

## South Belfast LPG Meeting

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

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 10am**

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Roisín O'Neill	Vice Chair	✓	
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator	✓	
Michelle McDonagh	South Belfast I FSH	✓	
Karolina Morgan	South Belfast II/CASA FSH	✓	
Lois Corbett	Outer South & East FSH	✓	
Chloe McCann	Early Years, Toybox Project	✓	
Matthew Toner	Springvale Learning	✓	
Catherine Vaughan	Springvale Learning	✓	
Alison Robinson	South Belfast Sure Start	✓	
Áine Groogan	Forward South Partnership	✓	
Fiona Meenan	BHSCT		✓
Joe McGovern	Extern		✓
Joy Poots	South Belfast Sure Start		✓
Kerri McCarry	Health Improvement Team, BHSCT		✓
Kirsty Richardson	Windsor Women's Centre		✓
Marie-Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation		✓
Michelle Weir	Papyrus		✓
Niamh Nolan	Glow NI		✓
Rachel Balchin	AMH		✓
Sharon Morrison	Belfast Central Mission		✓
Scott Byrne	Prince's Trust		✓
Tinya R Parkes	Libraries NI		✓
Yvonne Hill	Belfast City Council		✓
Vicky Chambers	BHSCT		✓
Muriel Bailey	Parenting Focus		✓
Lucy Baxter	Cedar Foundation		✓
Angela Johnson	GVRT		✓
Gail McLaughlin	Ark Housing		✓
Rachel Balchin	Action Mental Health		✓
Yvonne Hill	Belfast City Council		✓
<b>In Attendance</b>			
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT		✓

	Topic	Action	Responsibility

<b><u>Action</u></b> <b><u>by:</u></b>	
	<p><b>1. Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <p>Roisín O'Neill opened the meeting by welcoming all those present and facilitated a round of introductions.</p>
	<p><b>2. Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>The previous minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> May were read through and agreed as an accurate representation of the meeting. No changes required.</p>

### 3. FSH Updates

<b>FSH Area:</b>	SB1 Hub
<b>Timeframe:</b>	April – August 2025
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	April 15 May 26 June 50 July 14 August 18 Total: <b>123</b>
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	Number for the Year: 123
<b>Source of Service Requests: October &amp; November</b>	Self: 31 School: 4 Community: 74 GP: 1 HV:2 Ewo:8 Gateway 1 Nurse 2
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b> Counselling for parents has been made available through the Lorag Talking Therapies Programme, which is currently funded by Lorag. Without this support, there would be no accessible services for parents. Play therapy for children – waiting lists exceeding timeframe or members closed to referrals.	
<b>Key Successes identified:</b> BCC Funding – Number of families supported for the first half of the year – food vouchers, gas & electric support.	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b> Currently open to referrals – waiting list around 6 weeks at present.	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	South Belfast II CASA FSH
<b>Timeframe:</b>	From 01/05/2025- 31/08/2025
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	81
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	91
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Top referrers: Self-referrals, Schools, Community, Voluntary, GP, Health Visitors, EWO
<p>Key gaps identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Belfast II FSH members and parents highlighted two key issues:</li> </ul> <p>I) Lack of Support Following ASD and ADHD Diagnoses</p> <p>On few occasions parents reported lack or limited involvement from CAAS (Child - and Adolescent Autism Service); - Autism NI's "Three Home Visits" model does not meet parents' needs in providing a comprehensive understanding of their child's condition; - ADD NI waiting list for support services is extremely extended</p> <p>II) Delays in Assessment for Teenagers</p> <p>Young people remain on waiting lists well into their teenage years. Parents are keen to accelerate the assessment process, as there are very limited services available for those aged 18 and over.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional Health and Wellbeing Support for Children and Young People e.g. Play Therapy, Counselling</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Key Successes identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belfast City Council Hardship Fund was distributed before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 within 122 families.</li> </ul>	
<b>AOB for Sharing:</b> Windsor Women's Centre classes are back from the next week	

<b>FSH Area:</b>	Outer South & East Belfast
<b>Timeframe:</b>	April 25 – August 25
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	<i>123 Referrals</i> <i>April – 24</i> <i>May- 23</i> <i>June-55</i> <i>July -7</i> <i>August- 13</i>
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	123
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Self – 38 School – 29 Social Worker – 8 Education Welfare – 5 Rise – 1 GP – 6 HV – 13 Community – 11 CAMHS – 8 Nurse – 2 Voluntary - 2
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Support for under 4's outside Sure Start area</b></li> <li>• <b>Counselling and Therapeutic services</b></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>	

#### 4. Members Updates

##### ***Áine Groogan – Forward South Partnership***

- The preloved uniform scheme took place this year but there was not as big an uptake as expected. Some uniform items are still available.
- A new drop-in space has opened in the Holyland's area.
- Free yoga classes are taking place on Friday's at 5pm in the Forward South Partnership offices.
- Safe Talk, a suicide awareness programme is taking place in Belvoir Hub.
- The Step Programme is underway starting with conversations in schools.

##### ***Chloe McCann – Toybox Programme***

- An Irish Traveller Network has been set up and Toybox have been nominated to be the LPG link. Chloe will share any relevant information with the LPG and hopes to get information from LPG that will benefit Traveller families living in the area.

##### ***Alison Robinson – South Belfast Sure Start***

- The 2-3 Year Programme has started again. Not all places have been taken which is unusual for this programme. Places are still available in the Sandy Row and Markets areas. If anyone is working with a family who may benefit from this programme please contact Alison.

##### ***Catherine Vaughan & Matthew Toner – Springvale Learning***

- The Youth Employment Network run 2 programmes, Cyberquest and Youth Start:  
**Cyberquest** is for 16-25 year olds for training in cyber security and includes AI training.  
**Youth Start** is for 16-24 year olds undertaking employability courses which include certified industry training, CV writing and interview preparation. There are campus' in Belfast and Newtownards and funding is available for travel, training materials and the like.

**Charlene Mitchell – LPG Coordinator** *update on behalf of the Queens University Pathway programme.* The Pathway Opportunity Programme is a pre access programme delivered as a partnership between: Queens University Widening Participation Unit, Queens Academic Schools and Queens Admissions department. There are 300 places on the programme for young people across NI, and an additional 12 places are ring fenced for young people attending schools in NB constituency with a postcode of BT15 who choose the Medicine Pathway on the programme (funded through the Mater Hospital Young Philanthropists). These young people will receive additional benefits including A Level tutoring and additional support, as well as a short placement at the Mater hospital on top of all the other Pathway Programme benefits. More information about this programme will be circulated when available.

	<p><b>5. LPG Updates</b></p> <p><b><i>South Belfast LPG Chairperson</i></b>  An expression of interest was circulated for the position of South Belfast LPG Chairperson. There was one nomination put forward for Emily Keenan from Forward South Partnership. This was put to the group, with no objections, the group agreed that Emily will make an excellent Chairperson. Roisín O'Neill will remain as Vice Chair, a thank you was extended to Roisín for stepping in to cover the Chairperson position.</p> <p><b><i>Action Plan</i></b>  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 South Belfast LPG meeting in November.</p>
	<p><b>6. A.O.B</b></p> <p>No other business was discussed and the meeting ended with Charlene and Roisín thanking all those in attendance.</p>

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

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