

East Belfast LPG Meeting

78 Mersey Street, Belfast, BT4 1EY

Thursday 25th January 2024

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	✓	
Andrea Mawhinney	Inner East FSH	✓	
Barbara Smith	Scaffolding Project, Eastside Partnership	✓	
Carla Magee	Eastside Learning	✓	
Wendy Stewart	AMH New Life Counselling	✓	
Josie Gibson	Health Visiting	✓	
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council	✓	
Aisling Anderson	Bryson Training & Employability	✓	
Nora Smyth	uHub East Belfast	✓	
Ben Webb	Extern	✓	
Róisín O'Neill	Outer South & East FSH	✓	
Philip Batt	Papyrus UK	✓	
Marcela Vielman	Save the Children	✓	
Gillian Hamilton	Eastside Learning	✓	
Bronagh Muldoon	NSPCC		✓
Bridget Tiernan	BHSCT		✓
Carol Scullion	Action Mental Health		✓
Chloe McCann	Toybox		✓
Diane McMullin	Extern		✓
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life		✓
Jonathan Cockroft	EANI		✓
Laura Forte	NIACRO		✓
Linda Armitage	EBCDA		✓
Margaret McDonald	BHSCT		✓
Margy Falloon	Extern		✓
Marie-Therese Cassin	The Cedar Foundation		✓
Michele Muldoon	Now Group		✓
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Samuel Crothers	EANI		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Val Rowan	BHSCT		✓

Stephen Cruise	Oasis		✓
Zara Monteith	Willowfield Parish Community Association		✓
In Attendance			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

Summary of Actions:

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
	Funding for Counselling	Sub-Group to be created to look at the lack of counselling funding in East Belfast.	Charlene Mitchell

	<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Chair, Bronagh O'Dwyer opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes from 23rd November 2023</p> <p>Spelling error on page 1 corrected. All other minutes agreed as accurate.</p> <p>Copies of previous minutes can be found on the CYPSP website.</p>
	<p>3. Community and Schools Networking Event</p> <p>The Community and Schools Networking event is set to take place on Tuesday 6th February in Templemore Baths Heritage Space. Around 20 tables have been so far booked and some are still available. To date 14 schools have confirmed attendance.</p>

4. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Outer South & East Belfast
Timeframe:	23 rd Nov- 23 rd Jan
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	74
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	April 23 – Jan 24 - 286
Source of Service Requests:	20 - Self 17 - HV 9 - School 10 - Community 7 - Ed Welfare 3 - GP 2 - Voluntary Org 4 - CAMHS 1 - Social Worker 1 - Nurse
Key Gaps identified:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for teenagers- one to one, mentoring• School avoidance/ refusal• Therapeutic support, mindfulness• Long waiting lists for counselling that exceed hub time scale
Key Successes identified:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COL funding• Great partnership working within hub
AOB for Sharing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruiting for new OSEB coordinator underway.

FSH Area:	Inner East Belfast
Timeframe:	14 th September 2023 – 25 th January 2024
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Sept – 27 Oct – 32 Nov – 32 Dec – 33 January – 40 to date
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	From April 2023 - 164
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:	
ASD pre-diagnosed support for Young People, Therapeutic Support – children, young people and adults.	
Key Successes identified:	
Christmas Support BCC Hardship Fund Bryson Cost of Living Initiative	
AOB for Sharing:	

5. Members Updates

Marcela Vielman – Save the Children

£90,000 of funding has been received from Belfast City Council, £18,500 of which is for East Belfast where around 45 families can be helped. The money needs to be spent by the end of March.

