

## East Belfast LPG Meeting

Carew Family Centre, 15 Tamar St, Belfast BT4 1HS

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Bronagh O'Dwyer	LPG Chairperson, NOW Group	✓	
Tracey Ripley McElvogue	LPG Vice Chairperson, East Belfast SureStart	✓	
Gillian Boyd	Cedar Foundation	✓	
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council	✓	
Laura Forte	Niacro	✓	
Diane McMullin	BDACT	✓	
Barbara Smith	Scaffolding Project, Eastside Partnership	✓	
Gillian Hamilton	Eastside Learning	✓	
Chloe McCann	Toybox, Early Years	✓	
Bridget Tiernan	EHWBT, BHSCT	✓	
Andrea Mawhinney	Inner East FSH	✓	
Josie Gibson	Health Visiting, BHSCT	✓	
Nuala McStravick	Bryson	✓	
Ben Webb	Extern	✓	
Carla Magee	Eastside Learning	✓	
Roisín O'Neill	Barnardo's	✓	
Elise Smith	Barnardo's	✓	
Sinéad Tumelty	Outer South & East FSH	✓	
Laura Euler	Action Mental Health	✓	
Marcela Vielman	Save the Children	✓	
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life		✓
Linda Armitage	EBCDA		✓
Michele Muldoon	NOW Group		✓
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Caoimhe McKenna	Papyrus		✓
Judith Thompson	Toybox		✓
Zara Monteith	Willowfield Parish Community Association		✓
Stephanie Gray	Belfast Met		✓
Marie-Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation		✓
Margy Falloon	Extern		✓

Wendy Stewart	AMH New Life Counselling		✓
Steve Morrison	Street Beat Youth Project		✓
<b>In Attendance</b>			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

**Summary of Actions:**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1.	ASD/ADHD Sub Group	Sub group to be arranged to look at ASD/ADHD supports available for Children and Young people in East Belfast	Charlene Mitchell

	<p><b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>Chair, Bronagh O’Dwyer opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions.</p>
	<p><b>2. Previous Minutes from 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b></p> <p>The Minutes were circulated among the group and read through. There were no amendments required, however, if any amendments are discovered upon further inspection then please contact <a href="mailto:jennifer.heverin@belfasttrust.hscni.net">jennifer.heverin@belfasttrust.hscni.net</a></p>
	<p><b>3. Presentation - Toybox</b></p> <p>The Toybox programme works in partnership with children and parents to provide a rights based outreach service which aims to significantly reduce social and educational inequalities experienced by Traveller children aged 0-4 years old.</p> <p>The support offered falls under 3 strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Home Visiting – to encourage play and strengthen the capacity of Traveller parents to support their children’s well-being and eagerness to learn.</li> <li>ii) Inclusion – encouraging Traveller families to engage with services such as Sure Start, Nursery and Primary School.</li> <li>iii) Advocacy – ensuring the voice of Traveller families is heard within service and policy.</li> </ul> <p>Families cannot self-refer, it needs to be via an organisation.</p> <p>Information leaflets and a referral form are attached.</p>

#### 4. FSH Updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Inner East Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 – 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	September - 27 October - 34 22 <sup>nd</sup> November - 32
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	93
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Health Visitors, Self-referrals, GP's, Schools, Community and Voluntary, EWO's, CAMHS, Social Workers, Gateway. Community Paediatrics.
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>  ASD/ADHD pre-diagnosed support. Toddlers outside of Sure Start area seeking an early year's placement. Emotional based school avoidance.	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>  East Belfast Baby Bank – St John's Orangefield, Castlereagh Road – behind Church,  Bryson Care Emergency Response 'Cost of Living' Initiative.  Christmas Toy Appeal – Scaffolding Project/Local Churches Network.  EHWBT – Little Hearts Minds & Bodies Parent Programme for Under Fives.	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Outer South & East Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	September, October, November 2023.
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	<b>Total - 64</b>
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	<b>212</b>
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Self; School; HV; Community & voluntary; EWO; GP/Nurse; CAMHS.
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children &amp; young people on waiting list for autism/ADHD assessment presenting with anxiety / emotional regulation difficulties and anxiety based school avoidance.</li> <li>• Food &amp; energy poverty – families returning for further support and requesting food bank, supermarket vouchers, gas, electric, oil, uniform vouchers and “any financial support at all”.</li> <li>• Emotion-based school avoidance (no diagnosis)</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of living support fund from BCC to each hub. Not allowed to be used for white goods and to be spent before March. Note for OSEB – Some of hub area in Lisburn Castlereagh Council and therefore not eligible.</li> </ul>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruiting for new OSEB coordinator underway.</li> </ul>	

