

South Belfast LPG Meeting

**Shaftesbury Community & Recreation Centre
97 Balfour Avenue, Belfast, BT7 2EW**

Thursday 23rd March 2023 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Natasha Brennan (Chair)	Lorag	✓	
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Michelle McDonagh	South I FSH	✓	
Ewa Bajorek	Belfast City Council	✓	
Roisín O'Neill	Barnardo's	✓	
Diane McMullin	Extern	✓	
Gerry Largey	Early Intervention Support Team, BHSCT	✓	
Alison Robinson	South Belfast Sure Start	✓	
Sinéad Tumelty	Outer South & East FSH	✓	
Angela Johnston	Fit4Life, GVRT	✓	
Bridget Tiernan	BHSCT		✓
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life		✓
Karolina Morgan	South II/CASA FSH		✓
Emily Brown	Forward South Partnership		✓
Gabi Mornhinweg	BHSCT		✓
Gillian Boyd	Cedar Foundation		✓
Karen Hillis	Action Mental Health		✓
Nuala McStravick	Bryson Energy		✓
Peter Bryson	Save the Children		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Rhonda Murphy	Aware NI		✓
Sandra Cullen	BHSCT		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Paula Bradshaw	MLA/NI Assembly		✓
Leigh Noble	Mencap		✓
Ben Harvey	BHSCT		✓
In Attendance			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
1.	Emotion-Based School Avoidance	Training Dates to be circulated	Charlene Mitchell
2.	Summer Planning	To be an agenda priority for the next meeting	Charlene Mitchell/Natasha Brennan
3.	South Belfast LPG Vice Chair	An Expression of Interest for the role of Vice-Chair to be circulated	Charlene Mitchell

<u>Action by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Chair, Natasha Brennan opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitated a round of introductions.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes from 1st February 2023</p> <p>The Action Points from the previous meeting were addressed as follows:</p> <p><i>1. <u>Presentations at Future Meetings</u></i>: Barnardo's will present at today's meeting and Mencap will present at a later date.</p> <p><i>2. <u>Emotion-Based School Avoidance</u></i>: email sent to Kerrylee Wetherall for the issue to be raised at the next BAOG meeting in April and some training has been arranged for May. Dates to be advised.</p> <p><i>3. <u>EA's Provision for Children with Additional Needs</u></i>: Solas and Kids Together have completed a joint application to EA. A small pot of money has been secured against developing centre based youth work in South and West Belfast and they are continuing to advocate for fair allocation of resources.</p>
	<p>3. Presentation – Roisín O'Neill, Barnardo's Family Connections</p> <p>Family Connections work across South and East Belfast and receive their funding from a number of sources. They originated within a school in Tullycarnet in 1996 in an area of social deprivation. Barnardo's came in to offer wrap around support. When the school closed Family Connections stayed on as tenants. The school is now being demolished so they are currently working out of Carew Family Centre.</p> <p>The main focus for Family Connections are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children will be ready to learn and achieve in school - Parental confidence - Resilience and Wellbeing - Early intervention and prevention. <p>The service is open to families living within South and East Belfast with children aged 0-11 years old. Family Connections provides a holistic working practice to parents, schools and community groups by providing parenting programmes (generic and bespoke) and individual family support.</p> <p>Services can be access through self-referrals, schools and Family Support Hubs.</p>

4. Members Updates

Gerry Largey, Early Intervention Support Team, BHSC

Ray Jones is carrying out a full-scale review of Children's Services in Northern Ireland and his report is due in June. Some of the interim recommendations that have been made are:

- Structure – similar to the Tusla model.
- Early Help – development of an early family model

Many departmental and financial decisions have been suspended awaiting this report and its proposals. It is unlikely there will be a withdrawal of funds and services as the priorities remain unchanged, however it is unknown if funds will be spent and allocated in the same way.

It was acknowledged that there is a huge demand on Belfast Family Support Hubs and they are under more pressure than anywhere else in the region. There has also been massive increases in Gateway, CPR and LAC referrals in Belfast and the main reason for this is due to the high instance of deprivation and poverty.

