
Pól Brennan	Connected Community Care
Joe McGovern	Extern
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT

Apologies:

Aisling Doherty	174 Trust
C Deery	Edmund Rice College
Cara McCann	Here NI
Danielle Roberts	Here NI
Duncan Morrow	Ulster University
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life
Julie Jamieson	New Lodge Duncairn Community Health Partnership
Justine Fricker	EANI
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI
Margaret Higgins	Belfast City Council
Michael Hogg	EANI
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI
Sinead McKinley	North Belfast Advice Partnership
William Olphert	Chinese Welfare Association

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 17th August 2021 were shared on screen. This was deemed a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and no amendments were required.

Paul O'Neill updated the group regarding the LPG Coordinator post. The person that was due to start in the role unfortunately declined the position at the last minute. The job will therefore be re-advertised. There was much interest the last time so hopefully we will have a successful candidate in the post shortly.

3. Presentation by Paul Barton – North Belfast Communities in Transition Health and Wellbeing Programme.

See attached presentation and video links. All videos can be used without permission.

Anyone interested in getting involved or requiring more information can contact Paul Barton on:

T: 0784361994

E: paul.barton@ashtoncentre.com

4. Stephen Orr – overview of North Belfast Primary Principal's Group

The North Belfast Primary Principal's Group has been running for many years and currently consists of 23 primary schools across all sectors. The idea behind the group is twofold:

a) To provide support to each other, give and receive advice, share good practices and share mutual respect and partnership.

As a group they are committed to respecting their differences when working together in a supportive and respectful way and to do their part in modelling good ways of interaction, making improvements and addressing past community division.

The group meet monthly or more frequently if necessary. They stay in touch regularly through social media to find out the latest information.

Covid has had an impact but in normal times there was a system of cluster groups looking at various curricular areas such as literacy, numeracy, ICT, special educational needs and early years. There was also a cluster focusing on transitional children. It is hoped these groups can resume, even virtually.

The group also lobby the Department of Education and the Education Authority about pressing concerns or issues such as funding or Covid response.

b) There is a funded project that started as a pilot scheme for one year but now funding for three years has been secured, of which they are now in the second year. The money was used to employ a Coordinator to take some pressure off the Principals. The Coordinator's job includes obtaining information, organising tasks on the group's behalf, providing counselling support for the children, looking at improving literacy and numeracy attainment, considering parental engagement and helping with behavioural support. It is not a lot of money but is very much welcomed.

They group occasionally have representatives from other agencies or groups to come and share what they do.

Claire Allen thanked Stephen for his update and suggested that she alongside the two FSH Coordinators attend a Principal's Group meeting to relay the role of the LPG.

Sadie Reid commented that at one of the school clusters a point arose around supporting parents for unemployment and training needs. Sadie advised she previously carried out a session in Ligoniel Primary School where she helped with CV's and employment support. Sadie still has ties with this and can refer people over as the service is still available.

5. Members Updates

Caroline Milligan – Glenbrook Sure Start

They are trying to resume face to face contact. Last week they also had a visit from the new Permanent Secretary who received a good induction to Sure Start and North Belfast.

6. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Lower North Belfast
Timeframe:	Mid-August 2021 – Mid-October 2021
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	33
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1347
Source of Service Requests:	Self, GP, Community, Health Visitor
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>Increasing demand for 1-1 Family Support and 1-1 mentoring Requests for counselling for young people also increasing especially from GPs who are relying mainly on phone consultations.</p>	
Key Successes identified:	
<p>Claire, in her role as LPG chair, is now an agenda item at all Hub meetings and this is very beneficial as it is increasing the connection in both directions. Meeting with School Nursing team was very productive and great opportunity to re-connect and provide best support for families. New Hub member who can provide support to families with children/young people with additional needs (Autonomie). Through Ashton continuing to build links with UU about what services they can offer to Hub members including family law training and social security training</p>	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Upper North FSH
Timeframe:	August- Mid October
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	August- 18 September- 23 October- 12
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1597
Source of Service Requests:	Self, school, GP, EWOs, Allied Health Professionals, community, voluntary, CAMHS, Gateway, H.V
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High demand for counselling/art therapy- due to issues with anxiety, poor self-esteem, low confidence among both primary and post primary school age. The return to school after lockdown has had a big impact. • Parents are ringing due to being signposted by GPs for counselling services. • Our mentoring providers are picking up a lot of the anxiety related referrals- leading to an impact on waiting times and capacity. Big demand for mentoring for 12 upwards. Again issues with the return to school environment. 	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended supervision and effective training for all hub coordinators. (In house) • Attended Rethinking family support virtual conference. 	
AOB for Sharing:	

7. A.O.B

Christine McKeown gave an update on the following:

a) Food Poverty - The food programme has now finished and they are just waiting on the monitoring being sent through from BCC. Part of the T&C's of the funding was that all documentation pertaining to the programme had to be retained and reported back to BCC.

b) Wi-Fi - Funding was provided by BCC, BHSCT and the West Belfast GP Federation. Ashton led the project to supply BT Wi-Fi contracts for one year or Wi-Fi cards for those in temporary accommodation. There were 57 yearly broadband contracts and there are 22 left. The 20 Wi-Fi cards are now all gone

c) Summer of Play – Funding has been provided for play packs for registered out of school provisions. We are still waiting on these coming though. There was also some vouchers available for gas and electric. There is also £4100 available for families who have difficulties accessing play programmes anywhere else.

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