

East Belfast LPG Meeting

Carew Family Centre, 15 Tamar Street, Belfast, BT4 1HS

Thursday 17th November 2022 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator	✓	
Barbara Wallace (Chair)	Eastside Partnership	✓	
Nuala McStravick	Bryson Energy	✓	
Diane McMullin	BDACT	✓	
Tracey Ripley McElvogue	East Belfast Sure Start	✓	
Barbara Smith	Eastside Partnership/Scaffolding Project	✓	
Rachel Skillen	Eastside Learning/Eastside Partnership	✓	
Carla Magee	Eastside Learning/Eastside Partnership	✓	
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council	✓	
Sinead Tumelty	Outer South & East FSH	✓	
Gareth Maguire	Sports Changes Life		✓
Gemma Evans	RSPB		✓
Julia Carson	W5		✓
Karen Hillis	Action Mental Health		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Sam White	Resolve		✓
Wendy Stewart	AMH New Life Counselling		✓
Zara Monteith	Willowfield Parish Community Association		✓
Michael Briggs	EBCDA		✓
Peter Bryson	Save the Children		✓
Stephen Cruise	Oasis		✓
AnnMarie Doyle	Prince's Trust		✓
Andrea Mawhinney	Inner East FSH		✓
Margy Falloon	Extern		✓
Rachael Davison	Walkway Community Centre		✓
Michele Muldoon	NOW Group		✓
Julie Clark	Life Charity		✓
Wendy Stewart	Action Mental Health		✓
In Attendance			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCCT	✓	

Summary of Actions:

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
	Poverty Sub Group	Group to be created to look at gaps in services and available resources	Barbara Smith & Charlene Mitchell

<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. The apologies have been noted in the minutes.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes from 8th September 2022</p> <p>The minutes from the last East Belfast LPG meeting on 8th September were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the discussion and no amendments were required. The minutes were proposed by Kathy Watters and seconded by Barbara Smith.</p>
	<p>3. Winter Pressures – Information Sharing</p> <p>The Early Intervention Support Team within the BHSCCT met with the 10 Belfast Family Support Hubs to discuss the current challenges facing families. Topics covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Information on available practical support ii) What is support/funding is expected to be available iii) Current Hub pressures iv) Gaps in services v) Hub experiences on delivering practical support vi) How families can be best connected to resources. <p>Despite having no information about any financial support, the meeting was very helpful and productive.</p> <p>The Belfast Harbour Commissioners have donated £1,000 to each Belfast Hub. It is understood the Hubs will have flexibility to spend this as they see fit, which will probably take the form of supermarket vouchers. A short discussion then took place around assessing eligibility for the vouchers. It was agreed that a poverty sub-group should be set up to look at what resources are available and where there are gaps in services.</p> <p>Belfast City Council have agreed a £500,000 hardship fund. A meeting is to take place shortly regarding how this money should be best spent and administered so more information to follow, however it is likely to be after Christmas before the money is distributed.</p>

4. Matters Arising

LPG Action Planning

The sub group to look at East Belfast's Action Plan met in October. The purpose of this meeting was to look at the main priorities in the local area and lay the groundwork on which to build a plan. There are some points that are a common theme citywide and some that are specific to East Belfast so it is felt that there will be an overarching Belfast plan with each LPG area having their own section.

The plan is to reconvene in January to drill down into more detail.

5. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Inner East Belfast
Timeframe:	8 th September 2022 – 16 th November 2022
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	73
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	2338
Source of Service Requests:	Primarily Health Visitors, Self-referrals, GP's, School's, EWO's, CAMHS, Social Workers.
Key Gaps identified: Creative therapy, teen and adult counselling, ASD/ADHD support, Family support.	
Key Successes identified: BAOG 'Integrated Working' voucher scheme. Scaffolding Crisis Fund. Belfast Harbour Commissioners Fund – cost of living issues with families. ESOL Refuge Language Classes – Alternatives Restorative Justice.	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Outer South & East Belfast
Timeframe:	8 th September – 17 th November 2022
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Sept – 26 Oct – 38 Nov -16 Total - 80
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	213
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:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & young people on waiting list for autism assessment and not meeting criteria for autism specific services. • Art therapy • Toddlers outside of Surestart area seeking early year's 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. 	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supermarket vouchers continue to be requested. This can be used to offset cost of gas and electric. • £1000 flexible will be available. Each hub will receive this amount to support families during cost of living. Successfully lobbied for by one of the Belfast hubs. 	
AOB for Sharing:	
<p>Some families are returning to the hub for financial support indicating a high demand as expected.</p> <p>The hub is working at capacity; referrals are fairly complex and frequently require more than one service. OSEB has an additional 5 hrs support to manage the work load.</p>	

6. Members Updates

Kids Together

The GP Federation are funding Kids Together to run Autism/ASD workshops for practitioners in West Belfast. This may be beneficial to roll out across the city so would be good to get more information on this regarding costs and the like.

UHub

Pam from UHub is running an Autism conference for parents and practitioners with guest speaker Jude Morrow. There are 150 spaces and a £10 charge for food.

Little Learners

The Little Learners pilot is now being part funded through Fair Start with Glenbrook, East Belfast Sure Start, Solas and Kids Together. This is for those very young children that will likely be diagnosed with ASD.

The pilot and framework have been ongoing for 7 years however now the Department for Education are becoming involved which means other professionals such as Clinical Psychologists and Occupational Therapists are now on board.

Parental workshops and role modelling also form part of this programme so parents will be in a position to be fully aware of their child's needs and to be an advocate for them when they start school.

Little Learners are also looking for funding for 2 years for some children as sometimes nursery school is not the right environment for a child to move on to. The programme is aligned to preschool curriculum.

Goal is for this model to be replicated throughout Northern Ireland.

Drug Issues

There has been an increase in seeing people sell prescription drugs to pay off debts. There are lots of new drugs around and the main issue is the lack of knowledge in schools, youth workers and the police in how to spot usage.

7. A.O.B

- Fr. Devlin in West Belfast is running a community drop-in event to share information on the cost of living. Stalls will be set up from statutory and community organisations offering help and support. It was suggested that a similar event could be arranged in East Belfast and that this may be a topic for the poverty sub-group.

2023 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings TBA

DATES	TIME	VENUES
Thursday 12 th January	10am	Microsoft Teams
Wednesday 8 th March	10am	TBA
Thursday 4 th May	10am	TBA
Wednesday 21 st June	10am	TBA
Thursday 7 th September	10am	TBA
Wednesday 15 th November	10am	TBA