

West Belfast Locality Ordinary Meeting Wednesday 20th October 2021 at 10am

Attendees:

Deirdre Walsh
Alice McGlone
Deborah McKenna
Carol Bailie
Gillian Boyd
Marcela Vielman
Piarais McCaffery
Paul O'Neill
Rachelle McCurry
Penny Ambrose
Sharon Nelson
Sinead McConnell
Nicola Verner
Nicola Masterson
Jennifer Heverin

Chair
Belfast City Council
Greater Falls FSH
Upper Springfield Whiterock FSH
Cedar Foundation
Save the Children
Kids Together
CSM Early Years Services, BHSCT
Active Communities
Blackie River
Whiterock Children's Centre
Ionad Uíbh Eachach
Spectrum Centre
Outer West FSH
LPG Administration, BHSCT

Apologies:

Alan Guthrie
Ann Marie Doyle
Phil Lindsay
Conor McKenna
Danielle Roberts
Riognach Murphy
Sandra McCarry
Sinead Campbell

BHSCT
Prince's Trust
Barnardo's
Libraries NI
Here NI
Barnardo's
BHSCT
Advice NI

1. Welcome and Introduction

Deirdre Walsh opened the meeting by welcoming those present. The apologies have been noted within the Minutes.

2. Previous Minutes

The last West LPG meeting took place on 25th August 2021 and the minutes of that meeting were examined. They were deemed to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and no amendments were required.

3. City Council Funding

Alice McGlone from BCC advised that all funding has already been allocated and no further funding is due. However, it is believed that there will be £3,000,000 made available although it is thought that this will be used to enhance advisory services but nothing concrete has yet been agreed.

Alice also went on to advise that there is some money available from the Red Cross. The money was supposed to have been spent by Christmas but has now been extended until March. It is to be used for families in an emergency situation. It is believed that a family can only be referred once but this will be clarified.

NOTE: After the meeting Deirdre Walsh contacted the Red Cross and they advised that only 1 application per household is permitted so be very certain that your application reflects what your family really needs as they will not get another opportunity to apply.

The issue of the lack of and also cost of interpreters arose. Paul O'Neill advised that Lorraine Brennan from BHSCCT has been carrying out a piece of work to establish which services are available. Paul will then look to see if he can get obtain money to fund interpreters. However, any money received would be a one off.

4. Christmas needs for families

Deirdre Walsh stated that Christmas this year will be very tough for a lot of families. Last year lots of help was available due to being in the middle of the Covid crisis, but this year there may not be so much help readily available.

Deborah McKenna stated that there are usually around 300 turkey hampers available across 4 Hubs through Westwood Centre funding but they normally don't get word about this until early December.

Nicola Verner agreed that it's still too early to get Christmas hamper information. Greater Shankill would normally use the Belfast Mission but it is generally after Halloween before information is available.

Nicola Masterson advised she had been speaking to Adele at the foodbank and there are 15-16 hampers for each Hub, the names of families need to be in for the third week in November. Other Hubs haven't heard anything so it may just be for the Outer West Hub. Deirdre Walsh will contact Adele to clarify.

Deborah McKenna gave an update on Pastor Tony advising that he has moved away from the The Trussell Trust so he will be renaming and rebranding. Deborah suggested it may be worthwhile to get him back into another LPG meeting.

5. LPG Coordinator post update

Paul O'Neill informed that group that the person who was due to take up the LPG Coordinator role pulled out at the last minute. The reserve also declined the role so it will be re-advertised. Given the timescales needed for recruitment, it is unlikely that someone will be in the role this year.

6. Members Updates

Rachelle McCurry – Active Communities

A course is being run for young parents aged 16-25 years old. If anyone needs information or is interested please contact Rachelle at rachelle@activecommunities.org.uk

Gillian Boyd – Cedar Foundation

Cedar have received funding for their 'Act Up' programme which is aimed at children ages 12-18 years old with a physical disability, brain injury or Autism and who attend a mainstream school. Its purpose it is to help improve their confidence and increase their self-esteem. The programme is built around the children and what they want to do. Places are still available and if anyone is interested in referring to this programme please contact Gillian at g.boyd@cedar-foundation.org

Piarais McCaffrey – Kids Together

Kids Together have received 2 year funding for a mental health programme working with families and young people. It is a 12 week programme and they ultimately hope to create a parents forum from this. The forum would allow parents to stay in touch and support one another. The funding for this starts in March/April and recruitment will be after Christmas so more information to follow.

