

West Belfast LPG Meeting

Via MS Teams

Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Penny Ambrose	Blackie River		
Piarais McCaffrey	Kids Together		
Sharon Nelson	Whiterock Children's Centre	✓	
Ellen Farren	Barnardo's	✓	
Deborah Burnett	Greater Falls FSH	✓	
Nuala McStravick	Bryson Energy	✓	
Marcela Vielman	Save the Children	✓	
Julia Carson	W5	✓	
Nicola Masterson	Outer West FSH	✓	
Aisling Reynolds	Action for Children	✓	
Judith Harvey	The Odyssey/W5	✓	
Carol Bailie	Upper Springfield Whiterock FSH	✓	
Mairead Gilmartin	Outer West Sure Start	✓	
Deirdre Marley	Prince's Trust	✓	
Deirdre Walsh (Chair)	Whiterock Children's Centre/Chair		✓
Alice McGlone	Belfast City Council		✓
Conor McKenna	Libraries NI		✓
Karen Hillis	Action Mental Health		✓
Natalie Killough	BHSCT		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Sarah Griffin	Extern		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Margaret McDonald	BHSCT		✓
Diane McMullin	Extern		✓
Peter Lynch	Blackie River		✓
Joanne Menabney	Spectrum Centre		✓
In Attendance			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

Summary of Actions:

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
	Asylum Seeking Families in Hotels	Sub-group to be set up to look at these issues in greater detail.	Deirdre Walsh/Charlene Mitchell

<u>Action</u> <u>by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>The meeting was chaired by LPG Coordinator Charlene Mitchell as Deirdre Walsh had to send her apologies this morning.</p> <p>Charlene opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes of 8th June 2022</p> <p>An overview of the minutes took place and these were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting. 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 – Nuala McStravick, 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 Nuala McStravick on 07730 527528

5. Members Update

Deirdre Marley – Prince’s Trust

A large celebration took place at Greenisland Football Club for 35 asylum seekers who have just completed the ‘Explore’ programme. This course is a social and personal development programme but this is the first time there has been a closed group of asylum seekers participating and the programme was tailored to the needs of these young people.

Despite the success of the programme the young people now face barriers as they are unable to go into employment and their next steps are unclear. However, many are very interested in volunteering work and if anyone has any availability or ideas, please get in touch with Deirdre at deirdre.marley@princes-trust.org.uk

Charlene Mitchell – LPG Coordinator

i) Reduced Timetables – it was noted that despite being so early into the school year, this is becoming an issue again. It is something that should be monitored going forward.

ii) Uniform Costs – some families are still waiting on uniform grants which is putting them under an enormous amount of stress. Deborah Burnett and Sharon Nelson both mentioned they still have some uniforms available. However the issue of uniform costs and grants will be raised at the forthcoming BAOG meeting.

iii) Asylum Seekers – issues have been raised around families living in hotels not having access to essential items. Some Hubs have experienced people showing up expecting help that the Hubs are unable to provide. It was suggested that a sub group may be beneficial to look at these concerns in more detail.

iv) Food and Fuel Costs – there has been a significant increase in the level of requests for support over the last 6 months or so. There is also an expectation placed on Hubs to provide vouchers as they have done so in the past, but Hubs do not have available vouchers at present.

6. LPG Update – 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 mid-October, however further information will follow.

7. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Greater Falls
Timeframe:	June - August 2022
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	77
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1807 (up to 25 th Aug)
Source of Service Requests:	School Community CAMHS Self GP MDT Social Worker Health Visitor Voluntary Organisation School Nurse EWO Ed. Psyche RISE team

Key Gaps identified:

Limited supports for disability, limited child therapy supports. Access to practical items e.g. clothes/school uniforms for children/financial strain. Requests for financial support e.g. food, utilities etc. Working families making requests on the rise.

Limited Social activities/summer scheme places/diversionary activities for children and young people

Limited no's of parent and child activity

Limited places for adult activities including ESOL, social supports (especially for those requiring day care provision)

Lengthy waiting lists for additional needs

Accessing GPs and GPs and MDT staff signposting (rather than referring) to FSHs without explaining the purpose of FSH and without accessing the need of individual family member (i.e. family may need a CAMHS referral or assessment request for additional need)

Key Successes identified:

Availability of funding/voucher support to help with financial strain (via FS services)

Links developed with local charity/funding supports

High level input, services, communication, expertise advice and partnership work within the Hub network in supporting families to the best of ability especially in face of Statutory services restructuring

AOB for Sharing:

Availability of further voucher support for families experiencing financial crisis

FSH Area:	Greater Shankill
Timeframe:	July-Aug
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Total: 32 July -16 Aug-16
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1509
Source of Service Requests:	School Nurse School Self Community Organisation Gateway Education welfare service CAMHS
Key Gaps identified:	
Support services for children with disabilities – specifically (ASD) including opportunities for group activities & socialisation.	
Key Successes identified:	
Families experiencing financial hardship have also been able to access vouchers through hub, these have helped with a variety of issues including children's return to school and the cost related. .	
AOB for Sharing:	
None	

FSH Area:	Outer West Belfast
Timeframe:	June - August 2022
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	June – 31 July – 27 August - 30
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1383
Source of Service Requests:	School Nursing Team Community GP Self Gateway Health Visitor GP MDT CAMHS Health Visitor Housing Ass
Key Gaps identified:	
Key Successes identified:	
Increase in financial support requests – uniform vouchers and food vouchers big help to families	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Upperspringfield Whiterock FSH
Timeframe:	June to September 22
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	86 from June to 7 September 22
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	<p>June 26 July 18 Aug 28 Sept 14</p> <p>From April until now we have processed 148 referrals.</p>
Source of Service Requests:	<p>School Self Health Visitor Mental health practitioner /SW Sure start Voluntary community /community organisations school CAHMS Housing Executive GP</p>

Key Gaps identified:

Summer scheme over summer months no places available for families

Childcare continues to be ongoing gap

Families continue to look for practical/financial support due to rising costs of fuel/gas/electricity. Over the past two days we have had 5 families and services looking for utility support.

Lack of hours allocations for services to support the needs of families coming through the hub, some services have closed due to capacity.

Key Successes identified:

Working alongside local food bank to support parents in need with food parcels.

Integrated working voucher to support families in need of support.
Supporting families with uniform vouchers.

Working with British red cross with Ukrainian families coming into area. Along with GF Hub.

5/7/22 visit from Professor Ray Jones organised by CYPSP.

Summer 22 Hub/WCC Families taking part in art workshops for Feile / Parade, Food fair and cookery workshops which parents took part in cooking traditional dishes from home country, day trips organised by WCC to promote social skills after Covid isolation.

AOB for Sharing:

WCC ESOL classes starting on Monday 12th September 22.

Book launch 21st September "I AM BRAVE "Fiona lovely play therapist made with a child who attended her session through the Support Hub. The book is about a child's own experience of early puberty.

Loaf cafe are running an isolation café in conjunction with GP practices in west Belfast the only criteria is the family must be registered with a GP. There is a contact name Julie who you must ring if interested in attending.

Support group for Dads with children with ASD the families don't have to be connected to KTB. They meet every 2nd Thursday in the KTB Hannah's Town Hill offices from 6pm ring Piarais if interested or you can contact carol @ WCC Hub.

8. A.O.B

No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Charlene thanking all those in attendance.

2022 Dates for West Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES	TIME	VENUES
2 nd February	10am	MS Teams
13 th April	10am	MS Teams
8 th June	10am	MS Teams
7 th September	10am	MS Teams
9 th November	10am	TBA