

South Belfast LPG Meeting

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Natasha Brennan (Chair)	Lorag	✓	
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Angela Johnson	GVRT	✓	
Gabi Mornhinweg	BHSCT	✓	
Jenna McCool	NIACRO	✓	
Mark Mailey	MACS NI	✓	
Michelle McDonagh	South I FSH	✓	
Sinead Tumelty	Outer South & East FSH	✓	
Alison Robinson	South Belfast Sure Start	✓	
Amanda Sherwood	Health Visiting, BHSCT	✓	
Karolina Morgan	South II FSH	✓	
Diane Hickey	Women's Aid	✓	
Roisin O'Neill	Barnardo's	✓	
Leigh Noble	Mencap	✓	
Bridget Tiernan	BHSCT		✓
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life		✓
Joy Poots	South Belfast Sure Start		✓
Nuala McStravick	Bryson Energy		✓
Paula McMurrin	USDT		✓
William Olphert	Chinese Welfare Association		✓
Anita Duff	EANI		✓
Garnet Busby	Belfast South Community Resource		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Ewa Bajorek	Belfast City Council		✓
Sandra Cullen	BHSCT		✓
Jenny Potter	Now Group		✓
Michelle Muldoon	Now Group		
In Attendance			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
1.	Presentation at future meetings	Both Barnardo's and Mencap to give presentations at future meetings outlining the services their organisations provide.	Roisin O'Neill (Barnardo's) Leigh Noble (Mencap)
2.	Emotion-based school avoidance	Email to be sent to Kerry Lee Wetherall for clarity around this topic	Natasha Brennan
3.	EA's provision for children with additional needs	Petition to EA from Kids Together & Solas to be followed up and email to be circulated with the outcome.	Natasha Brennan

<u>Action</u> <u>by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Natasha Brennan opened the meeting by welcoming those present. A round of introductions then took place and the apologies have been noted in the minutes.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes from 23rd November 2022</p> <p>There were no action points from the last meeting. The minutes were agreed as true and accurate and no amendments took place.</p>
	<p>3. Members Updates</p> <p><i>Natasha Brennan – Lorag</i></p> <p>It was noted that there has been difficulty in recruiting staff within the sector. This is due to lots of reasons including salaries and work life balance. Recruitment opportunities will continue to be shared on the weekly LPG update email.</p>

4. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	SB1 Hub
Timeframe:	November & December 2022
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	November – 18 December – 43 Total: 61
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	248
Source of Service Requests:	Self:40 Community:11 Health Visitor: 4 School: 3 EWO: 2 Camhs: 1
Key Gaps identified: Financial support Trauma support for children – asylum seekers	
Key Successes identified: Number of families supported over the Christmas period – Toys, Food & Gas and electric vouchers, thanks to both Cash for Kids and Harbour Commission for all their help	
AOB for Sharing: Open to referrals for Mindfulness Programme at Lorag	

FSH Area:	South Belfast II CASA FSH
Timeframe:	21/11/2022- 31/01/2023
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	49
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	236 received/ 223 this financial year process (excluding out of area) 1205 total for CASA FSH
Source of Service Requests:	Top referrers: Self, Schools, CAMHS, Health Visitors,
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioural issues support for parents of pre-school age children. • Early Years Support for out of Sure Start area. • Romanian speaking Family Support • Childcare support/ respite for parent 	
Key Successes identified:	
All the families referred for help with X-mas costs, with the mutual effort of a few member organisations and additional funding secured by Belfast FSF, received support.	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Outer South and East
Timeframe:	22 nd November 2022 – 31 st January 2023
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	November – 8 December – 22 January - 34 Total - 64
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	278 (baseline = 180)
Source of Service Requests:	Self (21); Community & Voluntary (6); School (7); Health visitor (15); G.P./Nurse (4); CAMHS (6); EWO (3); Private psychiatrist (1)
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. • Toddlers outside of Surestart area seeking early year's placement. • An increase in young children presenting with emotion-based school avoidance. Schools are struggling with this, and services are reporting it too. Consequences of pandemic? Parental mental health? Increased pressures in schools? • Therapeutic services for children and increasingly families – counselling 	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSEB continues to process a high number of referrals and maintains both compassionate and thorough assessments of a family's needs to ensure there is choice in the support offered and the service matches the family's need. 	
AOB for Sharing:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hub is working at capacity; referrals are complex and frequently require more than one service. OSEB has an additional 5 hrs support to manage the workload since September. 	

A short discussion took place around emotion-based school avoidance and how this is a real issue at present. Schools are having their budgets cut and services such as counselling will be cut also. Children's needs are therefore not being addressed which in turn is exacerbating the school avoidance issue.

Natasha Brennan will email Kerry Lee Wetherall for more information around this topic and report back at the next meeting.

5. LPG Action Planning

A workshop took place in November to look at the needs in the area, what services are available and where the gaps lie.

The main topics looked at were:

- Asylum Seeking Families in hotels
- Practical Support regarding the cost of living crisis
- Neurodiversity – inclusion and involvement in services
- Capacity Building and Wellbeing for staff

The topic of Asylum Seeking families in hotels was raised at the last Belfast Area Outcomes Group so it is on their agenda.

There will be a small amount of money made available through the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust for training, either citywide or local, any suggestions of what this could be used for, contact Charlene Mitchell.

School avoidance is an issue and there can be a lot of assumptions made about children who don't attend school. It was suggested that staff training would help to support parents in this issue.

A Cost of Living event took place in West Belfast and now East Belfast will be running something similar through the LPG. There will be stalls, talks, cooking demos and giveaways. A similar event could be considered for South Belfast LPG if felt necessary.

7. A.O.B

In the Education Authority's plans for next year there was no mention of children with additional needs or disabilities. LPG had previously circulated an email from Kids Together and Solas in which they were encouraging everyone to sign a petition to EA regarding this issue. Natasha will follow this up and circulate an email with the outcome.

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

2023 Dates for South Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES (Wednesday)	TIME	VENUES
1 st February	10am	Microsoft Teams
22 nd March	10am	TBA
3 rd May	10am	TBA
15 th June	10am	TBA
13 th September	10am	TBA
22 nd November	10am	TBA