

North Belfast LPG Meeting

Teach Eilis, Oldpark Road, BT14 7RG

Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Claire Allen	LPG Chairperson, Reach Out HLC	✓	
Laura Feeney	LPG Vice-Chairperson,	✓	
Mary Murphy	EIST, BHSCT	✓	
Gerry Largey	EIST, BHSCT	✓	
Rory Flanagan	Department of Education	✓	
Julie Kinnear	Upper North FSH	✓	
Stephen Reid	Vince Centre	✓	
Mervyn Bell	Smile Sure Start	✓	
Gail McLaughlin	Ark Housing Association	✓	
Katherine Ferguson	EWA, EA	✓	
Victoria Rea	Toybox, Early Years	✓	
Pól Brennan	Connected Community Care	✓	
Wendy Stewart	Action Mental Health	✓	
Ryan Black	Glenbrook Sure Start	✓	
Laura Daly	EISS- NIACRO	✓	
Niamh Nolan	GLOW	✓	
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	
Bernie Kerr	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	
APOLOGIES			
Aisling Anderson	Bryson Energy		✓
Bronagh O'Dwyer	NOW Group		✓
Caroline Milligan	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT		✓
Chloe McCann	Toybox, Early Years		✓
Edith McManus	Lower North FSH		✓
Joe McGovern	Extern		✓
Keeva Watson	ROC		✓
Kerri McCarry	Health Improvement Team, BHSCT		✓
Marie-Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation		✓
Nichola Lockhart	Early Years		✓
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Rachael Balchin	Action Mental Health		✓
Sarah McClean	BHSCT		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Grainne Magee	Cliftonville Community Care		✓
Fionnuala Black	Ashton Centre		✓
Carla Montgomery	Kings's Trust		✓
Michelle Weir	PAPYRUS		✓

Topic	Action	Responsibility

<u>Action by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>LPG Coordinator, Caroline Milligan sent her apologies for today. LPG Chair, Claire Allen welcomed everyone to the meeting and facilitated a round of introductions.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes of 14th January 2025</p> <p>The minutes were read through and agreed as correct. No amendments were required.</p>
	<p>3. Presentation – Rory Flanagan, RAISE</p> <p>The RAISE Programme is for 0-18 years and started for schools only but has since expanded into all sectors within the community.</p> <p>£21M funding has been received from ‘Shared Island’. This is a 4-year plan. The engagement process has now been completed and the next steps will be the strategic area plan which will include an open call for applications. There will be some flexibility on how the money will be spent but it needs to be data-led and agreed by the Minister.</p> <p>Over the next few weeks it is hoped that there will be key representatives from each locality. All sectors need a voice so it is hoped that these representatives will quite diverse in background. It is estimated this will be completed by the end of June.</p> <p>Rory then took a few questions from the group around the applications, clarifying that the applications are not yet out but when they are the process is expected to last 3-4 weeks.</p>
	<p>4. Presentation – Mary Murphy & Gerry Largey, Early Intervention Support Team, BHSCT</p> <p>Gerry provided an overview of the work that is currently being undertaken and supported by members of the EIS Team on behalf of the Director of Children’s Services within BHSCT.</p> <p>This piece of work is following on from the regional report delivered in 2023 by Professor Ray Jones, where it was agreed that “The need for a reset and refocus for children’s services to give a greater focus and attention to family support, with more help for families to assist them to care well for their children.”</p> <p>BHSCT are using a Visual Data/Heat Mapping approach to use and show data to help better understand a family’s journey and pressures within a local community where there are high levels for service requests.</p> <p>A presentation of this information followed with specific focus on the area of Oldpark DEA (Ardoyne, Ballysillan, Cliftonville, Legoniel, New Lodge and Water Works and additionally inclusive of Duncairn Ward (standalone from Castle DEA)).</p>

The data presented illustrates the rationale for working within the identified geography (for example, 27.7% of children within a Looked After Child category are based in the Duncairn DEA and Duncairn Ward. Additionally, 21.7% of BHSCT Gateway activity comes from the same geography). The reasoning for undertaking this work is to address the increasing number of families in distress, to address the increasing complexity of families requiring support and to identify the gaps in service connections between families and providers.

Exploring the data in the cited geography and identifying the pressures for both families and communities, BHSCT is using this visual data approach as a key anchor point in our seamless pathway approach. They are used as part of a structured conversation tool kit in which BHSCT promotes approaches based on what the data says to stakeholders about the community they work in. Key themes emerging include:

- Working better together to support families
- Collaborating, connecting and integrating service models
- Seamless in delivery
- Shared commitments to improving outcomes for children and their families

The purpose of outlining this information via the LPG is to act as a pre-cursor to these wider and more targeted community conversations.

Good discussion followed the presentation with a series of questions from the members.

5. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Lower North Belfast
Timeframe:	9/1/2025-18/3/2025
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	88
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	2360
Source of Service Requests:	Community, Self, School, GP
Key Gaps identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in demand for 1-1 family support services mostly through self-referral	
Key Successes identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continued attendance at North Belfast Community Partnership Events• Attended training on Emotional Development/Regulation• Beginning of distribution of BCC Hardship Fund• Attended Sailortown event to promote Family Support Hub	
AOB for Sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hub members commented on the extent of free training being delivered as a real asset	

	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. 	

	<p>6. LPG Update</p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 13th May and will be a planning meeting so full attendance would be appreciated.</p>
	<p>7. Members Updates</p> <p>No members updates</p>
	<p>8. A.O.B</p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting drew to a close with Claire thanking everyone in attendance.</p>

2025/26 Dates for North Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES (Tuesdays)	TIME	VENUES
25 th March 2025	10:00	Teach Ellis
13 th May 2025	10:00	Teach Eilis
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