

## South Belfast LPG Meeting

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

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 10am**

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Roisín O'Neill	South LPG Vice-Chair	✓	
Caroline Milligan	LPG Coordinator	✓	
Gerard Rice	LORAG	✓	
Sharon Courtney	Ark Housing	✓	
Sarah McClean	Health Visiting Team Lead, BHSCT	✓	
Michelle McDonagh	South I FSH Coordinator	✓	
Karolina Morgan	South II/CASA FSH Coordinator	✓	
Joy Poots	South Belfast Sure Start	✓	
Scott Byrne	King's Trust	✓	
Alison Robinson	South Belfast Sure Start		✓
Angela Johnson	GVRT		✓
Lois Corbett	Outer South & East FSH		✓
Bronagh O'Dwyer	NOW Group		✓
Chloe McCann	Toybox		✓
Deyna Reaney	Barnardo's		✓
Emma Duncan	Bryson Pathways		✓
Joe McGovern	Extern		✓
Kerry McCarry	BHSCT		✓
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together		✓
Vicky Chambers	BHSCT		✓
Maria Armstrong	King's Trust		✓
Sandra Lawler	EANI		✓
Ailish Cullen	Versus Arthritis		✓
Julia Hughes	Bryson		✓
Val Rowan	BHSCT		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
<b>In Attendance</b>			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT		✓

	Topic	Action	Responsibility

<b><u>Action by:</u></b>	
	<p><b>1. Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>Roisín O'Neill and Gerard Rice chaired today's meeting as it was announced that Natasha Brennan has left her role within Lorag and therefore also as South Belfast LPG Chair. It was agreed that Natasha carried out amazing work within Lorag and LPG and will be very much missed, although everyone wished her well for the future and in her new job.</p>
	<p><b>2. Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>The last meeting in March was the planning meeting so the previous ordinary meeting minutes were from 28<sup>th</sup> November. It was agreed that these minutes were accurate and no amendments were required.</p>

#### 4. FSH Updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Outer South & East Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	126
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	April 24 – March 25 – 338
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	45- Self 7- HV 13- School 43- Community 1- Ed Welfare 4- GP 6- Voluntary Org 4- CAMHS 3- Social Worker
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support for under 4's outside Sure Start area</li><li>• ASD support post diagnoses</li><li>• Counselling and Therapeutic services</li></ul>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b> Belfast City Council Cost of Living Support EHWBT – Support for families pre diagnosis	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A</li></ul>	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	SB1 Hub
<b>Timeframe:</b>	February & March 2025
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	February: 45 March: 34  Total: <b>79</b>
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	Number for the Year: 285 April 25 referrals: 15
<b>Source of Service Requests: October &amp; November</b>	Self: 21 School: 4 Community: 43 GP: 4 HV: 3 Camhs: 1 Gateway: 1 Ewo: 2
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b> There has been an increase in referrals to hubs, with children awaiting assessment by CAMHS and parents seeking interim support There is ongoing concern about children who are not attending school and are also unwilling to leave their homes to access support.	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b> BCC Funding – 80 families received support from Jan-March	
AOB for Sharing: Currently closed for referrals to the Mindfulness Programme – will advise when opened again	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	South Belfast II CASA FSH
<b>Timeframe:</b>	From 28/11/2024-30/04/2025
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	115
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	10
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Top referrers: Self-referrals, Schools, Sure Start, Health Visitors, Community, EWO and Voluntary
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical Support – A small number of families can address their budget shortfalls with one-off financial support. The number of families experiencing ongoing financial hardship is growing, and one-off assistance from the FSH (Family Support Hub) often does not meet their sustained needs. It is important to highlight that financial support is now available over several months of the year—a significant improvement compared to last year. Still, it would be beneficial if funders could consider extending support year-round. Between Easter and the start of the new school year, South Belfast II FSH typically receives very few requests for financial support. However, demand rises sharply in August, particularly for assistance with school-related expenses. This is followed in October by an increase in requests for help with heating and electricity bills, and subsequently by appeals for Christmas support. However, the requirement to spend the current funds by the end of June leaves South Belfast FSH II without resources to support families who may reach a crisis point in the autumn.</li> <li>• Emotional health and wellbeing support for adults</li> <li>• Child Support – Group activity</li> </ul>	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the last 3 months, no unmet needs were reported, due to the waiting list extending 8 weeks.</li> <li>• Around 70 families benefit so far from Belfast City Council fund</li> </ul>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WWC Connect project pilot for people seeking refuge is a great success. The project aimed to fill the gaps in the current services provision by signposting and connecting people to already existing support.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Following on from the Family Support Hub updates a short discussion took place around financial support gaps. It was noted that from around Easter to August there is inadequate financial support for families as many allocated funds need spent by April/financial year end. Caroline said that this issue has been raised at Belfast Area Outcome Groups before and she will raise again.</p>
	<p><b>6. Members Updates</b></p> <p>A short group conversation was had around asylum-seeking families in the area. It was noted that many of the hotels in the area are now closed for asylum-seekers due to families are being moved out of the area, either to Portrush or, once they have leave to remain, being rehoused in North Belfast. Where the migrant population in the area previously comprised mainly of families it has now shifted to single young people.</p> <p><b>Scott Byrne – King’s Trust</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The King’s Trust are aimed at 16-30 year olds. Among their courses they run personal development programmes for asylum-seekers and refugees.</li> <li>• The Explore Programme is useful for school leavers as it also includes lots of personal development work and can also help participants get qualifications.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sarah McClean – Health Visiting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This week is Maternal Mental Health Week.</li> <li>• The Cultural Diversity Health Visitor has now retired so this post is being advertised.</li> </ul> <p><b>Joy Poots – South Belfast Sure Start</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lots of transition taking place at present with children leaving to start nursery school soon.</li> <li>• Currently Joy and team are looking at filling their September places.</li> <li>• There has been a recent drop in referrals but the reasons are unknown.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>7. LPG Update</b></p> <p>Following on from the last meeting in March where LPG future planning was looked at, key priorities were put forward. There was to be a follow-up meeting between Caroline and Natasha to look at in more detail, however due to Natasha’s departure this didn’t take place. Therefore as a group we need to focus on perhaps 1 or 2 key areas and look at what we can do to improve, who needs to be involved and so on.</p> <p>Two issues that were raised at the session were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asylum-seekers and Ethnic Minorities – what can be done to tackle racism and prevent the discrimination and violence of last summer.</li> <li>• Violence against Women and Girls – how can we as a community help tackle this issue.</li> </ul>

**8. A.O.B**

No other business was discussed and meeting drew to a close with thanks being extended to all those in attendance.

**2025/26 Dates for South Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings**

<b>DATES (Wednesday)</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>VENUES</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> January – cancelled	10am	Shaftsbury Community & Recreation Centre
13 <sup>th</sup> March – Planning Meeting	10am	Shaftsbury Community & Recreation Centre
8 <sup>th</sup> May	10am	Shaftsbury Community & Recreation Centre
10 <sup>th</sup> July	10am	TBA
11 <sup>th</sup> September	10am	TBA
13 <sup>th</sup> November	10am	TBA
15 <sup>th</sup> January	10am	TBA
12 <sup>th</sup> March	10am	TBA