

**East Belfast LPG Meeting
Microsoft Teams
Thursday 4th May 2023
10am**

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Charlene Mitchell (Chair)	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Ben Webb	Extern	✓	
Paula Mathers	Brain Injury Matters	✓	
Stephen Cruise	Oasis	✓	
Carla Magee	Eastside Partnership	✓	
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council	✓	
Kellie O'Dowd	Relate NI	✓	
Norah Hughes	Find Help NI	✓	
Julie Clark	Life NI	✓	
Nuala McStravick	Bryson Energy	✓	
Joanne Doak	Life NI	✓	
Andrea Mawhinney	Inner East FSH	✓	
Barbara Smith	Eastside Partnership	✓	
Laura Euler	Action Mental Health	✓	
Wendy Stewart	Action Mental Health New Life Counselling	✓	
Tracy Ripley-McElvogue	East Belfast Sure Start	✓	
Marcella Vielman	Save the Children	✓	
Sinead Tumelty	Outer South & East FSH	✓	
Michelle Muldoon	Now Group		✓
Bridget Tiernan	BHSCT		✓
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life		✓
Linda Armitage	EBCDA		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Roisin O'Neill	Barnardo's		✓
Bronagh O'Dwyer	NOW Group		✓
Alison McNulty	Tiny Life		✓
Conor McMinn	PSNI		✓
Rosy McLean	Alternatives NI		✓
In Attendance			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

Summary of Actions:

	Topic	Action	Responsibility

	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Charlene Mitchell stood in as Chair today as Barbara Wallace has stepped down from her role East Belfast LPG Chair.</p> <p>Charlene expressed her thanks for all the guidance, work and drive that Barbara had brought to the role and to supporting families and organisations within her locality. She will be greatly missed.</p> <p>Charlene then facilitated a round of introductions and explained that apologies are noted in the minutes.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes from 9th March 2023</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were shared on screen. There were no outstanding actions and it was agreed they were an accurate reflection of the discussion.</p> <p>No amendments were required.</p>

3. Presentations

i. Norah Huges – Find Help NI

Find Help NI have created a mental health and wellbeing directory which has 23 categories of support. The directory was initially established by uHub who identified a need for a guide during the Covid pandemic when people were seeking help and having difficulty of accessing support online. Funding was then granted from the Department of Health and the current website was created.

There are lots of resources on the website as well as an area for organisations to add their own information. It is a useful signposting tool for adults as well as young people as there are sections for 12-16 year olds and 17-24 year olds.

The website can be found at: www.findhelpni.com

ii. Kellie O'Dowd – Relate NI, RSE Programme

The Relationship & Sexuality Education Programme is beginning its second year of a 2 year contact with the Public Health Authority.

Within this programme Relate NI are responsible for 15-16 year olds, whereas Common Youth have 12-14 year olds and Acert have 17-19 year olds. However, they often work in collaboration due to overlapping ages with organisations and youth settings.

The contract dictates a total of 76 programmes per year are to be delivered which are usually via 8 x 1 hour sessions, although this is flexible.

All programmes must address 8 concepts:

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

Each of these topics are looked at and discussed within the groups.

To avail of this programme a host group will contact Relate NI with a venue and possible dates. Once a sessional worker and consent forms have been secured a pre-workshop questionnaire is distributed and then the workshop itself takes place. Post-workshop questionnaires are also distributed once all sessions have been completed.

For more information, please see the [video](#) as well as the attached presentation and flyer.

4. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Inner East Belfast
Timeframe:	8 th March – 3 rd May 2023
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	65
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	April 2023 - 34
Source of Service Requests:	Health Visitors, Self-referrals, GP's, Schools, Community and Voluntary, EWO's, CAMHS, Social Workers, Gateway. Community Paediatrics
Key Gaps identified: Family Support	
Key Successes identified: In this together – Social Supermarket Scaffolding Crisis Fund – support with Gas & Electricity Life NI – Support with baby equipment and clothes 2k received from BHSCT.	
AOB for Sharing: Inner East FSH hope to have their first in person Monthly meeting later this month at Carew.	

FSH Area:	Outer South & East Belfast
Timeframe:	9 th March – 4 th May
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Mar = 23 Apr = 24 May - 4 Total - 51
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	28
Source of Service Requests:	Self; School; HV; Community & voluntary; EWO; GP/Nurse; CAMHS.

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 year's 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)

Key Successes identified:

- Hub has a good presence in the area evidenced by the increasing referral numbers from across all professions and families themselves.
- £2000 has come from BAOG and spent on vouchers. This continues to be distributed to families in need.

AOB for Sharing:

- 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 demand as expected.
- Many new families are contacting the hub for financial/practical support including benefit check, foodbank, and supermarket vouchers.
- The hub continues to work at maximum capacity.

5. Members Updates

Tracey Ripley-McElvogue – East Belfast Sure Start

With regards to funding, Sure Start are still awaiting a decision on their budget but have been told to expect cuts. Some staff have already left for other jobs so any further loss of staff would be very harmful for services in East Belfast.

Kathy Watters – Belfast City Council

BCC will have their usual summer scheme activities this year and all the community centres and registrations will be open from next week. They will also be focusing on using parks and open spaces to encourage families to get outside with their children. Free events like music in parks and play team pop up activities will be available and advertised on social media and websites.

Laura Euler – Action Mental Health

There is some availability within the Our Generation Project in terms of funded mental health programmes. There are emotional wellbeing and resilience programmes for young people if anyone has any groups that would benefit from this. The funding ends in September.

Stephen Cruise – Oasis

A letter has been issued regarding the Pathway funding. The potential termination of this funding in East Belfast equates to 60 child places for the most vulnerable children and that will leave a large gap.

Paula Mathers – Brain Injury Matters

Brain Injury Matters supports children, young people and their families who have been impacted by an acquired brain injury. They have received funding to develop a peer mentoring programme and a group programme to support teens with an acquired brain injury through the work of a facilitator and mentor, also with an injury.

Referrals are currently open and being accepted for 13-18 year olds with the Belfast area. The programme aims to help young people meet others with the same shared experience, help them learn more about their injury, articulate their needs and to develop social skills.

6. Matters Arising

i. LPG Update

The Belfast Area Outcomes Group meeting took place last week and the main topic was around the very serious concerns of funding cuts and how services will continue to operate. The issue is being raised beyond the BAOG. Any information received back will be shared.

A presentation also took place with figures for children who are accessing the Family Support Hubs, being referred to Gateway, on the Child Protection register or LAC children. The BHSCCT are analysing the data and examining figures across the city. It is a work in progress and once the data is available it will be shared.

	<p>ii. Appointment of Chair An Expression of Interest will be issued to anyone who is interested in becoming the Chairperson for East Belfast and for anyone who would like to nominate themselves for the role of Vice-Chair</p>
	<p>7. A.O.B</p> <p>No other matters were discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Charlene thanking everyone for their attendance.</p>

2023 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings TBA

DATES	TIME	VENUES
Thursday 12 th January	10am	Microsoft Teams
Thursday 9 th March	10am	Carew Family Centre
Thursday 4 th May	10am	Microsoft Teams
Wednesday 21 st June	10am	TBA
Thursday 7 th September	10am	TBA
Wednesday 15 th November	10am	TBA