

North Belfast LPG Meeting

Teach Eilis, Oldpark Road, BT14 7RG

Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Claire Allen	LPG Chairperson, Reach Out HLC	✓	
Caroline Milligan	LPG Co-ordinator, BHSC	✓	
Laura Feeney	LPG Vice Chair, Save the Children	✓	
Ryan Black	Glenbrook Surestart	✓	
Natasha Peacock	Cedar foundation	✓	
Emily Howe	Springvale (Youth Start)	✓	
Aisling Anderson	Bryson Pathways	✓	
Julie Kinnear	Upper North Family Support Hub	✓	
Edith McManus	Lower North Family Support Hub	✓	
Pól Brennan	CCL	✓	
Julie Jamieson	Reach Out HLC	✓	
Apologies			
Keeva Watson	ROC		✓
Wendy Stewart	AMH		✓
Rory Flanagan	RAISE		✓
Ricky Mehaffy	McDonald Centre		✓
Christine McKeown	Ashton		✓
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSC		✓

Topic	Action	Responsibility
Early Learning Community	Invite Tracey Ripley-McElvogue (EBSS) and Marcella (save the children) to meeting to present	Caroline Milligan
Educational Welfare	Invite Catherine EWO to present to LPG	Caroline Milligan
Cedar Foundation	Information on Act Up Programme to be sent to LPG	Natasha Peacock

<u>Action by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Claire welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. There was a round of introductions</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes of 12th November 2024</p> <p>Pól noted there were no apologies recorded from him, to be amended. The minutes were agreed as an accurate reflection of the meeting and no amendments were required.</p>
	<p>3. Presentation – Laura Feeney, Save the Children</p> <p>Claire explained that Rory Flanagan from RAISE was unable to attend the meeting to update and that Laura Feeney had kindly agreed to give an overview of the work Save the Children carried out in Eastside, East Belfast to support the development of their Early Learning Community. Claire noted that there has been interest in this model in the LPG.</p> <p>Laura gave the background to how the work started. Save the Children have a number of Early Learning Communities across the UK looking at how we tackle poverty and a ‘deep dive’ into communities as to how to address the issue in that community? This started in East re: young boys and reading. Laura talked about an evidence review in 2018 and what does the research tell us. Laura talked about the development of an online toolkit where you can hover over ages and stages and get the research and evidence relevant to that. Conversations were opened with families and communities to ask them what helps their children, as well as conversations with organisations and policy makers to tell them what families / communities are saying. From then it was exploring ‘What would this look like’ for East Belfast, a mapping exercise to explore what is working well and what can be scaled and rolled out.</p> <p>A Theory of Change for East Belfast was agreed where the community agreed and identified high level outcomes – Speech, Language and Communication and Social and Emotional Development – from there they created a domain framework to work to.</p> <p>It is moving into its 3rd birthday now and universal services to schools design their services around the framework. Services are mapped to the domains to give better outcomes for children.</p> <p>Laura talked about how Save the Children has supported generations of projects and evidence across the UK. Laura noted this is a linear process to get to the Theory of Change and Domains. It is up to organisations to take this on and Laura gave an example of the ‘connecting with song’ work in East Belfast SureStart that has now received funding from DE to roll out to Pre-schools and Nursery Schools.</p> <p>The design is around what people said would work and is flexible. Laura noted it was 3 years since the launch and 2 years were preparation. The importance of involving</p>

parents / families, are services fit for purpose, the need to ground services in what children say. Laura also talked about challenging back i.e. universal services and looking at what is not working. Laura also referenced the website for further information <https://eastsideelc.org.uk/>

Laura talked about designing around what people said would work and also being flexible. Did we do what we said we would do, is it fit for purpose and grounding our services in what children were saying? Laura also talked about the importance of challenging back i.e. what is not working.

4. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Upper North Belfast FSH
Timeframe:	1 st November – 31 st December 2024
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	November – 23 December - 31
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	2,603
Source of Service Requests:	School 9, CAMHS 3, Health Visitor 3, Community 5, Voluntary 1, GP 7, Self 16, EWO 2, Gateway 1, Speech & Language 1.
Key Gaps identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial support for families struggling with weekly food shop and household bills.• One-to-one family support.	
Key Successes identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting with Adele Huddleston Lower Old Park Community. Adele is stepping in as new centre manager until new manager appointed. Keen to make links with local community and attend FSH meeting.• Leaflet drop at St Therese and chat with parents.• Meeting with Karen Boyle Post Graduate School Nurse. Overview was given of school nurse role and the family support.	
AOB for Sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Support Hubs will be receiving Hardship Funding from Belfast City Council. Family Support Hub members will be updated at January's meeting.	

FSH Area:	Lower North Belfast
Timeframe:	7/11/2024-8/1/2025
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	25
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	2275
Source of Service Requests:	Community, Self, School
Key Gaps identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in demand for 1-1 family support services • Financial Support 	
Key Successes identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued attendance at North Belfast Community Partnership Events • Attended training on Supporting Trauma Informed Assessment toolkit • Attended Christmas events at St Therese PS to promote FS Hub 	
AOB for Sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming funding from BCC's Hardship Fund • Raise project attending January Hub meeting 	

Julie updated that referrals had doubled and there has been an increase from schools with families in crisis and school refusal. There was discussion around 1 child who was sitting at 6% attendance and what is anxiety or what is behavioural, there was further discussion around children becoming reclusive with an example of 1 child who hasn't been out of the house for 1 year. There was discussion around Educational Welfare and Edith noted they need to pick up at 75% attendance and this is a multifaceted and complicated issue. Laura noted the work in NBCP Education workshop raised this as a problem also. Pol also raised about a child who hasn't been allocated a place in secondary school and has been waiting 5 months for a place and this is not being addressed. Julie noted some schools are very proactive.

Key successes:

- Lower Oldpark Centre are keen to link.
- Julie and Edith attended St Teresa's
- Julie met Karen Boyle to help understand the role of the school nurse – the health visitor passes to the school nurse once children go into school, Julie noted there are very few covering a large number

	<p>Edith updated there has been over 5,000 referrals between both FSH's to date.</p> <p>Key gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased demand for 1-1 family support services and financial support • The BCC hardship fund has come through again and referrals for this will only be taken from hub members. There was discussion around what was available and flexibility with this.
	<p>5. LPG Update</p> <p>Belfast Area Outcomes Group – Caroline updated members on the BAOG final draft plan that is due to be signed off at the next meeting. Caroline noted the information from LPG's has fed into this as well as the information from the coffee morning planning session last summer. Laura noted it is important that we continue to feed back around how we shape what this look like and larger organisations have a responsibility to feed up. There was further discussion and Laura asked re: BAOG budget and who decides how it is spent.</p>
	<p>6. Members Updates</p> <p>Cedar Foundation – Natasha updated members on their Act Up programme starting again next week. She informed there are 2 programmes running to the end of March, the criteria has changed and an email was sent out before Christmas.</p> <p>Bryson – Aisling gave an update on their new 'Net Zero' work (leaflets were given out). This is about making homes more energy efficient with both 1-1 support and practical measures. It is available to home owners and those renting from a private landlord. A home visit will take place looking at things such as draft proofing, low energy bulbs, boiler covers and can also support in replacing inefficient appliances. People can approach Bryson themselves it doesn't need to be by referral. Doesn't apply to social housing.</p> <p>Springvale – Emily updated that their programme is changing from a 12 week to a 10 week programme for 14 – 24 year olds. The next programme will be for 4 days per week.</p> <p>Save the Children – Laura updated on the research they are doing across North Belfast primary schools involving Young at Art. Save the Children are currently analysing the information and hope to have the results soon. Children from P5 to P7 were consulted around 'What support their learning?' Claire asked if there were any findings yet and Laura informed some things such as noisy households, self-regulation, pets helping.</p>

7. A.O.B

The date of the next meeting is changed to the 25th March 2025 and the focus will be looking at the planning. Caroline to see if the same venue is available.

2025/26 Dates for North Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES (Tuesdays)	TIME	VENUES
25 th March 2025 - ? Planning	10:00	TBC
13 th May 2025	10:00	TBC
8 th July 2025	10:00	TBC
9 th September 2025	10:00	TBC
11 th November 2025	10:00	TBC
13 th January 2026	10:00	TBC
10 th March 2026	10:00	TBC