

North Belfast LPG Meeting

Teach Eilis, Oldpark Road, Belfast, BT14 7RG

Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Claire Allen	LPG Chairperson, Reach Out HLC	✓	
Laura Feeney	LPG Vice-Chairperson, Save the Children	✓	
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	
Pól Brennan	Connected Community Care	✓	
Katherine Ferguson	Education Welfare, EANI	✓	
Julie Jamieson	Reach Out HLC	✓	
Victoria Rea	Toybox, Early Years	✓	
Laura Spiers	MACS	✓	
Gail McLaughlin	Ark Housing	✓	
Edith McManus	Lower North FSH	✓	
		✓	
APOLOGIES			
Julia Carson	W5		✓
Chloe McCann	Toybox, Early Years		✓
Chris Hackworth	EANI		✓
Fiona Meenan	BHSCT		✓
Julie Kinnear	Upper North FSH		✓
Stephen Reid	The Vine Centre		✓
Kerri McCarry	Health Improvement Team, BHSCT		✓
Marie-Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation		✓
Mary Lavery	BHSCT		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardos		✓
Rachel Balchin	Action Mental Health		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Val Rowan	BHSCT		✓
Vicky Chambers	Team Lead Health Visiting, BHSCT		✓
Wendy Stewart	Action Mental Health		✓
Muriel Bailey	Parenting Focus		✓
Lucy Baxter	Cedar Foundation		✓
Tinya R Parkes	Libraries NI		✓
Sharon Morrison	Belfast Central Mission		✓

Topic	Action	Responsibility

<u>Action by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Claire Allen opened the meeting by welcoming those present and a special welcome was granted to Charlene Mitchell on her return from maternity leave. Caroline Milligan was also acknowledged and thanks extended for her role as LPG Coordinator in Charlene's absence.</p> <p>A round of introductions then took place.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes</p> <p>The previous minutes of the planning meeting from 13th May were read over and agreed as a true reflection of the meeting. No amendments required.</p>
	<p>3. Presentation – Katherine Ferguson - Education Welfare</p> <p>Katherine is the Team Lead in Education Welfare and oversees a team of 9 Education Welfare Officers. The team cover 44 schools in North Belfast including primary, post-primary and special education schools. There are currently around 150 referrals on the EWS waiting list and each EWO has a caseload of around 25-30 cases.</p> <p>The aim of Education Welfare is to improve school attendance by supporting parents and working with schools and any other involved organisations.</p> <p>The referral pathway starts when a school refers a child to the Education Welfare Team. The referral is triaged currently by the team lead and a decision made as to whether the referral is being returned with recommendations, allocated to a EWO if the need is urgent or placed on the waiting list. If the referral is allocated, then the EWO has 10 days to contact the family and carry out an initial assessment. Cases on the waiting list are monitored and contact made by the team lead to the family every 6-8 weeks.</p> <p>After the EWO contacts the family within the 10 days, a further decision then is made regarding the closure of the referral or further steps. It's very rare that referrals are closed at this stage. The EWO will work their way through the EWS Pathway through casework model and schedule a range of meetings with the family, school other professional if required, make further referrals for support, individual work with the young person in school and at home and work within an agreed action plan that is reviewed and revised if necessary every 2-4 weeks.</p> <p>If after this period of intervention, if there is still non-engagement or lack of progress then the case is escalated to an Education Planning Meeting, chaired by the team lead, again with the invitation extended to any other organisations involved with the welfare of the child. At this stage, the parents are reminded of potential outcomes that includes progressing to Court for an Education Supervision Order or a Parental Prosecution.</p> <p>The process through the pathway is lengthy and can take many months.</p>

	Katherine's presentation has been attached for more information																	
	<div>4. FSH Updates</div> <div>Apologies from Upper North FSH, update will be given at the next LPG meeting in November.</div> <table><tr><td>FSH Area:</td><td>Lower North Belfast</td></tr><tr><td>Timeframe:</td><td>14/5/2025-28/08/2025</td></tr><tr><td>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</td><td>68</td></tr><tr><td>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</td><td>2489</td></tr><tr><td>Source of Service Requests:</td><td>Community, Self, GP, School, Health Visitor</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Key Gaps identified:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase in demand for counselling for children & young people</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Key Successes identified:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ashton Information and Funday event in St Patrick's PSNew mentoring services available for accepting referralsAttended Year 8 event in Hazelwood College</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">AOB for Sharing:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued 15+ attendees at Hub meetings</td></tr></table>		FSH Area:	Lower North Belfast	Timeframe:	14/5/2025-28/08/2025	Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	68	Number of Service Requests Received to date:	2489	Source of Service Requests:	Community, Self, GP, School, Health Visitor	Key Gaps identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increase in demand for counselling for children & young people		Key Successes identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ashton Information and Funday event in St Patrick's PSNew mentoring services available for accepting referralsAttended Year 8 event in Hazelwood College		AOB for Sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continued 15+ attendees at Hub meetings	
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	<p>5. LPG Update</p> <p>Action Plan The first draft of the Action Plan is complete and will be circulated shortly for comment. We will be adding the Action Plan to the agenda for discussion at our next North Belfast LPG meeting in November.</p>
	<p>6. Members Updates</p> <p>Laura Spiers – MACS Laura mentioned that Mindwise NI have a ‘NI Schools Wellbeing Working Group’ that is a network of professionals, practitioners and programme leads working across Northern Ireland to support young people’s mental health and wellbeing in schools. The group is open to anyone and the first meeting is taking place on Monday 7th October at 10am in Newforge Conference Centre. Registration is essential: Register Here</p> <p>Victoria Rea – Toybox Victoria advised that within the Traveller Network, Toybox have been voted to be the Traveller voice within LPG.</p> <p>Laura Feeney – Save the Children Plans for the North Belfast RAISE Area are now out alongside calls for applications, including the literacy programme (such as Accelerated Reader).</p>
	<p>7. A.O.B</p> <p>If anyone has an available venue to host the next meeting on 11th November, please let LPG know.</p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting ended with Claire thanking everyone for their 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	Cancelled
9 th September 2025	10:00	Teach Eilis
11 th November 2025	10:00	TBC
13 th January 2026	10:00	TBC
10 th March 2026	10:00	TBC

