

## West Belfast LPG Meeting

### Microsoft Teams

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 10am**

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Ann Pendleton	Full Service Community Network	✓	
Chloe McCann	Toybox	✓	
Claire Neill	Clan Mor Sure Start	✓	
Elizabeth Verner	Greater Shankill FSH	✓	
Penny Ambrose	Blackie Sure Start	✓	
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together	✓	
Val Rowan	Emotional Health & Wellbeing, BHSCT	✓	
Deborah Burnett	Greater Falls FSH	✓	
Diane McMullin	BDACT Connections	✓	
Laura Forte	NIACRO	✓	
Jenny Hughes	Belfast City Council	✓	
Mairead Gilmartin	Outer West Sure Start	✓	
Nicola Masterson	Outer West FSH	✓	
Niall Enright	USDT	✓	
Aíne McCahey	MDT, BHSCT	✓	
Leanne Gordon	Health Visiting, BHSCT	✓	
Deirdre Walsh	LPG Chair		✓
Alice McGlone	Belfast City Council		✓
Carol Scullion	Action Mental Health		✓
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life		✓
Jim Donnelly	Active Communities		✓
Lorna Lundy	Lenadoon Women's Centre		✓
Margaret Barnes	Ardcomm		✓
Michelle Muldoon	Now Group		✓
Nuala McStravick	Bryson Energy		✓
Pauline Kersten	Conway Education		✓
Peter Bryson	Save the Children		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Shirley Millar	Parenting NI		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Sharon Nelson	Whiterock Children's Centre		✓
Marie-Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation		✓
<b>In Attendance</b>			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

**Summary of Actions:**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
	Advice Services	To invite a benefits advice service to the next meeting for guidance on the switch from Tax Credits to Universal Credits	Charlene Mitchell

**Action**  
**by:**

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Chair, Deirdre Walsh was unable to attend today's meeting due to technical difficulties so the LPG Coordinator Charlene Mitchell chaired the meeting.

Charlene welcomed everyone and facilitated a round of introductions.

**2. Previous Minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

The minutes were read through and agreed to be an accurate transcription

#### 4. FSH Updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Outer West Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	November 2023 – January 2024
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	November - 23 December - 70 January – 19 (@23/01/2024)
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	YTD - 244
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Community Self School EWO GP Health Visitor MDT RISE NI CAMHS
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>  More services needed around - ASD Supports / Play therapy  Lack of local services available – at capacity / waiting lists.	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>  320 Turkey Hampers donated to families across West Belfast (22/12/2023) – these went out to FSH (and their members) and were distributed to local families struggling over the Christmas period.  OWBFSH purchased vouchers from BCC funding (Winter Support) and these were provided to families who were in need over winter period.  OWBFSH worked with SW Foodbank in providing food hampers to hub families that were struggling financially.	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Greater Shankill
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Nov 23 Dec 23
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	76
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	1573
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	CAMHS School Family Support Worker Self Community Organisation 2 GP Nurse Psychologist Counsellor Education Welfare Officer Family Support Worker
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASD supports for parents awaiting assessment / diagnosis for children</li> <li>• Art therapy for ASD child</li> <li>• Counselling waiting list</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<p>GS Hub have provided access to support for families for essentials through the Hub discretionary funding. This has ensured families had access to gas, electric, home heating oil &amp; food.</p> <p>Hampers delivered to support families at Christmas.</p> <p>Families supported with Christmas Toy appeal.</p> <p>Families requesting family support have been connected with an agency to support their needs.</p> <p>Families seeking therapeutic support and counselling have been connected with a service.</p> <p>Support provided to expectant mother through Baby Basics.</p>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	
None	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Greater Falls	
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Dec 23 – Jan 24	
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	82	
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	263 (in year)	
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	School Community CAMHS Self GP MDT Social Worker Gateway	Health Visitor Voluntary Organisation EWO
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited supports for disability, limited child therapy supports.</li> <li>• Lengthy waiting lists for additional needs</li> <li>• People struggling to gain access to GP with little or no Face to Face supports within surgery.</li> <li>• Thresholds continuing to rise amongst statutory services placing more pressure on Hubs to meet demand.</li> <li>• Cuts to community services and insufficient packages to meet needs of FSH referrals</li> </ul>		
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Supermarket availability to families across Greater Falls area to meet needs for families experiencing financial strain.</li> <li>• Access to funding to facilitate Mindfulness programme in BRCG for those experiencing anxiety and issues with emotional regulation.</li> <li>• Access to BCM Toy appeal and Storehouse to support families for Christmas</li> <li>• 60 Christmas hampers for Greater Falls via Kevin McKay</li> <li>• BCC funding to support families with financial difficulties.</li> </ul>		

