

**West Belfast Locality Ordinary Meeting
Wednesday 30th June 2021 at 10am**

Attendees:

Deirdre Walsh
Alan Guthrie
Alice McGlone
Claire Neill
Deborah Burnett
Gillian Boyd
Jim Girvan
Leanne Gordon
Nicola Verner
Penny Ambrose
Piarais McCaffery
Sharon Nelson
Marcela Vielman
Jennifer Heverin

Chair
BHSCT
Belfast City Council
Clan Mor Sure Start
Greater Falls FSH
Cedar Foundation
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum
Health Visiting
Greater Shankill Partnership
Blackie River
Kids Together
Upper Springfield and Whiterock FSH
Save the Children
LPG Administration, BHSCT

Apologies:

Annette Conlon
Claire McKenna
Conor McKenna
Danielle Roberts
Jim Donnelly
Joanne Menabney
Jonathan Cockroft
Natalie Killough
Paul O'Neill
Pauline Kersten
Peter Bryson
Phil Lindsay
Sandra McCarry
Sinead Campbell

Whiterock Children's Centre
Autism NI
Libraries NI
Here NI
Active Communities
Greater Shankill FSH
EANI
BHSCT
CSM Early Years Services, BHSCT
Conway Education
Save the Children
Barnardo's
BHSCT
Advice NI

1. Welcome and Introduction

Deirdre Walsh opened the meeting by welcoming those present. A list of apologies was read out.

2. Previous Minutes

The last West LPG meeting took place on 5th May 2021 and these are the minutes of that meeting. The minutes were found to be a true and accurate record and no amendments were required.

3. Funding through the LPG

Deirdre Walsh then informed the group about three pots of funding available:

i) £6,000 has been allocated for play packs. They are valued at £400 each which equates to 15 packs for West Belfast. Deirdre advised the packs are not for individuals but for organisations hosting summer programmes. Following a short discussion it was agreed that the best way to distribute these would be via the Hubs, with preference given to those organisations who did not receive Education Authority funding.

ii) £4,000 has been allocated from Locality Planning to set a priority for West Belfast locality. This could be for a big event, or could be divided around the area. The money needs to be used by September so Deirdre asked the group to have a think about how this could be spent and to come back to her by Thursday 8th July with their suggestions

iii) £4,073 has been granted to promote Access to Play. This money is to be spent on families in need, for example, to help a child access a summer scheme. This money also needs to be spent by September. Again it was felt that the Hubs would be best placed to see referrals from families in need.

Nicola Verner suggested that one way the money could be spent would be on children's specialised sports glasses. Children who wear glasses have to have another special pair for sports and these can cost around £120. Many families cannot afford that and as a result children can miss out on playing sports. Deirdre Walsh agreed that this was a fantastic way to spend some of the money and definitely falls within the Access to Play ethos.

4. Members Updates

Marcela Vielman – Save the Children

Marcela introduced herself to the group as a new member. She is new to Save the Children and new to Belfast and is excited to get to know everyone.

A recent event took place to share the findings of their Families Connect Programme. A recording of this is available and Marcela will send it to Jennifer Heverin to circulate.

ACTION: Recording of Families Connect Programme findings to be sent to Jennifer Heverin for circulation.

Piarais McCaffery – Kids Together

Piarais introduced himself as the new Family Support Manager of Kids Together. He is a qualified Youth Worker and has lived and worked in West Belfast his whole life so knows the locality well. Piarais stated that he is looking forward to getting to know everyone.

5. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Upperspringfield whiterock FSH
Timeframe:	May June
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	May 44 June 15
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	May/June 59 plus 43 from april = 102 to date
Source of Service Requests:	Self Community Gp Schools Health visitors GP MDT MHP
Key Gaps identified: Childcare, Summer Scheme availability ADS assessments waiting time can be up to 3 years. Play Therapy Request for male support /mentors for children relate to male role model .	
Key Successes identified: LPG Initiatives sport bags big hit to encourage family's and children to get out after lock down .	
AOB for Sharing: Mental Health support coming through after lockdown .Covid is still playing a part. Services which are closed for referrals due to staffing levels or full to capacity- KTB , Newhill Youth Mentoring, Parenting NI home visits, Holity Trinity, Wrcc play Therapy and EISS.	

FSH Area:	Greater Shankill
Timeframe:	April – June 2021
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	April – 21 May – 14 June - 16
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1287
Source of Service Requests:	Clinical Psychologist School Nurse Health Visitor MDT Teams EWO CAMHS Health Visitor Primary School Self Community Organisations
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home visiting supports for parents with children with ASD / ADHD or awaiting diagnosis for multiple 	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully distributed Sensory packs and outdoor play packs to families across Greater Shankill, some required additional supports on assessment of need. • GS Hub made connections with SOLAS to link a range of families to Building Blocks specialist online programme for ASD. 	
AOB for Sharing:	
None	

FSH Area:	Greater Falls	
Timeframe:	May/Jun 2021	
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	May – 37 Jun– 20 (1 out of area)	
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1447 (up to 23 rd Jun)	
Source of Service Requests:	Community 23	Self - 19
	Health visitor 4	Gateway - 1
	GP - 1	SureStart - 1
	RISE Team - 1	CAMHS - 3
	MDT/GP Fed - 3	School - 2
	AMH - 1	Midwifery - 1
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>Links with LPG to access WIFI support for families to access education</p>	
AOB for Sharing:		

6. A.O.B

There is a huge issue around the large amount of ASD referrals coming through and the Greater Falls FSH have asked Deirdre Walsh to refer this to the Outcomes Group. Deborah Burnett then added that there is a letter regarding this issue being drafted by West Belfast LPG, and will just require members to add their signatures in support. The issue of lack of services for ASD referrals is a significant matter needing urgently addressed.

No other business was discussed and Deirdre Walsh brought the meeting to a close, thanking those in attendance.

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