

## West Belfast LPG Meeting

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at 10am**

**Whiterock Children's Centre, 91 Whiterock Road, BT12 7PG**

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Deirdre Walsh	LPG Chair	✓	
Nicola Masterson	Outer West Belfast FSH	✓	
Neal White	Bryson Energy	✓	
Bernadette Donaghy	DePaul	✓	
Carol Scullion	Action Mental Health	✓	
Áine McCahey	MDT West Belfast GP Federation	✓	
Muhammad-Majd Almasalkhi	Prince's Trust	✓	
Sinéad McConnell	Ionad Uibh Eachach	✓	
Carol Bailie	Upper Springfield Whiterock FSH	✓	
Debroah Burnett	Greater Falls FSH	✓	
Mairéad Gilmartin	Outer West Sure Start	✓	
Aisling Reynolds	Action for Children		✓
Alice McGlone	Belfast City Council		✓
Anne McAleer	BHSCT		✓
Bridget Tiernan	BHSCT		✓
Chloe McCann	Toybox		✓
Debbie Sterritt	BHSCT		✓
Dympna Johnston	Spectrum Centre		✓
Elizabeth Verner	Greater Shankill FSH		✓
Gareth Maguire	Sport Changes Life		✓
Jim Donnelly	Active Communities		✓
Judith Thompson	Toybox		✓
Julia Hughes	Bryson Energy		✓
Leanne Gordon	Health Visiting, BHSCT		✓
Marie-Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation		✓
Paula McMurrin	USDT		✓
Pauline Kersten	Conway Education		✓
Peter Bryson	Save the Children		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Piarais McCaffrey	Kids Together		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Siobhan Meehan	USDT		✓
William Olphert	Chinese Welfare Centre		✓
Claire Hanna	Parenting Focus		✓
Val Rowan	BHSCT		✓
Claire Neill	Clan Mor Sure Start		✓
Penny Ambrose	Blackie River		✓

<b>In Attendance</b>			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	

**Summary of Actions:**

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
	Mears Representative	Have a representative from Mears Housing attend a future meeting.	Deirdre Walsh

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Deirdre opened the meeting by welcoming those present and facilitating a round of introductions.

**2. Previous Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

Following on from a topic on the last minutes (**6. LPG Updates, iv) Asylum seeking families/ Dispersal Programme**) a further discussion took place on this issue.

The Whiterock Children's Centre has received funding through Belfast City Council's 'Dispersal Programme' to extend their work with asylum seekers and refugees.

The Belfast City Council are currently discussing the idea of having city centre based advice centre for asylum seekers and refugees.

Local schools have raised concerns around how quickly some families are arriving and leaving without much notice. The issue has been raised with both North and West Belfast MP's to feed this matter to the Home Office.

Concerns were also raised around Mears and what support is offered. There is a helpline available although it was reported to be very difficult to get through to anyone and not always that beneficial. It was suggested that it would be useful to have a representative from Mears attend one of the meetings.

**3. Matters Arising**

**i) Summer Provision**

Belfast City Council have a small amount of funding for capacity building for summer provision for children with additional needs. A scope was completed in April/May however there was a low uptake, mainly due to organisations being unsure if they will be receiving funding for their core summer schemes, without committing to additional schemes.

**ii) Summer Support for Families**

- There has been no feedback as of yet from BCC regarding summer schemes or holiday hunger plans.
- Whiterock Children's Centre have an application into Cool FM's Cash For Kids for their summer provision funding.
- Footprints in the Colin area have a social supermarket, Eileen Wilson is the contact.

- Alice McGlone from BCC was unable to attend today but forwarded an email regarding the Council's 'Belfast Community Support Plan 2025-2029'. The plan will outline the Community Service priorities and the outcomes they want to support. Feedback is sought from community partners and stakeholders about which priorities should be included in the Plan and a number of engagement events are planned for June. See the email attached to minutes for more information.

#### 4. FSH Updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Outer West Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	April 2024 – May 2024
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	April – 27 May – 24 (to date)
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	YTD - 51
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Community MDT Self School EWO GP Health Visitor Housing Association

**Key Gaps identified:**

More services needed around – ASD supports / Play therapy / Parenting support / Summer schemes and support for children with complex needs.

Lack of local services available – at capacity / waiting lists – most community services already at capacity.

**Key Successes identified:**

**AOB for Sharing:**

Met Belfast Trust EHWBT around upcoming programmes / workshops and supports for families.

Met with Angie McCabe (CiNI / contact) regarding current difficulties families are facing / information on Hub.

Held April monthly meeting in Tullymore, well attended, good discussions around services / supports for families.