The Nuffield Trust carried out a study called the 'Child Welfare and Equality Project'. This project mapped out all the UK government wards and for deprivation and the likelihood of a child ending up in care and is worth a look. Link below:

<https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/project/inequalities-in-child-welfare-intervention-rates>

Diane McMullin, Extern

A new website has been launched for parents around drug and alcohol information and support. The information is based around findings from a survey the Greater Shankill Partnership carried out with young people. It includes the signs to look out for, how to have these difficult conversations with your child, enquiring as to why this drug use is happening and what are the long term consequences. There is also a lot of information around being vulnerable.

After Easter there will be an information pack available for young people advising them on topics such as what to do if they see or are involved in a situation on the street – how should they react, what are they to do and what will happen.

They also run targeted and general information programmes.

<http://www.gsync.uk/parents-dotguide>

5. Summer Planning

The next LPG meeting is scheduled for 3rd May and it is hoped that by this date some information will be available on potential summer schemes that may be running in the area. However this topic will be added to the next agenda to discuss in more detail.

The BCC Summer Play sessions are now open for everyone to apply but due to established connections with local schools some groups have already been created. Outdoor play sessions will be open to all and it is hoped there will be some provision made for families living in hotels.

6. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Outer South and East
Timeframe:	31 st January 2023 – 22 nd March 2023
Number of service requests received in timeframe:	February – 28 March - 25 Total - 53
Number of service requests received and processed to date:	Received - 331 (baseline = 180) Processed - 311 (baseline = 144)
Source of service requests:	Self; Community & Voluntary; School; Health visitor; G.P./Nurse; CAMHS; EWO

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:

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

AOB for Sharing:

- 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.
- 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.

FSH Area:	SB1 Hub
Timeframe:	February & March
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	February – 17 March to date – 13 Total: 30
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	301
Source of Service Requests:	Self: 15 Community: 1 Health Visitor: 5 School: 5 Camhs: 1 Gateway: 2 / Community 1
Key Gaps identified: Parenting Programmes for families living in hotels – language barriers	
Key Successes identified: Trauma support Session – Luna’s Warrior ran 03.03.23 for refugee and asylum seeker families aged 6-13 – Starling Collective	
AOB for Sharing: Trauma support group for younger age group – refugee and asylum seeker families, Dream a little Dream and Sweet Dreams Dream a little Dream – aged 3-7 26.04.23 Sweet Dream – dates tbc – 3 week course Rosario – Funding for mentoring Programme – City wide Primary School age but can take older teenagers also	

FSH Area:	South Belfast II CASA FSH
Timeframe:	31/01/2023- 16/03/2023
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	32
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	269 received/ 261 this financial year process. 1232 total for CASA FSH
Source of Service Requests:	Top referrers: Self, Health Visitors, GP, Voluntary organisation
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADHD support for parents and children • Early Years Support for out of Sure Start area. • Romanian speaking Family Support 	
Key Successes identified:	
AOB for Sharing:	

	<p>7. LPG Update</p> <p><i>Vice-Chair for South LPG</i> An Expression of Interest will be circulated for the position of Vice-Chair for South Belfast LPG. Information on the position will be included, however Chair, Natasha Brennan has expressed that she is happy to answer any questions anyone may have.</p> <p><i>Possible LPG Event</i> East Belfast LPG recently ran a Cost of Living and Wellbeing event which was very well received and a great success. It was suggested that a similar event could be beneficial to South Belfast and it was agreed that around September would be a good time for such an event. The matter will be discussed further at the next meeting and a sub-group will be formed.</p> <p><i>Training</i> In person training will be delivered by Children in Northern Ireland on anxiety-based school avoidance as well as training around managing challenging behaviours.</p> <p>Cooperation Ireland are keen to deliver training and are hoping to come to the LPG meetings. The training would be around ASD services so there would be a need to determine where there are gaps and which training would be beneficial.</p> <p><i>Action Planning</i> Work is still ongoing behind the scenes to create an Action Plan that is relevant and flexible.</p>
	<p>8. A.O.B</p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Natasha thanking everyone who attended.</p>

2023 Dates for South Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

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