Following the updates from the Hub Coordinators, a short discussion took place around the waiting times for an ASD/ADHD diagnosis, which at time of writing, is 6 years.

Until a child is diagnosed lots of services and opportunities are closed to them and it was agreed that there is a need for families to be able to access the relevant services whilst they are on a waiting list.

The issue needs to be raised again with BAOG but in the meantime it was suggested that a sub-group is formed in order to look at this pressing issue and how LPG can work to help families pre-diagnosis. More information to follow.

## 5. Members Updates

### ***Belfast City Council***

BCC have partnered with East Belfast Mission for their annual pre-loved toy appeal. From 13<sup>th</sup> November to 11<sup>th</sup> December, toys, books, games, DVD's and other suitable items can be left at any of the 4 recycling centres. Donated items must be clean, complete and in full working order.

The Small Grants Scheme for next year's funding of summer schemes and the like, will be closing in January. Links to this can be found on the BCC website.

### ***Barnardo's***

On 12<sup>th</sup> December, the Elevate Women's Group have organised a Christmas Garden Party from 11am-1pm in the Carew Family Centre. Recruitment for the next group will begin in January.

### ***East Belfast Sure Start***

The Early Learning Community will be meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December between 1-4pm. Any Early Learning practitioners working with children 0-8 years old are welcome. To sign up please contact Tracey at [coord@surestarteast.org.uk](mailto:coord@surestarteast.org.uk)

### ***BDACT***

There has been an update in the criminality of Nitrous Oxide making it a Class C drug and now illegal. As a result the PSNI have been educated in this substance.

### ***EHWB***

There has not been a good attendance from Community & Voluntary organisations regarding the iThrive information and engagement sessions. Some members found the link not working so this will be recirculated. Only two remaining sessions available.

## 6. LPG Updates

### ***a) BCC Hardship Fund***

Belfast City Council have agreed funding across all Belfast Hubs and the SEHSCT which covers an area outside of BHSCT boundary but within BCC boundary. The money is to be used on food, fuel, electricity etc. Not for white goods. It is hoped the fund should be through and available for use by 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

### ***b) Shaping Our Vision for Belfast event***

This event was in response to the Ray Jones report and findings. Around 140 people attended. Prof. Ray Jones was the keynote speaker and presentations were also delivered from DoH Eilish McDaniel and BAOG Chairperson Kerrylee Weatherall. Although the event was a great success, attendee's feedback is essential.

The consultation process is underway, closing on 1<sup>st</sup> December and it was highlighted that the consultation document should be completed by as many people as possible as this is your chance to have your say on the report findings and suggestions.

	<p><b>c) Training</b></p> <p>To date the following training sessions have taken place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emotional Based School Avoidance</li> <li>- Supporting Emotions and Managing Behaviours in Children (5-11)</li> <li>- Managing Challenging Behaviour in Teens</li> <li>- CYPSP Translation Hub – online sessions</li> <li>- CYPSP Youth Wellness Web – online sessions</li> </ul> <p>Training planned for next year so far is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- LGBTQ+ (January)</li> <li>- Vaping (February/March)</li> </ul> <p>If anyone feels there is a particular gap and need for training, please let Charlene know.</p>
	<p><b>7. A.O.B</b></p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Bronagh thanking all those in attendance.</p>

**2024 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings**

<b>DATES (Thursday)</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>VENUES</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> January	10am	TBA
14 <sup>th</sup> March	10am	TBA
9 <sup>th</sup> May	10am	TBA
TBA July	10am	TBA
19 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	TBA
21 <sup>st</sup> November	10am	TBA