Attended Lead Body meeting with presentation from Jason and Kelly - Emotional Health and WB in Schools

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Greater Falls	
<b>Timeframe:</b>	Apr – May 24 (to date)	
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	(Mar 82) Apr 38 May 23	
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	61 (in year)	
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	School Community CAMHS Self GP MDT	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 and increase in inappropriate referrals due to thresholds</li> <li>• Lengthy waiting lists for mental health due to higher thresholds</li> <li>• People struggling to gain access to GP with little or no Face to Face supports within surgery and more difficult to get onward signposting</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> <li>• Housing for families (both temporary and permanent) and poor conditions being reported amongst rental properties.</li> </ul>		
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCC funding to support families with financial difficulties. (Gas/Elec and food vouchers)</li> </ul>		

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Greater Shankill
<b>Timeframe:</b>	<b>March-May 2024</b>
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	March- 18 April- 15 May-17
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	32
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Community, CAMHS, Self, GP, Health Visitor, School, Social Worker, Nurse, Educational Psychologist Education Welfare Officer, Gateway
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-ASD supports for parents awaiting assessment for children.</li> <li>-Complementary Therapies</li> <li>-Art Therapy (ASD)</li> <li>-Play Therapy</li> <li>-Local ASD Youth Supports</li> <li>-Local Allergy support groups</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Connecting families with home Family Support</li> <li>- Youth Mentoring</li> </ul>	
<b>AOB for Sharing: None</b>	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Upperspringfield whiterock FSH
<b>Timeframe:</b>	April to may
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	April 32 May 13 Total 45
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	45 referrals to date start of new hub year
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Self-referrals Schools Health Visitors MDT Community
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b>	
<p>Increase in housing support referrals, families either homeless or living with family. Also, families being sent to hotels to far from local amenities and local school. parents having to pay for taxies to bring children to Belfast to go to school and for work.</p> <p>Issues from last time still presenting. ASD, Child Counselling, Play Therapy all unavailable due to capacity.</p> <p>No support at all available for families with children with complex needs. Lack of childcare places.</p>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b>	
<p>Net working in schools for community road shows.</p>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b>	
<p>Increase in referrals from parents in need of guidance and advise to support teenagers due to substance misuse.</p> <p>Parents looking support for their children's emotional needs due to bereavement by drug misuse.</p>	



## **5. Members Updates**

### ***Carol Scullion – Action Mental Health***

New Life Counselling carry out work within the Colin area of West Belfast.

The Mensanna programme works within schools. The PHA pay for the Mindset programme but everything else is self-funded.

AMH have been successful in securing funding for the Peace Plus Project. This is for 3 years of active delivery for September 2024 – September 2027. AMH will be the lead on this NI-wide project but other organisations will also work in collaboration.

### ***Áine McCahey – MDT West Belfast GP Federation***

The MDT Social Workers are based in GP surgeries. It is hoped that all GP surgeries will eventually have this service. These Social Workers deal with any social issues from dementia to housing to carers. They work closely with the FSH's and are hoping to get into Youth Club settings due to the current issues around drugs.

### ***Muhammad-Madd Almasalkhi – Prince's Trust***

The Prince's Trust work with young people ages 16-30 from all backgrounds with the aim of getting them into employment, education or training courses. They support them on programmes that help with social and personal development, employment and even starting their own business.

'Get Started' is a personal development programme over 5 days that covers a range of themes such as sport, arts and beauty. Qualifications can be offered and are delivered in partnership with professionals and specialist organisations.

The 'Get Into' and 'Get Hired' programmes are aimed at work-ready young people and are delivered in partnership with employers in retail, security and hospitality with the hope of gaining work experience and ultimately employment.

'Explore' and 'Explore Plus' are longer term personal development programmes to support those with additional barriers to work or employment. They are designed to build skills such as teamwork, communication, resilience and develop interpersonal skills.

'Team' is a 12-week is a personal development programme in which young people gain life and employability skills, work experience and meet new people.

### ***Neal White – Bryson Energy***

Neal's team within Bryson run activities and events and will supply all equipment such as bouncy castles, obstacle courses and the like for community groups. All equipment is delivered and set up by qualified staff, with insurance and health & safety requirements all being included. Costs are dependent on what is being delivered but it is normally at a significantly reduced cost in comparison to outside/independent contractors.

Over the summer Bryson are running a summer scheme for 16-17 years olds not returning to school. Transport and lunch is provided. The aim is to signpost these young people into a skills course.

	<p><b>6. LPG Updates</b></p> <p><b>Summer Meetings</b>  Meetings over the summer have always had low attendance due to many people being away so it was proposed that rather than having a formal meeting, a coffee morning is hosted instead. It was also suggested that it could incorporate all 4 of the LPG's so that everyone has a chance to meet and network with the other group members.</p>
	<p><b>7. A.O.B</b></p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Deirdre 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	Whiterock Children's Centre
TBA July	10am	TBA
18 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	TBA
20 <sup>th</sup> November	10am	TBA