

## South Belfast LPG Meeting

Via MS Teams

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 10am**

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Natasha Brennan (Chair)	Lorag	✓	
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Anita Duff	EANI	✓	
Chelsea Parkinson	Bryson Training and Employability	✓	
Judith Harvey	W5	✓	
Laura Porter	Prince's Trust	✓	
Sinead Tumelty	Outer South & East FSH	✓	
Gabi Mornhinweg	BHSCT	✓	
Ann Marie White	Red Cross	✓	
Roisin O'Neill	Barnardo's	✓	
Michelle McDonagh	South I FSH	✓	
Alison Robinson	South Belfast Sure Start	✓	
Karolina Morgan	South II/CASA FSH	✓	
Elaine Mansfield	Donegall Pass Community Forum	✓	
Diane McMullin	Extern		✓
Emily Brown	Forward South Partnership		✓
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life		✓
Joy Poots	South Belfast Sure Start		✓
Karen Hillis	Action Mental Health		✓
Margaret McDonald	BHSCT		✓
Natalie Killough	BHSCT		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
William Olphert	Chinese Welfare Association		✓
Patricia Cusack	Gems NI		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Sandra Cullen	BHSCT		
Sarah Griffin	Extern		✓
<b>In Attendance</b>			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1.	Red Cross	Contact details to be circulated	Ann Marie White
2.			

<b><u>Action</u></b> <b><u>by:</u></b>	
	<p><b>1. Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>Chair Natasha Brennan opened the meeting by welcoming those present.</p>
	<p><b>2. Previous Minutes from 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b></p> <p>Minutes were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and no amendments were required.</p>
	<p><b>3. Presentation – Judith Harvey, W5</b></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 20,000ft<sup>2</sup> 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 <a href="mailto:judith@theodyssey.co.uk">judith@theodyssey.co.uk</a></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](mailto:Chelsea.parkinson@brysonenergy.org)

#### **5. Members Updates**

##### ***Ann Marie White – Red Cross Refugee Support***

The last year has seen a significant increase in people seeking asylum and as a result the existing stock of accommodation wasn’t sufficient so across the UK the Home Office have started to use contingency accommodation, which in Belfast equates to around 15 hotels and small B&B’s.

##### ***Welfare Support/GP’s***

Mears Group hold the AASD Contract which has certain specifications including welfare support, which acts as signposting, directing service users to relevant organisations. Within the main hotels Welfare Officers are assigned and have weekly check-ins with each person in the hotel. Some hotels can have up to 1,000 people so to have a meaningful conversation and to follow up on any actions would be a huge challenge. Another of the Welfare Officers tasks is to help people register with a GP. Each person in the hotel will have the requisite ID so registration is usually quite straightforward, however problems can arise after when people are trying to express needs and book appointments when they don’t speak any English.

### *Education*

It is currently taking 8-9 months for children to get a place in schools. Until recently Mears were referring to the Intercultural Education Service (linked through EA) where they would discuss educational needs and issue families with school age children devices or laptops so they could remotely access education. However, two to the key staff of this scheme have since moved on and there is some ambiguity as to who will be fulfilling these educational links.

A Welcome Club has been established at Malvern P.S. This is not a school per se but an educational bridge where children attend for half a day. A similar post-primary club is in Dundonald High School. With no transport being provided to these schools families are struggling to get there. At present the Intercultural Education Service and EA are looking into the issue. Red Cross would also help families to go through the school registration process however there needs to be a clear pathway in place.

### *Pregnant and Post-Partum Women*

Other issues have been raised around pregnant and post-partum women in hotels. Mears do issue baby packs but there appear to be gaps in regular supplies of nappies and formula. They have to be requested at hotel reception but it seems they are only given a few nappies at a time. Mears don't supply buggies and there have been a lot of requests for these.

### *Housing*

Mears do maintain a list of vulnerable people which include pregnant and new mothers, and they are on the priority list for housing. The housing market is very challenging at present however Mears are expanding procurement of properties and this may be outside of the city. This will open up more housing and schooling opportunities, but will also raise challenges with FSH's in terms of resourcing and interpreting services.

### *Migrant Helpline/Complaints*

Red Cross have 1.5 people solely working in hotels. They do not replicate or duplicate the work that Mears should be doing, but will highlight any contractual gaps to the Home Office.

Service Users are encouraged to contact Might Help if they have any complaints or issues. At present they are very difficult to get through to as there is a staff deficit against the number of calls being received. Red Cross will also encourage people to use this helpline as their issue will be logged and then Mears will be made aware of the problem. Red Cross will become involved when a formal complaint as had no resolution despite all avenues and due processes having been explored, or if the issue is particularly complex or the person is vulnerable.

### *Financial Support*

When someone presents as an asylum seeker, in order for them to access asylum support they need to be destitute or at risk of destitution within 14 days. Giving cash support could therefore jeopardise their application. As an asylum seeker all rent and utilities are paid for and whilst in a hotel food is also provided, therefore each person is eligible for £8.24 per week for personal expenses. Once they move from a hotel this increases to £40.85 per week as food is no longer provided (but rent and utilities are still covered).

Ann Marie advised that she is happy to take enquires from the Hubs and will pass on her contact details for circulation.

## 6. FSH Updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Outer South and East
<b>Timeframe:</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June – 14 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	July – 24 August – 19 September - 4  Total - 47
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	138
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Self (20); Community & Voluntary (13); School (1); Health visitor (15); G.P./Nurse (3); CAMHS (2); EWO (2); Gateway (1)

### Key Gaps identified:

- 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:

- 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:

- 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.

<b>FSH Area:</b>	SB1 Hub
<b>Timeframe:</b>	July & August 2022
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	July = 16 Aug =48
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	YTD (April-June) 129
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Community Self Health Visitor
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b> Gaps for play therapy/counselling for children Support for families living in local hotels Gaps in financial support going forward	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b> <b>Over July &amp; August we have helped over 51 families with financial help/ uniform help</b>	
AOB for Sharing:	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	South Belfast II CASA FSH
<b>Timeframe:</b>	28/06/2022- 14/09/2022
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	56
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	119 this financial year 1101 total for CASA FSH
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Top referrers: Self, Voluntary Organisation, Health Visitors, Schools
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling services for children and young people</li> <li>• Support services for children on the waiting list for ASD/ ADHD</li> <li>• Summer activities for children</li> <li>• Childcare support/ respite for parent</li> <li>• Financial pressure</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
CASA FSH can get services for most families despite the constantly changing services provision situation.	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	



	<p><b>7. LPG Action Planning</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p><b>8. A.O.B</b></p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Natasha thanking all those in attendance.</p>

**2022 Dates for South Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>VENUES</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> March	10am	MS Teams
11 <sup>th</sup> May	10am	MS Teams
29 <sup>th</sup> June	10am	MS Teams
14 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	MS Teams
TBA November	10am	TBA