

## East Belfast Ordinary Locality Planning Meeting Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 10am

### **Attendees:**

Maggie Andrews	Acting Chair
Alan Wilson	EANI
Amy Ashe	East Belfast Community Development Agency
Barbara Smith	Eastside Partnership
Bronagh O'Dwyer	NOW Group
Charlene Mitchell	Outer East and South FSH
Jane McKibbin	NI Childminding Association
Jennifer Heverin	BHSCT/LPG Administration
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council
Laura Feeney	Save the Children
Linda Armitage	East Belfast Community Development Agency
Lucy Burden	Mount Merrion Church
Maggie Andrews	Eastside Partnership
Marcela Vielman	Save the Children
Paul O'Neill	CSM, Early Years Services, BHSCT
Rosy McLean	Inner East FSH
Stephen Cruise	Oasis
Tracey Wilson	East Belfast Sure Start

### **Apologies:**

Barbara Wallace	Eastside Partnership
Gareth Maguire	Sports Changes Life
James Scott	Extern
Jonathan Cockroft	EANI
Laura Forte	NIACRO
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's
Sandra McCarry	BHSCT
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI
Wendy Stewart	AMH New Life Counselling

## **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Maggie Andrews opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions.

## **2. Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the previous East Belfast LPG meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting and no amendments were required.

Actions Points from this meeting were then discussed:

- Play Packs – These have been received and are currently being distributed. There are still a few available through contacting Maggie Andrews.
- Counselling Contracts (see below).

## **3. Matters Arising**

### ***a) Update on Counselling Contracts***

At the last LPG meeting a discussion took place around the lack of knowledge of counselling services in East Belfast. Paul O'Neill circulated an email to the East Belfast LPG members advising of the citywide services in existence. However, there is still some uncertainty about the availability of services specific to East Belfast. It was suggested that it may be worthwhile to reconvene the sub-group to focus on this topic.

### ***b) Locality Planning Co-ordinator recruitment update (BHSCT)***

Paul O'Neill advised that the interviews for the post of Locality Planning Coordinator will take place early January.

## **4. East LPG Plan**

### ***a. BCC/LPG Summer of Play funding***

Some additional funding was made available which was employed to successfully deliver huddles in Carew and the Outer East Hub. It is intended that some future planning will take place around the next stage of this process.

### ***b. Future Planning***

A planning session had been proposed but had to be rescheduled. It was also pointed out that since there is no permanent Chair at present adequate representation from East Belfast LPG at the BOAG meetings needs to be ensured.

Maggie Andrews then processed to give an update on how the existing funding has been utilised so far.

***i) UHub***

In an effort to try to plug some support gaps in therapeutic informed play for children and families, UHub have been carrying out sessions in the Carew Centre and Tullycarnet. Through their work UHub have been building a profile of the most common needs and issues and how the therapeutic play impacts this. These findings will help towards building a more local and strategic response to the provision of play services in East Belfast through LPG. Second Year students from Queen's University have carried out some work in the Carew Centre as part of their placement. As a result this has enabled children to be referred for 1-2-1 sessions. Some further funding has been secured which will allow a huddle to be created in the Short Strand for 8 weeks. It is hoped that 4 students will be placed in 2 separate venues to carry out 1-2-1 sessions with referred children.

The main concern is that there is nothing permanent in place and services such as these are reliant on being extended through funding when it becomes available. This makes it difficult to develop a proper pathway over time, which feeds into the above topic on future planning as something needs to be in place that meets long term needs in a more strategic way.

***ii) Pop-Up Cafés***

A number of groups were contacted by the Urban Village Initiative regarding available funding around reconnecting communities. As a result a small group convened and a proposal was put to Urban Villages. Besides the piece focusing on children as mentioned above, social isolation was also looked at in relation to pop-up cafes as there is a desire to connect people in the community from young mums right through to older people.

***iii) Cinema Visits***

The third stream was the suggestion of offering cinema visits for families with early years children through to youths. There have been ongoing discussions with the Strand Cinema regarding this.

It is hopeful that the application will be successful and the outcome should be known by next week. All streams will need to be delivered between January and March.

## 5. FSH Updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Inner East Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	48
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	1987
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Primarily Health visitors and self-referrals, GPs
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b> Play therapy, ASD support, BME support, childcare, practical support	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Outer South & East Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> October 21 – 7 <sup>th</sup> December 21
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	42 205 referrals year to date
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	1532
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	CAMHS, GP services, Community, Health visitors, Self-referrals, schools
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
<p>ASD services – pre and post diagnosis – families want to be able to access home visiting support and support programmes.</p> <p>ADHD- limited services available</p> <p>Play Therapy, Art Therapy &amp; Counselling</p> <p>Financial Support</p>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<p>Successful delivery of UHub sessions funded by BCC – great feedback from families who felt that the programme helped to improve parent/child relationships.</p>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	

Following the Hub Updates a discussion then took place around Interpreter Services. Everyone agreed that the lack of availability coupled with the cost is a real pressing issue. Some suggestions were put forward such as using Volunteer Now, organising English classes for non-English speakers and so on. Kathy Watters has agreed to bring this topic to the Race Relations Network as part of their ongoing agenda. Maggie Andrews also suggested forming a sub-group to look at this topic and to discuss how this would work. A full and deep understanding of interpreter services and the associated issues is required to ensure the most suitable planning services are requested. Tracey Wilson and Linda Armitage will work on this.

**ACTION:** Tracey Wilson and Linda Armitage to look at Interpreter Services.

## **6. Members Updates**

### ***Paul O'Neill - BHSCT***

In the absence of a Chairperson for East Belfast LPG, a rotational chair had been set up. Barbara Wallace has kindly agreed to take on the role of permanent Chair. Paul asked if everyone was in favour of this. Tracey Wilson agreed and Stephen Cruise seconded.

### ***Charlene Mitchell – Barnardo's***

Charlene was speaking on behalf of Claire Humphrey and Roisin O'Neill regarding Family Connections who are helping to deliver the 'Developing Women in the Community' programme. If anyone is working with women in the Titanic Ward, an 8 week programme will be available shortly that aims to bring local women together to consider what helps build a positive community for children, young people and families. Childcare and family support is available if required. The programme will start in January.

**ACTION:** Flyer to be sent to Jennifer Heverin to circulate alongside the minutes.

### ***Kathy Watters – BCC***

The BCC contract still in place with the Red Cross for emergency support for families for food, utilities, white goods and so on.

### ***Amy Ashe – EBDCA***

Youth Work Strategy will be launched in the New Year. A separate working group was set up to specifically look at the youth work strategy for East Belfast.

### ***Linda Armitage – EBCDA***

Menopause and Wellbeing cafes are continuing in the New Year. A Carer's Café is also being developed. They have been very well received and very successful. Lots of other ideas are also being developed.

### ***Stephen Cruise – Oasis***

Stephen Cruise went outside and showed the group the front of his home which had a huge inflatable Santa. Stephen explained how trips for children have been organised to have a photo taken with the Santa and receive a selection box. Stephen also hosts visits for children with ASD where the environment is quieter and calmer. Stephen offered an invite to the group advising them if anyone would like to book a slot then contact him to arrange.

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

No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Maggie expressing her thanks to all in attendance and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

### 2022 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES (Thursday)	VENUES
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Virtual
7 <sup>th</sup> April	TBA
9 <sup>th</sup> June	TBA
4 <sup>th</sup> August	TBA
6 <sup>th</sup> October	TBA
1 <sup>st</sup> December	TBA