

**West Belfast Locality Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 25th August 2021 at 10am**

Attendees:

Nicola Verner	Acting Chair/Greater Shankill Partnership
Bainisteoir	Ionad
Carol Bailie	USW FSH
Claire Neill	Clan Mor Sure Start
Deborah McKenna	Greater Falls FSH
Marcela Vielman	Save the Children
Paul O'Neill	CSM Early Years Services, BHSCT
Penny Ambrose	Blackie River
Heather Floyd	Forthspring Inter Community Group
Piarais McCaffrey	Kids Together
Joanne Menabney-Hawell	Greater Shankill FSH
Rachelle McCurry	Active Communities
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT

Apologies:

Deirdre Walsh	Chair/Whiterock Children's Centre
Alan Guthrie	BHSCT
Alice McGlone	Belfast City Council
Dympna Johnston	Greater Shankill Partnership
Kathleen McDonnell	GP MDT BHSCT
Leanne Gordon	Health Visiting
Nicola Masterson	Outer West Hub
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's
Ronan Heenan	People First
Sandra McCarry	BHSCT
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI

1. Welcome and Introduction

Nicola Verner opened the meeting welcoming those present and introducing herself as Acting Chair in Deirdre Walsh's absence. Nicola advised the apologies would be noted in the minutes.

2. Previous Minutes

The last West LPG meeting took place on 30th June 2021 and one amendment was noted; on page 1 Nicola Verner's organisation was noted as Outer West FSH when it should be the Greater Shankill Partnership. This has now been amended.

Other matters arising from the previous meeting were:

- Action Point: Marcela Vielman was to send the recording of the Families Connect event to Jennifer Heverin for West LPG circulation. This has been completed.
- The letter to the Chairs of the Hubs has been submitted and will be tabled at the next Outcomes Group. The West LPG will be updated on this at the next meeting.
- Upper Springfield Development Trust are the lead on the Belfast City Council Funding. Following a delay, the agreement letter has now been signed and funding has been extended until December.

3. Members Updates

Paul O'Neill – BHSCT

BHSCT staff are being strongly encouraged to undertake regular PCR testing and record the results.

Within the Childcare sector, staff to child ratios are being examined however this discussion is ongoing and not yet agreed upon. Once an agreement has been reached at departmental level, it will be cascaded down.

Paul advised that he has spoken to Natalie Killough regarding ASD services. The hope is to arrange an event for all the Hubs where presentations and discussions can take place around the topic of ASD. It was agreed by the group that this would be a worthwhile endeavour as referrals are becoming more complex and waiting lists are growing.

4. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Greater Shankill Family Support Hub
Timeframe:	April 2021 - June 2021
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	41 Total 12 – April 14 – May 15 – June
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1287
Source of Service Requests:	Epilepsy Nurse Clinical Psychologist School Nurse Health Visitor Childrens Disability Team Self Community Organisation Primary School CAMHS EWO Gateway
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 been identifying families that could benefit from the Sport Pack provided via LPG funding source. 30 packs in total have been allocated to the area, these will allow and enhance access to play for children.</p>	
AOB for Sharing:	
None	

FSH Area:	Upperspringfield/ whiterock FSH
Timeframe:	July Aug
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	July 14 Aug 6
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	20 July/Aug Plus 102 from last time = 122 to date
Source of Service Requests:	Self Community CAMHS Sure Start EWO
<p>Key Gaps identified:</p> <p>ADS assessments waiting time can be up to 3 years.</p> <p>Services for emotional /Addictions support for adults and children waiting list can be up to 3 months.</p> <p>Finical support cost of uniforms is more than the grants provide families having to make up the difference with may be 3 /4 children in the family additional items shoes/trainers , PE uniform stationary items, school bags.</p> <p>Specialized protective wear for children who wear glasses when competing in sports in school if they don't have the goggles (£120) they cant participate in the sport .</p> <p>Housing support long waiting times and when allocated they are out of family support areas as well as to big for the size of family which increases every day living cost families don't have .</p>	
<p>Key Successes identified:</p> <p>Working in partnership with LPG providing practical support for families for uniforms and food,gas,electric.</p>	
<p>AOB for Sharing:</p> <p>WRCC have a supply of donated school uniforms for families ring and arrange to call into the centre .</p> <p>WRCC taking names for ESOL classes starting in September.</p>	

FSH Area:	Outer West Belfast
Timeframe:	July & August 2021
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	July – 10 August - 15
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1062
Source of Service Requests:	School Community GP Self RISE Health Visitor Paediatrician
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:	Jul/Aug 2021	
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Jul – 15 Aug – 23 (1 out of area)	
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1484 (up to 31 st Aug)	
Source of Service Requests:	Community 7	Self - 14
	Health visitor 3	Gateway - 1
	GP - 1	SureStart - 1
	Voluntary - 4	CAMHS - 1
	MDT/GP Fed - 2	EWO - 3
	Social Worker -	
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 • Summer schemes (especially those with a query or diagnosis of additional need) • Services for families where ASD has been identified as an issue (including awaiting assessment) • Therapeutic interventions for children and young people • Face to face work – family support 		
Key Successes identified:		
<p>Crisis support fund to support families to buy uniforms Outdoor play packs to encourage parents and children to play outdoors Links with LPG to access WIFI support for families to access education</p>		
AOB for Sharing:		

5. A.O.B

A short discussion took place around the issue of school uniforms and the costs associated with the new school year. It was agreed the uniform grant is not nearly enough to cover the cost of a new uniform, especially a secondary school uniform. It was also suggested that a meeting take place with school Principals to determine if so many pieces of branded uniform items are really necessary.

With no further topics to discuss Nicola Verner thanked everyone for attending 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	TBC
Wednesday 15 th December 2021	TBC