

South Belfast LPG Meeting

**Shaftesbury Community & Recreation Centre
97 Balfour Avenue, Belfast, BT7 2EW**

Thursday 30th November 2023 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Natasha Brennan	South LPG Chair	✓	
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator	✓	
Emily Brown	Forward South Partnership	✓	
Chloe McCann	Early Years – Toybox	✓	
Alison Robinson	South Belfast Sure Start	✓	
Joy Poots	South Belfast Sure Start	✓	
Roisín O'Neill	Barnardo's	✓	
Sinéad Tumelty	Outer South & East FSH Coordinator	✓	
Joan Henderson	Solas	✓	
Michelle McDonagh	South Belfast I FSH Coordinator	✓	
Angela Johnson	BHSCT		✓
Bronagh O'Dwyer	NOW Group		✓
Catherine Finlay	Early Intervention Support Team, BHSCT		✓
Joan Devlin	Belfast Healthy Cities		✓
Joy Poots	South Belfast Sure Start		✓
Judith Divers	Mencap		✓
Karolina Morgan	South II/CASA FSH		✓
Marie-Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation		✓
Michele Muldoon	NOW Group		✓
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Sandra Cullen	BHSCT		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Val Rowen	BHSCT		✓
William Olphert	Chinese Welfare Association		✓
Rebecca Ng	Chinese Welfare Association		✓
In Attendance			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
	Presentation	Invitation to East Belfast Learning Community	Natasha Brennan / Charlene Mitchell
	Presentation	Invitation to Step Programme	Natasha Brennan / Charlene Mitchell
	Sub-Group	Set up a sub-group or focus group around how LPG could offer support regarding emotion based school avoidance/refusal	Natasha Brennan / Charlene Mitchell

<u>Action by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Chair, Natasha Brennan opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitated a round of introductions.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes from 28th September 2023</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true reflection of the discussion and no amendments were required.</p>
	<p>3. Presentation – Toybox</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 experience by Traveller children aged 0-4 years old.</p> <p>The support offered falls under 3 strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Home Visiting – to encourage play and strengthen the capacity of Traveller parents to support their children’s well-being and eagerness to learn. ii) Inclusion – encouraging Traveller families to engage with services such as Sure Start, Nursery and Primary School. iii) Advocacy – ensuring the voice of Traveller families is heard within service and policy. <p>Families cannot self-refer, it needs to be via an organisation.</p> <p>Information leaflets and a referral form are attached.</p> <p>Following Chloe’s presentation, a short discussion then took place on the changing family demographics and ethnicity of North Belfast and the need for this to be reflected within future service offers. It was reported that 80% of refugees and asylum seekers are housed in hotels in North Belfast. The closure of this hotel provision for families will result in family displacement which may see some families housed as far away as Portrush. A clearer picture will emerge in the New Year and an agreement was made to review then.</p>
	<p>4. Winter Pressures</p> <p>Belfast City Council have agreed £175,000 funding across all Belfast Hubs and the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership. The money is to be used food, fuel, warm clothing and shoes. Not for white goods. It is hoped the fund should be through by 4th December 2023.</p> <p>Clarity is needed around which organisations will be administering this and also how referrals will be made, i.e., via an organisation or self-referrals.</p>

5. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Outer South & East Belfast
Timeframe:	September, October, November 2023.
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	Total - 64
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	212
Source of Service Requests:	Self; School; HV; Community & voluntary; EWO; GP/Nurse; CAMHS.
Key Gaps identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children & young people on waiting list for autism/ADHD assessment presenting with anxiety / emotional regulation difficulties and anxiety based school avoidance. • 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”. • Emotion-based school avoidance (no diagnosis) 	
Key Successes identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
AOB for Sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting for new OSEB coordinator underway. 	

FSH Area:	South Belfast II CASA FSH
Timeframe:	September, October, November (until 28 th included) 2023
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	86
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	165 this financial year
Source of Service Requests:	Top referrers: Self-referrals, Health Visitors, Schools, Social workers, Voluntary Organisation
Key Gaps identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxiety/ low mood support for children/ young people • Childcare support- especially for families with additional needs (respite) and mothers from ethnic minority who would like to proceed with education and employment. 	
Key Successes identified: <p>Despite the growing need for practical support, all the families have been helped in some way thanks to the cooperation between CASA FSH members. However, this is a growing need as winter months proved to be the hardest in the previous years.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOB for Sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £££ from BHSCT (BCC Hardship Found) need to be distributed between 4th Dec '23 and 31st March 2024 • The most vulnerable families keep returning to CASA FSH for food and financial support. 	

FSH Area:	SB1 Hub
Timeframe:	October & November
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	October: 21 November: 24 Total: 45
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	172
Source of Service Requests: October & November	Self: 20 School: 8 Community:6 Camhs 2 Ewo: 3 GP:2 HV:3 Gateway: 1
Key Gaps identified: Programmes/ Support for parents with children with toileting issues. Currently on waiting list for Incontinence service and have been advised to contact hub for support for both parent & child. Play therapy – services are closed or up to 12 weeks waiting list Family Counselling School refusal – with issues stemming from lack of support in schools.	
Key Successes identified:	
AOB for Sharing: Mindfulness – Lorag now open for referrals	

	<p>6. Members Updates</p> <p><i>Emily Brown – Forward South Partnership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They have had a private donation that will enable them to supply Christmas dinners - The Social Supermarket has food packs. Refer through Outer South & East Hub for these. - The Cost of Living winter plan will be out shortly.
	<p>7. LPG Update</p> <p><i>Forward Planning for LPG</i></p> <p>A discussion took place around future planning and what the current, pressing issues for South Belfast are. One of the main topics raised was emotion based school avoidance, from the trauma of children to parents having to come out of work to look after their children at home. It was agreed a sub or focus group should be set up to examine this topic in more detail.</p> <p><i>BOAG Event – Shaping Our Vision for Belfast, Review of Children’s social Care Services (Ray Jones Report)</i></p> <p>This event, taking place on Tuesday 14th November, will present an opportunity to hear from Prof. Ray Jones and discuss what his findings mean for Belfast. There are currently 53 recommendations open for consultation. Some places are still available and LPG members are encouraged to attend.</p> <p><i>Training</i></p> <p>A review of training needs has taken place and a range of training will be offered. Courses will include Managing Challenging Behaviour in Teens, LGBQ+ training is arranged for January and some training around children and vaping is planned for February/March.</p> <p>It was raised that the Belfast Trust no longer provide the ‘Keeping Safe’ training which will result in a gap in the sector around safeguarding. Volunteer Now offer Safeguarding Training for groups of 10-15 people at a reasonable cost.</p>
	<p>8. A.O.B</p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Natasha thanking everyone who attended.</p>

2024 Dates for South Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES (Wednesday)	TIME	VENUES
18 th January	10am	TBA
21 st March	10am	TBA
23 rd May	10am	TBA
TBA July	10am	TBA
26 th September	10am	TBA
28 th November	10am	TBA