



**Summary of Actions:**

|    | <b>Topic</b>                  | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Responsibility</b> |
|----|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. | Funding for crèche facilities | To investigate if any funding is available for crèche facilities for parents undertaking English classes. | Charlene Mitchell     |
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| <b><u>Action<br/>by:</u></b> |   |
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|                              | <p><b>1. Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>Barbara Wallace opened the meeting by welcoming those present and extending a special welcome to the new LPG Coordinator Charlene Mitchell. Barbara explained that Charlene was the former Outer South &amp; East Hub Coordinator so she has a lot of knowledge of East Belfast. A round of introductions then took place.</p>   |
|                              | <p><b>2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022</b></p> <p>Actions from the last meeting were addressed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Some Sports Kits are still available. Maggie Andrews has now retired so please contact Barbara Wallace to avail of a kit.</li> <li>b) The 'Text a Nurse' details were circulated around the East LPG members.</li> <li>c) Gillian Boyd from Cedar Foundation was not at the meeting, however she can still be contacted regarding a place on the summer scheme.</li> <li>d) The Counselling Sub group did reconvene and an update on this will be relayed under Agenda item 3 – Matters Arising.</li> <li>e) The Developing Women project applications have now closed but the programme is still ongoing though Barnardo's.</li> </ul> <p>The rest of the Minutes were agreed, proposed and seconded.</p>         |
|                              | <p><b>3. Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>a) Therapeutic Services – sub group update</b></p> <p>In February, Barbara Wallace, Maggie Andrews, Tracey Wilson, Rosy McLean, Charlene Mitchell, Roisin O'Neill and uHub representatives Pam Kirkpatrick and Cara Swanston met to discuss therapeutic services in East Belfast. From this meeting a paper has been produced summarising the experience to date around these short term therapeutic interventions. Through funding from BCC and BHSCT, delivered through LPG, uHub provided group therapy for children and young people. Creative Therapy students from Queen's University were also placed in three locations in East Belfast. The impact of these short term interventions was then examined and it was agreed that this model is not sustainable and a long term solution is required. This should therefore be a priority for LPG and remain on the agenda.</p> |

**b) Counselling Services - update**

Pam Kirkpatrick advised that uHub have a contract through BHSCT for East Belfast, but it is for adults though GP referrals. They would like to supply two therapists for children but there is no funding in place for this.

Linda Armitage added that she has been having meetings and looking into various opportunities for funding and is optimistic that something will be secured. Any further updates will be communicated. Barbara Wallace then suggested that once more information is received the group should reconvene to have a conversation around the gaps in children's and young people's services as this ad hoc funding is not ideal. There could potentially be additional money through LPG so it would be good to have a plan in place.

**c) Interpreting Services - update**

£2950 was allocated to three groups; East Belfast Alternatives, Sure Start and NIACRO for interpreting services. This is currently ongoing and there will be a feedback session around May to assess the performance.

Radius Housing have agreed to fund some language classes through Refuge Language. It is hoped that over the summer there can be combined classes for children and adults. However, one of the stumbling blocks is the need for crèche facilities and a need to secure funding to obtain the same. Charlene Mitchell will investigate if there is any funding available through BHSCT.

**4. East LPG Plan**

**a) BCC/LPG Summer of Play – Resources**

There are still some W5 vouchers left that need to be used by the end of June. Likewise there are still some play packs left.

**b) Future Planning**

In late 2021 there was a plan for the BCC and BHSCT to meet with the LPG Chairs to discuss future planning around where funds should be spent when they become available. A meeting took place between Charlene Mitchell (LPG), Gerry Largey (BHSCT) and Israel Hontavilla (BCC) and they are all very keen to proceed with this as soon possible. Israel will avail of a facilitator to oversee the meetings as they want to get the most out of the discussions.

The meetings will happen sometime before the summer as a plan needs to be in place by Autumn when there will be a significant increase in poverty-related issues. It will therefore be useful to have a spending plan in place for when any money becomes available.

Regarding the East LPG Action Plan, the current plan is very outdated so Charlene Mitchell and Barbara Wallace will be reviewing this over the next few months with a plan to have a new, relevant Action Plan finalised around September.

## 5. FSH Updates

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| <b>FSH Area:</b>   | Outer South & East Belfast                              |
| <b>Timeframe:</b>  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 22 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 22 |
| <b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b> | 49  |
| <b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>      | 1604  |
| <b>Source of Service Requests:</b>                       | Self, School, Community, EWS, HV, GP, SLT, CAMHS.       |

### **Key Gaps identified:**

Children & young people awaiting ASD or ADHD diagnosis

Counselling & therapeutic services in East Belfast for Adults and Children – closure of EBCC in March

Financial Support – food & fuel poverty

### **Key Successes identified:**

Additional Covid response funding for the Family Support Hubs has allowed us to provide practical support to families who have been struggling due to the increasing costs of food & fuel.

### **AOB for Sharing:**

Outer South & East Belfast Family Support Hub have recruited a new Hub Coordinator – more details will be shared when available.

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| <b>FSH Area:</b>   | Inner East Belfast  |
| <b>Timeframe:</b>  | 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan – 13 <sup>th</sup> April                             |
| <b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>                               | 79  |
| <b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>                                    | 2112  |
| <b>Source of Service Requests:</b>   | Health Visitors, GP's, Support Workers, Social Workers and self-referrals |
| <b>Key Gaps identified:</b> Creative therapy, teen and adult counselling, ASD support. |   |
| <b>Key Successes identified:</b> Family Support Hub emergency needs fund.              |   |
| <b>AOB for Sharing:</b>  |   |

## 6. Members Updates

### ***Sinead Hanna – Health Visiting***

Health Visiting have been catching up on a lot of unmet need and are trying to prioritise unseen children. They recently ran a 2 Year Review clinic over 2 Saturday's for those children born during lockdown. A significant increase in speech and social development delays was observed as out of the 60 children seen, 25-30% had substantial issues. A suggestion has been to have an aligned Health Visitor sit in with Sure Start and focus the targeted Little Learners on families that are identified with the greatest need.

## 7. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Barbara thanking all those who attended.

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**2022 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings**

| <b>DATES</b>             | <b>TIME</b> | <b>VENUES</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> February | 10am        | MS Teams      |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> April   | 10am        | MS Teams      |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> June     | 10am        | TBA           |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> August   | 10am        | TBA           |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> October  | 10am        | TBA           |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> December | 10am        | TBA           |