Sharon Nelson – Whiterock Children's Centre

Parenting NI will be running a programme called 'Bounce Back' aimed at parents and carers. The programme starts in November and runs for 4-6 weeks but details to be finalised. Anyone interested contact Sharon at s.nelson@whiterockchildrenscentre.org

7. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Greater Shankill
Timeframe:	July – Sept 2021
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Total 12- July 8- Aug 8 – Sept
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1315
Source of Service Requests:	School Nurse Health Visitor Self Community Organisation CAMHS EWO Gateway GP Occupational Therapy
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASD supports for parents awaiting assessment / diagnosis for children 	
Key Successes identified:	
<p>GS Hub have provided access to support for families for essentials through the Hub discretionary funding & other community covid response supports. This has ensured families had access to gas, electric, home heating oil & food.</p>	
AOB for Sharing:	
None	

FSH Area:	Upperspringfield/Whiterock FSH
Timeframe:	September/October
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Sept 35 Oct 31
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	122 from last meeting +68 = 190 to date
Source of Service Requests:	School Self (most of these advised by GP to contact hub) Health Visitor Mental health practitioner Sure start Voluntary community /community organisations School nurse/EWO
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>Increase in GP advising parents to contact hub to make self-referrals some of which have been referred back to GP as they are inappropriate (ss involvement also to high need)</p> <p>Lack of art and play therapist</p> <p>School advised one parent to go private for ASD Assessment child needs teaching assistant and has a 4 1/2 year waiting time.</p> <p>Services have reached their quota for referrals and have had to close due to capacity.</p> <p>Families needing added support for Christmas due to the decrease in universal credit.</p>	
Key Successes identified:	
<p>Working in partnership with services to provide as much support as needed to families while they wait on assessments even though there are waiting times for services.</p>	
AOB for Sharing:	
<p>WRCC Christmas appeal for families in November this will assessed on need and if other services are involved so if we all check with each other so we aren't doubling up.</p>	

FSH Area:	Outer West Belfast
Timeframe:	July - Sept 2021
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	July – 10 August – 15 September - 20
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1082
Source of Service Requests:	School Community GP Self RISE Health Visitor Paediatrician OT CAMHS
Key Gaps identified:	
Childcare, Play therapy / ASD supports / awaiting diagnosis supports	
Key Successes identified:	
Play packs / Crisis funding helping support families	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Greater Falls	
Timeframe:	Sept/Oct 2021 (to date)	
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Sept – 25 (1 out of area) Oct –27 (2 out of area)	
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1533 (up to 20 Oct)	
Source of Service Requests:	Community	Self
	Health visitor	Gateway
	GP	SureStart
	Voluntary	CAMHS
	MDT/GP Fed	EWO
	BHSCT A'ment Team	School
Key Gaps identified:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day care/play and development programmes (face to face) • Social activities for children (especially those identified with additional need) • Housing • Services for families where ASD has been identified as an issue (including awaiting assessment) • Therapeutic interventions for children and young people • Therapeutic Interventions for adults (within 8 weeks) • Face to face work – family support 	
Key Successes identified:	Crisis support fund to support families to buy essentials e.g. uniforms	
AOB for Sharing:		

8. A.O.B

- Sports Packs – Natasha Brennan at Lorag has been taking the lead on these. Following various delays the packs will now be arriving next week and there are 20 packs for West Belfast. These are large packs worth around £400 each so they are aimed at organisations as opposed to individuals or families. If anyone would like a pack then please email Deirdre Walsh at d.walsh@whiterockchildrenscentre.org
- A further £4,000 was divided between the 4 Hubs with each FSH receiving £1,000 each. USDT took the lead on this and any invoices for this spending needs to be sent to Michael Donnelly at USDT.
- There is further funding of £4073 for families in need. The money needs to be spent by Christmas so Deirdre Walsh put it to the group to think of ways this could be spent, preferably something that would benefit the whole community.
- Further money is also on the way and ideally this will be utilised for play-based activities. Deirdre Walsh will have more to feedback on this at the next meeting.

No other business was discussed. Deirdre Walsh thanked those in attendance and the meeting was drawn to a close.

2021 Dates for West Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES	VENUES
Wednesday 5 th May 2021	Virtual
Wednesday 30 th June 2021	Virtual
Wednesday 25 th August	Virtual
Wednesday 20 th October 2021	Virtual
Wednesday 15 th December 2021	Virtual