

East Belfast LPG Meeting

Via MS Teams

Thursday 8th September 2022 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator	✓	
Barbara Wallace (Chair)	Eastside Partnership	✓	
Barbara Smith	Eastside Partnership	✓	
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council	✓	
Rachel Skillen	Eastside Partnership	✓	
Chelsea Parkinson	Bryson Learning and Employability	✓	
Julie Clark	Life NI	✓	
Bernie McConnell	Short Strand Community Centre	✓	
Sinead Hanna	Health Visiting, BHSCT	✓	
Judith Harvey	The Odyssey/W5	✓	
Fiona O'Dowd	Prince's Trust	✓	
Roisin O'Neill	Barnardo's	✓	
Wendy Stewart	New Life Counselling	✓	
Gareth Maguire	Sports Changes Life		✓
Karen Hillis	Action Mental Health		✓
Linda Armitage	East Belfast Community Health Development Agency		✓
Marcela Vielman	Save the Children		✓
Michael Briggs	EBCDA		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Sarah Griffin	Extern		✓
Sinead Tumelty	Outer South and East FSH		✓
Tracey Ripley McElvogue	East Belfast Sure Start		✓
Zara Monteith	Willowfield Parish Community Association		✓
Natalie Killough	BHSCT		✓
In Attendance			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

Summary of Actions:

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
	NSPCC Pregnancy in Mind	Information on this course to be circulated	Sinead Hanna
	Therapeutic Sub Group	Paper from the last meeting of the sub group to be circulated	Barbara Wallace

<u>Action</u> <u>by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Barbara Wallace opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes from 9th June 2022</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and no amendments were required.</p>
	<p>3. Presentation – Judith Harvey, W5</p> <p>Judith Harvey is the Head of Learning and Engagement for The Odyssey which includes W5 and a new project Life @ W5 (Learning Innovations For Everyone).</p> <p>W5 is a science and discovery centre focusing on science and technology in the real world with the aim to excite people about these topics through over 200 interactive exhibits. However, an issue was identified that young people who were not involved in this sector or have achieved qualifications in different areas were finding it difficult to identify career pathways and employability options in this field or where they could go to get advice and some further training outside a formal education setting. As a result a new 20,000ft² learning space within The Odyssey will be launched in September.</p> <p>The purpose of this space is to provide young people with opportunities to engage with digital technology and its real world application e.g., using Minecraft as a tool and showing how this can be applied to AI diagnostic techniques within the health and life sciences sphere and in turn linking into the huge employability sector with NI.</p> <p>Life @ W5 will be working with a range of industrial partners such as Microsoft and recreating their DreamSpace educational facility which is based in Dublin. They will also be working with Almac from a health and life sciences perspective, collaborating with Belfast Harbour as well as The Nerve Centre. A range of programmes will be developed to cater for KS2 right the way through school, alongside programmes for women returners and community engagement.</p> <p>They are currently trying to raise awareness and forge links with industry. A range of programmes can be offered, tailored and linked to employability routes.</p> <p>For further information please contact Judith Harvey at judith@theodyssey.co.uk</p>

4. Presentation – Chelsea Parkinson, Bryson Training and Employability

The Bryson ‘Skills for Life and Work Vocational Pathway Programme’ is funded by the Department for the Economy and is a full time vocational training programme with 10 wide-ranging subjects available.

Eligibility criteria is that the young adult must have completed their formal education, therefore be 16yrs+ and live in the Greater Belfast area. There is further specific criteria for 18-23yr olds. No entry qualifications are needed. The programme is ideally for young adults who have had school disengagement and have perhaps left school without qualifications or even for those who have qualifications but have other barriers that prevent them for moving onwards.

The participants can achieve a Level 1 certificate in their chosen subject and also the opportunity to work towards Level 1 qualifications in essential skills such as numeracy, literacy and IT alongside Level 1 in Personal Life Skills and Employability. A work placement can also be arranged in relation to their chosen vocational subject.

Benefits of the programme include a weekly payment of £40, a travel entitlement, a £65 enrolment bonus after 4 weeks and a further bonus on completion of the course. One of the other key benefits offered by the programme is the support given – classes are limited to 10-12 people as well as the availability of dedicated support and mentoring as well as an in-house counsellor if required.

