

Summary of Actions:

	Topic	Action	Responsibility

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chair, Barbara Wallace opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions.

2. Previous Minutes from 12th January 2023

The minutes were agreed as accurate, proposed by Sinead Tumelty and seconded by Tracey Ripley-McElvogue.

3. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Outer South & East Belfast
Timeframe:	12 th January – 9 th January
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Jan = 30 Feb = 28 Mar = 5 Total - 63
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	311
Source of Service Requests:	Self; School; HV; Community & voluntary; EWO; GP/Nurse; CAMHS; Gateway <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GP referrals continue to have limited information relative to other sources.• Paper based referral form results in fields not being completed. A web-based form that has required fields would form part of the solution.

Key Gaps identified:

- Children & young people on waiting list for autism/ADHD assessment presenting with anxiety / emotional regulation difficulties and anxiety based school avoidance.
- Toddlers outside of Surestart area seeking early years placement.
- Food & energy poverty – families returning for further support and requesting food bank, supermarket vouchers, gas, electric, oil, uniform vouchers and “any financial support at all”.
- Therapeutic services for children and increasingly families – counselling.
- Emotion-based school avoidance (no diagnosis)
- Lack of family support services across the hub area.

Key Successes identified:

- Hub has a good presence in the area evidenced by the increasing referral numbers from across all professions and families themselves.

AOB for Sharing:

- Some families are contacting the hub again after completing an intervention and seeking further support. I wonder if this indicates a more complex need that requires more long term support. I wonder if other hub co-ordinators are finding themselves having to discuss with the family, the limitations of the hub and advising where to seek further support. In many cases, the doors we are signposting them to have already been closed. E.g., GP, CAMHS etc..
- Some families are returning to the hub for financial support indicating a high demand as expected.
- Many new families are contacting the hub for financial/practical support including benefit check, foodbank, and supermarket vouchers.
- The hub is working at capacity; referrals are complex and frequently require more than one service. OSEB has an additional 5 hrs support to try to manage the workload.

FSH Area:	Inner East Belfast
Timeframe:	12 th January – 7 th March 2023
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	49
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	2431
Source of Service Requests:	Primarily Health Visitors, Self-referrals, GP's, Schools, Community and Voluntary, EWO's, CAMHS, Social Workers, Gateway.
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>Creative therapy Teen and adult counselling ASD/ADHD support Family support Programmes for families outside Sure Start catchment area</p>	
Key Successes identified:	
<p>Scaffolding Crisis Fund. Belfast Harbour Commissioners Fund – cost of living issues with families (finished) ESOL Refuge Language Classes</p>	
AOB for Sharing:	
<p>Continuing practical support requested.</p>	

	<p>4. Members Updates: Gaps /Emerging Needs</p> <p>Ben Webb – Extern On the topic of school refusal/anxiety, Extern can carry out 1-2-1 sessions either online, by telephone or in person. This can be a stop gap whilst waiting on CAMHS. It is aimed at 11-25yr olds and there is currently a 5 week wait at present.</p> <p>A discussion then took place around the reasons why there is school avoidance and the current difficulty in trying to get teenagers to engage. There is an underlying issue that needs to be addressed and it isn't as simple as parental blaming or just telling your child to get up, get dressed and go to school. It is an issue that needs addressed at a higher level and needs to continue being reported upwards.</p>
	<p>5. Matters Arising: Update on Cost of Living Event</p> <p>Feedback was great not only from parents but also from service providers who found the networking opportunities very useful. It was also noted that there were great freebies.</p> <p>It was thought that another similar event focusing on children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing, would be useful. Schools would also be keen to get involved in this.</p>
	<p>6. LPG Action Plan Update</p> <p>The sub-group will reconvene shortly to continue work on this. The difficult work will be breaking items down into what we can do within our own control and to pull together issues that are outside of our control. We need to look at the points we can do as an LPG so the plan will be stripped back and brought back to the LPG group.</p>
	<p>7. A.O.B</p> <p>a) Therapeutic Sub Group Another meeting is being arranged within the next few weeks. An update will be given after this has taken place.</p> <p>b) Training A small pot of money has been made available for training for LPG members. It was decided the most beneficial training would be around anxiety based school avoidance</p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Barbara Wallace thanking all those in attendance.</p>

2023 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings TBA

DATES	TIME	VENUES
Thursday 12 th January	10am	Microsoft Teams
Thursday 9 th March	10am	Carew Family Centre
Thursday 4 th May	10am	TBA
Wednesday 21 st June	10am	TBA
Thursday 7 th September	10am	TBA
Wednesday 15 th November	10am	TBA