

North Belfast Locality Ordinary Meeting Tuesday 22nd June 2021 at 10am

Attendees:

Claire Allen	Chair
Paul O'Neill	CSM Early Years Services, BHSCT
Julie Jamieson	New Lodge Duncairn Community Health Partnership
Karen McLean	Upper North FSH/Vine Centre
Bronagh O'Dwyer	NOW Group
Caroline Milligan	BHSCT
Gillian Boyd	Cedar Foundation
Keeva Watson	Redeeming Our Communities
Laura Forte	NIACRO
Wendy Stewart	AMH New Life Counselling
Marcela Vielman	Save the Children
Claire Hanna	Autism NI
Laura Feeney	Save the Children
Stephen Reid	The Vine Centre
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT

Apologies:

A Galway	Currie Primary School
Audrey Mullan	Autism NI
Billy Hutchinson	Mount Vernon Community Group
Cara McCann	Here NI
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI
Michael Hogg	Education Authority
Alix Jackson	Hazelwood Integrated College
Arthur Acheson	Ligoniel Village
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life
Duncan Morrow	Ulster University
Christine McKeown	Ashton Centre
Danielle Roberts	Here NI
Edith McManus	Lower North FSH/Ashton Centre
Gabi Mornhinweg	BHSCT
Jenny Carson	Belfast City Council
Johnathan Cockroft	Education Authority
Margaret Higgins	Belfast City Council
Cathy Curry	BHSCT

1. Welcome and Introductions

Claire Allen opened the meeting by welcoming those present and thanking them for their attendance. As the new Chair of North Belfast LPG, Claire introduced herself to the group as an existing member of Locality Planning and also New Lodge Community Health Partnership for the last five years. Claire stated that she is delighted to be in the position of Chair and hopes to bring a practical and on-the-ground working experience to the role.

Paul O'Neill added that the role of LPG Coordinator is now advertised as Martin Sloane is being redeployed. It is hoped interviews for this role will take place in August with a view to appointing the successful candidate around October.

Claire Allen stated that the meeting was being recorded for administration purposes. There were no objections. A round of introductions then followed and it was advised that the apologies would be noted within the minutes.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair(s)

As the new Chair, Claire Allen stated that it would be great to have a Vice-Chair or Chairs in order to have a full team on board. Following some discussion Laura Feeney kindly volunteered and was subsequently appointed to the role of Vice-Chair. The role is still open to further Vice-Chairs if anyone else is interested.

3. Previous Minutes

The last ordinary North Belfast LPG meeting took place on 20th April 2021 and a copy of these minutes were shared on screen. The only action point from this meeting was regarding the appointment of a Chair and this has now been fulfilled.

Claire Allen then gave a quick update on the Baby Packs and Food Programmes which were discussed in previous meetings. The money allocated for these has now all been spent and the feedback has been very positive. With regards to the Wi-Fi provision, this is taking a bit longer due to ironing out issues with BT, however it is hoped that it will be finalised by the end of the week. An email will be circulated once complete.

No other points were raised from the minutes which have been deemed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting. No amendments required.

4. Presentation by Julie Jamieson - Supporting Families in North Belfast

Julie Jamieson gave a very interesting presentation around the findings from their five year lottery programme, Supporting Families in North Belfast.

Please see copy of presentation attached.

5. Members Updates

Laura Feeney – Save the Children

Laura stated she would normally give an update on the Families Connect Programme within schools but they are just moving at school's pace at the moment. An online version the Families Connect Programme was created and will be available for schools going into the autumn term. A recent event took place to share the findings of this programme, which was recorded. Laura advised that once the recording is available she will forward to Jennifer Heverin for circulation.

ACTION: Laura to send recording to Jennifer Heverin for circulation once available.

Caroline Milligan – BHSCT

Caroline advised that they have been writing to Ministers and MLA's and have been successful in resuming face-to-face engagement. The Two Year Old Programme is winding down however, over the summer it is hoped the Baby Group and Breastfeeding Breast Friends Group continue. Baby Massage and Baby Yoga are also back. It is a good way for mums to connect as many have been feeling isolated.

At the end of July/beginning of August a weekly programme called Popping Pilates will be taking place which is aimed at toddlers. There will also be weekly trips to various parks and towards the end of the summer a speech, language and communication group will be running. It is hoped that by September everything will have returned to normal.

Current projects taking place are the Perinatal Strategy which will be mapping out from antenatal stage to the age of one with a real focus on social and emotional wellbeing and infant mental health. It is likely many children have been missed as a result of no face-to-face work, therefore over the summer a more specialised play and stay group will be implemented to provide additional one-to-one support to families.