For further information please contact Chelsea Parkinson on Chelsea.parkinson@brysonenergy.org

5) Matters Arising

i) Therapeutic Services

In response to the lack of therapeutic and counselling services in East Belfast a sub-group was created to look at this issue in more detail. They recently reconvened as there are still concerns around social and emotional wellbeing and the need for counselling and therapy, particularly for children.

uHub’s current funding is only for adult services, however Action Mental Health have various provisions for children. AMH are currently increasing their staff and as a result have managed to reduce their waiting lists to 8 weeks.

Funding for the Healthy Happy Minds programme has been extended by the Department of Education. Although schools are benefitting from this provision there is some concern that many counsellors are moving from the community into schools creating a deficit of services in the community, furthermore lottery funding for children’s community therapy has also been withdrawn due to this schools programme.

A summary of the meeting, noting all these current issues, is being compiled and will be circulated to the group on completion.

ii) Translation Services and English language classes

Barbara Smith advised that a crèche facility has now been secured to allow parents to attend English classes. The first class is taking place in the Carew Centre on Tuesday 13th September from 9.30-11.30am. If anyone has any families in mind, please contact Barbara Smith at barbarasmith@eastsidepartnership.com to discuss and obtain a registration form.

iii) LPG Action Planning

Charlene Mitchell noted that a new LPG Action Plan is required. Rather than add these potentially lengthy discussions into the LPG meetings, a sub-group will be created to focus on the new 3 year plan.

The first meeting will be an agreement of the priorities and it is hoped that this will take place in October, however further information will follow.

6) FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Inner East Belfast
Timeframe:	9 th June – 7 th September
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	96
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	2274
Source of Service Requests:	GP, Health Visitor, School, EWO, CAMHS, Self-referral, Women's Aid
Key Gaps identified: Creative therapy, teen and adult counselling, ASD support, Family support.	
Key Successes identified: BAOG 'Integrated Working' voucher scheme. Meetings with local members from Inner East Family Support Hub – Sure Start and Scaffolding Project.	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Outer South and East
Timeframe:	30 th June – 14 th September
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	July – 24 August – 19 September - 4 Total - 47
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	138
Source of Service Requests:	Self (20); Community & Voluntary (13); School (1); Health visitor (15); G.P./Nurse (3); CAMHS (2); EWO (2); Gateway (1)
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for older children/ teenagers with neurological conditions and low mood/anxiety. • Counselling, art therapy, play therapy. • Support for pre-school children with identified behaviours/traits of autism. • Financial support to help with cost of food, fuel, electric etc. 	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in referrals reflects the growing need for support and perhaps that the work of the hub is more widely known. • Self-referrals continue to grow indicating that the public are now aware of the support. 	
AOB for Sharing:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to roll out food vouchers to families in need. • Same families are re referring for financial support. • Becoming difficult to manage the referrals as more complex, require more consideration and consultation with gateway/CAMHS. Threshold is a growing issue as statutory services are continuing to signpost complex referrals; complex by way of requesting a number of services. 	
*There is little change since the last meeting.	

	<p>7) Members Updates</p> <p>Charlene Mitchell – LPG Coordinator</p> <p>i) School Uniforms – It was noted other Hubs have also raised the issue of the cost of uniforms, the late arrival of the EA Uniform grants and the delay in school meal vouchers. These points will be raised at the next BAOG meeting.</p> <p>ii) Asylum Seeker Families – there is an ongoing matter of asylum seeking families living in hotels and unable to access essential items. Although at present this is mainly an issue in South and West Belfast, as families are being relocated it could become a citywide issue.</p> <p>iii) Reduced Timetables – some children are already onto reduced timetables and it is only the start of the school year.</p> <p>iv) Financial Support – Hubs have observed a high level of financial support being required for food and fuel. CYPSP have organised an Energy Information Session for 28th September.</p>
	<p>8) A.O.B</p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Barbara thanking all those in attendance.</p>

2022 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES	TIME	VENUES
3 rd February	10am	MS Teams
14 th April	10am	MS Teams
9 th June	10am	MS Teams
8 th September	10am	MS Teams
10 th November	10am	TBA