

South Belfast LPG Meeting

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

Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Natasha Brennan (Chair)	Lorag	✓	
Roísín O'Neill	Barnardo's	✓	
Anita Duff	EANI Youth Services	✓	
Sharon Courtney	Ark Housing Association	✓	
Michelle McDonagh	South I FSH	✓	
Sinéad Tumelty	Outer South and East Belfast FSH	✓	
Karolina Morgan	Casa/South II FSH	✓	
Jenna McCool	EISS NIACRO	✓	
AnnMarie Doyle	Prince's Trust		✓
Val Rowan	BHSCT		✓
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT		✓
Diane McMullin	Extern		✓
Gillian Boyd	Cedar Foundation		✓
Joan Devlin	Belfast Healthy Cities		✓
Karen Hillis	Action Mental Health		✓
Kelly Maxwell	Autism NI		✓
Michele Muldoon	NOW Group		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
William Olphert	Chinese Welfare Association		✓
Marcela Vielman	Save the Children		✓
Rhonda Murphy	Aware NI		✓
Sandra Cullen	BHSCT		✓
Diane Hickey	Belfast Women's Aid		
In Attendance			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
1.			
2.			

<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 14th September 2022</p> <p>The one action point from the last meeting regarding the circulation of the Red Cross contact details has been completed.</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the discussion and no amendments were required.</p>
	<p>3. Winter Pressures</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 connected to resources. <p>Despite having no information about any financial support, the meeting was very helpful and productive. A report of this meeting will be circulated.</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.</p> <p>Belfast City Council have agreed £1,000,000 across Belfast to be distributed through their strategic partners who are EBCDA for East Belfast and Lorag and Forward South for South Belfast. The funds will take the form of £100 fuel vouchers. There will likely be some criteria placed around the distribution of these but this is unknown at present. However, it has been suggested that the £100 could be allocated up to 3 times per household.</p> <p>Existing Barnardo's services users can apply for a fund for up to £200 for fuel or supermarket vouchers.</p>

	<p>4. Members Updates</p> <p><i>Anita Duff – EANI Youth Service</i></p> <p>Due to the uncertainty of future budgets it is likely there will be a significant overspend in the EA budget so funding opportunities have been prioritised based on assessed need. EA's priority is to support and protect core youth services and focus on providing safe spaces for children and young people. Anything with added value or a targeted service will be deemed as additional and not considered in this funding until the 2023/24 budget is issued.</p> <p>The Education Authority have a relief register for job opportunities in youth work. Applications are available on the EA website and once these are received the applicant will be matched to the particular club or area they have expressed interest in. All vetting is funded by EA and no qualifications or prior experience is required as all training will be provided. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone aged 18 years+ to step into youth work and build up their experience. All work is temporary and the availability of hours are subject to the need of that particular centre.</p>

5. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Outer South and East
Timeframe:	14 th September – 22 nd November
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	September – 26 October – 38 November - 20 Total - 84
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	217
Source of Service Requests:	Self (27 total; 8/13 advised were advised by GP) Community & Voluntary (12); School (7); Health visitor (20); G.P./Nurse (8); CAMHS (4); EWO (5); Gateway (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. • Art therapy • 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 	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supermarket vouchers continue to be requested. This can be used to off set 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:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some families are returning to the hub for financial support indicating a high demand as expected. • 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 workload. • GP referrals continue to have limited information and are often above tier 2. 	

FSH Area:	SB1 Hub
Timeframe:	September & October 22
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	September - 30 October - 28
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	YTD (April-October) 187- average of 26/27 per month
Source of Service Requests:	Community Self Health Visitor
Key Gaps identified: Financial Interpreting services – Parenting Programmes	
Key Successes identified: First round of Mindfulness sessions complete since commencing after summer month – great success and excellent feedback from parents.	
AOB for Sharing: Places still available for Mindfulness Programme @ Lorag – referrals to Michelle	

FSH Area:	South Belfast II CASA FSH
Timeframe:	14/09/2022- 21/11/2022
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	57
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	176 this financial year 1131 total for CASA FSH
Source of Service Requests:	Top referrers: Self, Schools, Voluntary Organisation, Health Visitors,
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial pressure • Behavioural issues support for parents of pre-school age children • Early Years Support for out of Sure Start area • Counselling services for children and young people • Childcare support/ respite for parent 	
Key Successes identified:	
On signposting bases, several organisations e.g.: St Vincent de Paul, Life NI, and Storehouse support CASA FSH in meeting families' needs triggered by cost-of-living crisis.	
AOB for Sharing:	

	<p>6. LPG Action Planning</p> <p>It was decided that an action plan needs to work around the issues the Hubs are currently facing in particular the vast number of referrals they are receiving. Work needs to be done in educating services, e.g., GP's on what exactly the role of Hub's are and what they do. It was agreed that the Hub model works well, it just requires more resource. Some of the most pressing issues faced by the Hubs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asylum seeking families - Gaps in services - Practical Support - Neurodiversity - Capacity building for staff <p>The idea is to create a 'wish list' of how money would be spent should it become available and the next meeting will look at this in more detail and how to develop this further.</p>
	<p>7. A.O.B</p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Natasha thanking all those who attended.</p>

2023 Dates for South Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES (Wednesday's)	TIME	VENUES
18 th January	10am	MS Teams
15 th March	10am	TBA
3 rd May	10am	TBA
15 th June	10am	TBA
13 th September	10am	TBA
22 nd November	10am	TBA