Julie Jamieson – New Lodge Community Health Partnership

Julie told of how their organisation have taken a blended approach as well as carrying out some Moving On programmes in three primary schools. Participation and feedback have been great although it can be difficult to carry out these programmes when not in person. Mentoring is ongoing and at full capacity.

For children already enrolled in their services and for children being mentored, there will be a three day summer programme and summer outings. These outings have all been planned and are currently being risk assessed.

There will also be activities around nutrition such as family picnics which will take place in parks as there are too many participants to participate indoors.

Keeva Watson – Redeeming Our Communities (ROC)

ROC Tele-Mentors was set up in response to Covid-19. Volunteer mentors were employed to support families with children under twelve years old that may be finding this time difficult. A mentor acts as a listening ear and will call every week. Male volunteers have been especially great for dads and stepdads. Within the Ballysillan area, eight families have completed the programme and achieved the goals they hoped they would. Although a family's circumstances may be unchanged the programme helps give them a more positive outlook on those circumstances. Keeva advised the group that if they have any families in the greater Ballysillan area that would benefit from this mentoring programme to please get in touch.

Keeva's details are:

E: northernireland@roc.uk.com

T: 02890 351020

ACTION: Keeva to give details of ROC Tele-Mentors to Jennifer Heverin for circulation.

6. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Lower North Belfast
Timeframe:	April 2021-June 2021
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	48
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1289
Source of Service Requests:	Self, Health Visitor, G.P., Community, Gateway
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>Increasing demand for 1-1 Family Support and 1-1 mentoring with availability of these very limited.</p> <p>Families requesting summer schemes and uncertainty about if these will happen or how limits will be placed on numbers.</p>	
Key Successes identified:	
<p>1-1 interactions with families and young people slowly returning which will undoubtedly have a positive impact on working with families</p>	
AOB for Sharing:	
<p>In the last quarter some Hub members availed of differing training including Autism awareness and the Solihull approach. Very positive that capacity of organisations is being extended within the area.</p>	

FSH Area:	Upper North FSH
Timeframe:	April- June 2021
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	April- 26 May- 26 June- 21 so far
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1518
Source of Service Requests:	Self, school, GP, EWOs, Allied Health Professionals, community, voluntary, CAMHS, Gateway, H.V
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>Not as much requests for financial support or top ups of gas/electric. Referrals are the continuing patterns of autism/adhd support.</p> <p>Current pressures- high demand for mentoring or play therapy for children with possible asd and anxiety. From the 16 referrals received so far in June- 7 are waiting for asd a/s, 2 ADHD a/s and 1 recently diagnosed asd. Parents keen for knowledge and learning on autism- parents support groups or training.</p> <p>Mentoring also required face to face for young people, again requests for young people with ASD traits or diagnosis.</p> <p>Lots of family support requests from schools and school health nurses in the run up to school closures. Parents are keen for face to face support. As a coordinator I'm mindful of our members and their capacity.</p> <p>Parents ringing for summer schemes as concerned no social outlet for their children over the summer months.</p>	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All referrals have been processed unless not suitable. Parents very appreciative of support. 	
AOB for Sharing:	

7. Short Terms Priorities and Action Planning

Claire stated that after listening to everyone it is clear there is a high need for ASD support and this is something that will be looked at within the group. As for now, some short term planning is required for the summer months. Some common themes emerging appear to be:

- *Summer Schemes*: children are unable to secure places due to restricted numbers because of Covid guidelines. This can be very stressful and is exacerbating anxiety in parents and children as there is nowhere for them to go over the summer.
- *Food Poverty*: food provision within summer schemes would be very useful as there is still no update from EA regarding free school meals over the summer period.

Some groups are yet unable to plan their summer activities as they are still waiting to hear from the EA and BCC regarding additional summer funding.

Caroline Milligan said she feels that one of the main issues is around additional needs and emerging additional needs. The current waiting list for assessment is circa 23 months, which means a two year old child will have to wait their lifetime again to be assessed. A recent meeting took place between Health and Education around how they can work better together to meet the requirements of children with additional needs, but it is not moving quick enough for these families. Caroline stated that everyone around the table are quick to identify families early but then the support and funding are not there to take it further.

Claire Allen said that as a group we will need to look at long term planning so asked everyone to contemplate the best course of action moving forward. Hopefully by October a LPG Coordinator will be in place and we now have a Chair and Vice-Chair so exciting times are ahead.

8. A.O.B

No other business was discussed so Claire Allen thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was brought 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	TBC
Tuesday 7 th December 2021	TBC