The Early Learning Community (ELC) met on 15th December where 30 people attended for a workshop and lunch. A report is being produced from that meeting. If anyone would like to become involved in the ELC please contact Marcela Vielman or Tracey Ripley-McElvogue,

Marcela also talked about the Innovation fund. The innovation fund is an opportunity for ELC partners to design and deliver a small project in-line with the ELC framework. The Eastside ELC framework lays out 5 key influencing domains and areas of focus we believe as a collective will have the greatest impact on children's future speech, language and social and emotional development. The innovation fund will help test new ideas or build on existing initiatives that enable us to collectively strengthen the early learning system in East Belfast. There will be £1,000 available for each successful project. The projects may be:

Connected to training that you have attended and wish to embed learning further
Expanding on something you have been doing that you think is working well
Good practice from another partner that you identified and wish to implement in your setting.

For more information contact Marcela Vielman or Tracey Ripley-McElvogue

Gillian Hamilton – Eastside Learning

Eastside Learning have collaborated with BHSCT to roll out some Solihull Training. Once the 2-day Foundation Course is completed you can enrol in the Train the Trainer Course. There are still some places available.

Carla Magee – Eastside Learning

An event will be taking place in February around supporting young people with additional needs. This is not solely for young people with a formal diagnosis, but also those that are showing signs of having social or developmental delays and could potentially have a diagnosis in the future. More information will be shared when available.

Connswater Homes

The facilitators of today's venue, Connswater Homes, asked Tracey Ripley-McElvogue to give a short description of who they are. They are keen to connect with people to use these and other community hubs, particularly for education purposes. Each first and third Wednesday's of the month from 10.30-12 midday they meet in the Mersey Street venue to connect with neighbours and nature. Also on 13th February, 10.30am-12 they are hosting a Pancake Tuesday event with soft play and face painting.

Nora Smyth – UHUB

UHUB are running counselling for anyone over 18 years old who have a family member in prison, or a family member who has previously been in prison. Or if they, the individual, have been in prison themselves. They can offer up to 10 counselling sessions and also holistic therapy. You can make the referral by contacting Nora at

nora@uhub.org.uk or Pamela at pamela@uhub.org.uk or by calling 02891 888448. A referral form can also be found at: <https://www.uhub.org.uk/therapy-services>

Nora also mentioned that many organisations in East Belfast had their Children in Need funding applications for counselling rejected. If you are one of these organisations please let Nora know as she is keen to collate this information and appeal to the National Lottery funding.

Kathy Watters – Belfast City Council

The BCC Play Team have moved to Downshire Hall and are currently offering an afterschools club and are setting up a Mums & Tots group in February.

6. LPG Updates

BOAG

The report to BAOG regarding needs and pressures is being completed. The FSH update data is always very useful but if anyone has anything specific or emerging please let Charlene know so she can add to the report.

Universal Credit switchover

In the West Belfast LPG meeting it was raised that there are issues with families moving from the Tax Credit to the Universal Credit system. There may be some sort of system in place to support families in this transition but if not, then it may be an idea to have EBAC attend a meeting to answer any questions. In the interim please see the attached flyer from EBAC and Advice NI regarding their debt management services.

Training

- Cara Friend Gender Awareness training is taking place next week.
- Charlene is currently in talks with Diane McMullin about rolling out some drugs and vaping awareness training, more information will be shared when available.

St. Gerard's Special School

Charlene recently visited a group of young people in this school who will be leaving formal education shortly and had a discussion with them around what their needs are and where there are gaps. Most of the young people mentioned that there was a lack of nightlife and social activities. They are keen to be able to do activities within their communities as any other young person their age.

Ben Webb noted that Extern run 6-12 sessions with young people to assist in cinema trips etc. The MAC Club also run monthly nightclubs for 18-30 year olds with a learning disability. However, if anyone is aware of any other social opportunities, please let Charlene know so she can feed back to the young people in St Gerard's.

7. A.O.B

No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Bronagh thanking all those in attendance.

2024 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES	TIME	VENUES
25 th January	10am	78 Mersey Street
14 th March	10am	Microsoft Teams
9 th May	10am	TBA
TBA	10am	TBA
19 th September	10am	TBA
21 st November	10am	TBA