

West Belfast LPG Meeting

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday 29th March 2023 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Deirdre Walsh (Chair)	Whiterock Children's Centre	✓	
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Aoife Boyle	Prince's Trust	✓	
Sinead McConnell	Ionad Uibh Eachach	✓	
Dympna Johnston	Greater Shankill FSH	✓	
Deborah Burnett	Greater Falls FSH	✓	
Geraldine Morrison	Action Mental Health	✓	
Mairead Gilmartin	Outer West Sure Start	✓	
Alan Guthrie	MDT, BHSCT	✓	
Jenny Hughes	Play Team, Belfast City Council	✓	
Mairead McCrea	Kids Together	✓	
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together	✓	
Piarais McCaffery	Kids Together	✓	
Marcela Vielman	Save the Children	✓	
Michael Doherty	Glen Community Parent Youth Group	✓	
Nicola Masterson	Outer West FSH	✓	
Penny Ambrose	Blackie Sure Start	✓	
Sharon Nelson	Whiterock Children's Centre	✓	
Carole Bailie	Upper Springfield Whiterock FSH	✓	
Stephen Maginn	Relate NI RSE Programme	✓	
Aisling Reynolds	Young Carers, HSCT	✓	
Claire Neill	Clan Mor Sure Start	✓	
Bridget Tiernan	BHSCT	✓	
Alice McGlone	Belfast City Council		✓
Ellen Farren	Barnardo's		✓
Jonathan Cockroft	EANI		✓
Michelle Muldoon	Now Group		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life		✓
Leanne Gordon	Health Visiting, BHSCT		✓
Val Rowan	BHSCT		✓
Michelle Weir	Papyrus		✓
Sandra Lawler	EANI		✓
			✓
In Attendance			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

Summary of Actions:

	Topic	Action	Responsibility

Action
by:

1. Welcome and Introduction

Deirdre Walsh, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions.

2. Previous Minutes of 25th January 2023

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the discussion and no amendments were required.

3. Presentation – Michelle Weir, Papyrus

Unfortunately Michelle Weir was unable to attend today's meeting. Her apologies have been noted. .

4. Presentation – Stephen Maginn, Relate NI RSE Programme

The RSE (Relationship & Sexuality Education) Programme has been on the curriculum of school's since 2007, however the material that will be taught or omitted is at the discretion of the teacher/school. As a result the RSE Programme was created to fill the gaps.

It is a free programme for 12-17 year olds within a group setting of around 8-10 young people participating in 8, 1 hour sessions. These sessions can be tailored to a fit the needs or requests of a particular organisation.

The 8 core elements to the programme are:

- Healthy Relationships
- Values, Rights, Culture and Sexuality
- Understanding Gender
- Violence and Staying Safe
- Skills for Health & Wellbeing
- The Human Body & Development
- Sexuality & Sexual Behaviour
- Sexual & Reproductive Health

If anyone is interested in applying for the programme an enquiry form can be found on Relate NI's website <https://www.relateni.org/relateni-services/relationships-sexuality-education/>

5. Members Updates

Deidre Walsh, Whiterock Children's Centre

The ASD training that was completed last Friday in Whiterock Children's Centre was very well received with very positive feedback. There are still some spaces left for the ASD training in Blackie Centre.

Dympna Johnson, Greater Shankill Partnership

Greater Shankill Partnership, Communities in Transition have produced an guide for parents on drugs and alcohol called the Dot Guide: <http://www.gsync.uk/parents-dotguide>

Michael Doherty, Glen Community and Parent Youth Group

Michal raised an issue around a recent letter received from the EA with regards to funding for youth services. Funding will be on a month-by-month basis which makes it very difficult for long-term planning.

A discussion then took place around the issues facing community groups, organisations and Family Support Hubs in terms of funding cuts and staff shortages. It was noted that the Ray Jones report is due in June and it seems that much funding and decisions are in suspension awaiting the outcome of this report and the recommendations therein. In the interim it has been recommended that funding is used pro-rata month by month until further information is known.

These issues are on the agenda and will be raised at the next BAOG meeting.

The Regional Coordinator of the NI Hubs, Bronwyn Campbell has been enquiring into how these cuts are impacting the Hubs. Bronwyn and her team are compiling a survey to investigate the current situation in the community sector and where the main difficulties lie. It was therefore recommended that if you receive this survey that you complete it to have your say.

6. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Greater Shankill
Timeframe:	Jan – March
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Total: 44 Jan: 10 Feb: 13 March: 21
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1641
Source of Service Requests:	Self Community Organisation Education welfare service CAMHS GP
Key Gaps identified: Availability of Family Support Home Visiting services has been limited throughout this quarter with many organisations closed to referrals as they have reached capacity. Waiting lists for community providers are also growing with some reporting that they would be unable to process & allocate referred families within the 8 week timeframe.	
Key Successes identified: Families experiencing financial hardship have been able to access vouchers through hub. School attendance has remained a feature through this quarter with families being connected to services to encourage good household routines and boundaries. Increase in number of families needing support around SEN, this has included strategies to manage while awaiting diagnosis and how to go through the process of requesting an educational statement following a diagnosis. These were predominantly self referrals, highlighting help seeking behaviour.	
AOB for Sharing: Greater Shankill Partnership have produced a resource for Parents around drugs & alcohol as part of the CIT Programme. The online Dot Guide can be accessed here - https://www.gsync.uk/parents-dotguide	

FSH Area:	Greater Falls	
Timeframe:	Jan – March 23	
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	73	
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	Year to date - 349 (2013 total)	
Source of Service Requests:	School Community CAMHS Self GP MDT Social Worker	Health Visitor Voluntary Organisation EWO ASD assessment staff
Key Gaps identified:		
<p>Limited supports for disability, limited child therapy supports. Increase in requests for Food and practical items</p> <p>Lengthy waiting lists for additional needs, Mental Health, General Health, issues contacting GP</p>		
Key Successes identified:		
<p>Links to Social Supermarket through BRCCG</p> <p>Access to additional supports through donations for West Belfast Family Support Hubs</p>		
AOB for Sharing:		

FSH Area:	Outer West Belfast
Timeframe:	Feb - March
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Feb – 22 March - 27
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	1559
Source of Service Requests:	School Community GP Self CAMHS Health Visitor GP MDT EWO Hospital SW RISE
Key Gaps identified:	
More services needed - 121 Mentoring / FS.	
Lack of local services available / waiting lists	
Key Successes identified:	
Continuation of financial support requests – vouchers big help to families	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Upperspringfield whiterock FSH
Timeframe:	February to March
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	30 Feb 40 March Total 70
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	416 to date
Source of Service Requests:	School Self Health Visitor Mental health practitioner /SW Sure start Voluntary community /community organisations school CAHMS GP
Key Gaps identified:	
<p>Shortage of Summer scheme places.</p> <p>Families continue to look for practical/financial support Due to cost of living rises and change to universal credit. 5 weeks without benefit.</p> <p>ADHD support no services available for families the age for a referral for a child has been increased to 6 years of age .children from the ages of 4 to 6 have no support services the GP are being told to send families to local for support . Hub can only signpost on to ADDNI services advise line or Facebook page.</p> <p>Services are full to capacity only taking referrals from 1st April when new contract year starts.</p>	
Key Successes identified:	
<p>Working alongside local food bank to support parents in need with food parcels. (Although foodbanks are still supporting families, they are struggling due to increased referrals.)</p>	
AOB for Sharing:	
<p>WCC ESOL class are still running.</p> <p>CIN fund applications continue for families in need of larger items for the home However they are only giving each service a 4 applications a month .</p>	

	<p>7. LPG Update</p> <p>Summer Planning In order to prepare for the school holidays, ‘Summer Planning’ will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. The issue of funding uncertainty is understood, however it would be prudent to know the plans of local organisations and come up with ideas for summer.</p> <p>Training Anxiety-based School Avoidance is a big issue and training around this topic is to be carried out by Children in Northern Ireland. Dates to follow.</p> <p>Updates The LPG Update email is circulated weekly. If there is anything you would like to add please contact Charlene Mitchell or Jennifer Heverin. If anyone would like to do a presentation of their service at upcoming LPG meetings please contact Charlene Mitchell or Jennifer Heverin.</p> <p>Also any topics you wish to have raised at the BAOG, contact Charlene Mitchell or Deirdre Walsh.</p>
	<p>8. A.O.B</p> <p>The next West Belfast LPG meeting will be in person at the Whiterock Children’s Centre at 11am on 10th May 2023.</p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Deirdre thanking all those in attendance.</p>

2023 Dates for West Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES (Wednesday)	TIME	VENUES
25 th January	10am	Microsoft Teams
29 th March	11am	Microsoft Teams
10 th May	11am	Whiterock Children’s Centre
5 th July	10am	TBA
20 th September	10am	TBA
29 th November	10am	TBA