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Upperspringfield whiterock FSH						
<b>Timeframe:</b>	DECEMBER TO JANUARY						
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	<table> <tr> <td>December 2023</td> <td>64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>January 2024</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>78</b></td> </tr> </table>	December 2023	64	January 2024	19	<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>
December 2023	64						
January 2024	19						
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>						
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	280 referrals to Date.						
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-referrals</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Sure start</li> </ul>						
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>							
<p>Increase in housing support referrals, families either homeless or living with families as much as 9 children and 4 adults in a 3-bedroom house.</p> <p>ASD, Child Counselling, Play Therapy all unavailable due to capacity.</p> <p>No support at all available for families with children with complex needs.</p>							
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>							
<p>Supported families over the Christmas period with positive outcomes. Food, Gas/Electric and toys all donated by services and people living in the area, cash for kids and Belfast city mission donations of toys.</p>							
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>							
<p>Some voucher available funded through the BCC to support families with the cost-of-living crisis.</p>							

## 5. Members Updates

### ***Diane McMullin – Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team***

Drug & Alcohol Responders Training is a FREE online course available to anyone dealing with young people and wanting to gain more knowledge on drugs and alcohol use and to equip themselves with the tools to signpost people requiring information and help with their drug and/or alcohol use.

There are 15 places available for the Belfast area on the following dates:

21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February at 10am (both days)

22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> February at 10am (both days)

To book a place please contact Diane at [diane@bdact.info](mailto:diane@bdact.info) or on tel: 02890 840555 / 07484518909.

### ***Pamela Hughes – Kids Together***

Kids Together are currently closed for Family Support referrals. They are currently applying for more funding for group therapy, play therapy and counselling. The most common theme they see coming through is for ASD and the challenged faced.

### ***Ann Pendleton – Full Service Community Network***

Via the BCC Hardship Fund, FSCN have food vouchers available and through funding with Save the Children there are also toy and education bundles available. These will be allocated through schools and for families with children age 6 years old and below or pregnant mothers.

## 6. LPG Update

### ***Training***

Cara Friend are delivering Gender awareness training in Whiterock Health Centre next week and around 30 people will be in attendance.

If there are any gaps or training needs please make Charlene aware.

### ***BAOG***

The next BAOG meeting is scheduled for February. If there any topics you would like raised, or have noticed a particular increasing need or pressure, please pass onto Charlene who can raise at the meeting.

On this topic Mairead Gilmartin has observed that there is an issue with people moving from Tax Credits to Universal Credit. The application process can be complicated and some may have to wait for 5 weeks for their money to come though causing financial stress and struggles. It was agreed that it may be useful to have someone from benefit advice services to attend a meeting.

### ***St. Gerard's Special School***

Charlene met with young people from the school who are transitioning from school into other avenues such as work, training schemes, college and the like.



	<p>They had questions for Charlene around their next steps and wanted to pass on some feedback to LPG members. Their main discussion was around how they want to do the same things as other young people their age but there isn't much information on what is out there, for example, youth clubs up to the age of 22 or thereabouts. They also expressed a desire to go to things independently without the assistance of their parents but perhaps have a mentor or peer support in going to the cinema, for coffee and for nightlife options. An interest in non-competitive sports clubs was also expressed – just to play sport for fun.</p> <p>Pamela from Kids Together interjected with some ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Mac Club is a nightclub that runs once a month in various venues and was created by ex-teachers from Glenveagh Special School.</li> <li>- Kicks &amp; Dreams is a multi-sports club for kids, young people and adults with a range of physical and learning disabilities. It has been created by a member of staff from Kids Together.</li> </ul> <p>If anyone else has any information, please pass onto Charlene who can bring back to the young adults at St. Gerard's.</p> <p><b><i>School &amp; Community Networking Event</i></b>  North Belfast LPG held a school and community networking event and another is planned for East Belfast LPG. The event is a 'speed-dating' type event where people can spend 5 minutes at each table to gather information or ask questions of that particular organisation. LPG are hoping to do something similar in West Belfast, perhaps incorporating both Primary and Post-Primary in order to spread awareness of the services available in the area.</p>
	<p><b>8. A.O.B</b></p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Charlene thanking all those in attendance.</p>

### 2024 Dates for West Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

<b>DATES (Wednesday)</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>VENUES</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> January	10am	Microsoft Teams
20 <sup>th</sup> March	11am	Whiterock Health Centre
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	11am	TBA
TBA July	10am	TBA
18 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	TBA
20 <sup>th</sup> November	10am	TBA