

Newry & Mourne and South Armagh LPGs
Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday 4th June 2025 at 10am
Newry Youth Resource Centre

Attendees		Apologies
Karen Clarke (Home-Start N&M) - Co-Chair	Brenda McLarnon (Mourne Sure Start)	Bronagh Trainor (DfE Careers)
Annie Clarke (SHSCT, PWB) - Co-Chair	Ryan Duffy (PSNI)	Ellie McKenna (NICMA)
Padraig Harte (PIPS H&S) - Speaker	Caelan Donnelly (YouthAction NI)	Charlene O'Hara (DfE, RAISE)
Joanne Patterson (CYPSP) - Minutes	Aoife Doyle (SHSCT, EWTS)	Caroline Wilson (Sure Start SA)
Darren Curtis (CYPSP)	Seán Maguire (Newry CCG)	Dan Greenaway (Cedar)
Maria Keenan (Clanrye Group)	Scott Byrne (The King's Trust)	Dara O'Hagan (Clanrye Group)
Maria Hamill (Newry ALC)	Fiona Ferris (Newry CCG)	Jayne Cully (CBIT UK)
Allison Slater (Bolster Community / FSH)	Grainne Graham (Crisis Café)	Raquel Rodrigues Keenan
Katie Wilson (Early Years Toybox)	Hannah Roberts (YJA)	(Volunteer Now)
Eimer Trainor (Early Years Toybox)	Julie Liggett (Links Counselling)	Robertta Johnson (Playboard)
Bronagh Demeillers (Volunteer Now)	Karen Donnelly (Education Welfare)	Stephanie Armstrong (Home-Start N&M)
Anne-Marie Sutherland (SHSCT)	Lizzy Smith (SOPYC)	
Tracy McFarlane (SHSCT)	Mairead Hearty (Women's Aid AD)	
Jessica Wylie (SHSCT, EWTS)	Maureen O'Gorman (EA Youth Service)	
Kerrie Cartmill (Angel Eyes NI)	Teresa Kearney (Magnet YAC)	
Sinead Travers (Advocacy VSV)	Thom Denton (Cedar Foundation)	
Aoife McComiskey (NMandDD Council)		

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action - By Whom
Welcome, Apologies, Mins.	Karen & Annie welcomed all to the meeting. Brief Introductions given, as new members present. Apologies noted, per above. Previous Minutes (South Armagh - 26/03 & Newry & Mourne - 09/04) agreed.	JP to upload to CYPSP website

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Speaker: Padraig Harte PIPS Hope Support	‘Baton Of Hope’ Initiative - Baton will pass through Newry and surrounding area on 3 rd September with an opportunity for local support orgs. to host a stall in Newry Leisure Centre between 10am - 8pm. Members invited to share info. on how community organisations can also show their support. Invitation to join Planning Group extended.	Info HERE Contact PH to further discuss
FSH Update	Allison (Bolster Community / FSH): Services becoming more limited in capacity to take on referrals. Rise in bereavement-related referrals over the past year, counselling services waiting lists very long. Requests for support for children on waiting list for assessment continue to be regularly received. Focusing on Families survey is a chance to share views on how family support services in NI can best meet the needs of children, young people and families - Members urged to complete the survey and share the link.	Survey link HERE
Member Agency Updates	Maureen (EA Youth Service): Updating the 2024 Audit of Youth Service Provision in N&M for young people with additional needs/disability, in partnership with SHSCT. Allison (Bolster Community): Celebrating 20 Years, Bolster Community Pop-Up in Buttercrane Shopping Centre, Unit 5 13th-20th June. Layered Lives neurodivergent-friendly programme for young women aged 16-30 in NManDD Area commencing soon. Mairead (Women’s Aid Armaghdown): One Stop Shop runs on first Thursday a month in Newry Library. Hosting a Wellbeing Community Day for mums & children in WAAD on 21st Aug in Gosford Forest Park - LPG members invited to hold an info. stand. Caelan (YouthAction NI): Delivering the Amplify Peacebuilding Programme locally. Jessica (SHSCT, EWTS): Seasons Of Life Workshops aim to help young people think about signs of grief and loss and provide ways to cope with their feelings and experiences and are available for local delivery. Annie (SHSCT, PWB): Autism NI Family Programme running with Radius & Arbour Housing, open to families in 5-mile radius of Newry with diagnosis in last 18-24 months. Several Awareness Weeks: this week Volunteer’s Week; next Week Men’s Health Week (Various resource available from Annie - theme is ‘Shoulder To Shoulder’), Loneliness Awareness Week, Carer’s and Infant Mental Health Awareness Weeks.	JP to circulate links after meeting Flyers included in next ‘FYI’ - Please share widely Click HERE for info

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Member Agency Updates	Scott (The King's Trust): Working work with 16-30 age group offering employability & enterprise programmes as well as Development Awards. Aiming to offer more local placements, e.g. M&S and Tesco. Personal Development programme coming up in Hillsborough with taster day in June. Sinead (Advocacy VSV): Working with victims of sexual violence (historical or current), aged 16+ across SHSCT Area. Offer 1-to-1 support for victims which can also be delivered in the home. No cut-off point in terms of the time spent with an individual client. Self-referrals are also invited. Thom (Cedar Foundation): New Youth Officer for Youth Matters in SHSCT Area. Activities coming up in June, as well as Summer Schemes will be shared for 'FYI'. Service is currently open for referrals. Kerrie (Angel Eyes NI): Dep. of Health & Dep. of Education funded VR Training taking place in several local special schools, hoping to roll the programme out mainstream. Julie (Links Counselling): Operating in local post-primary schools, offering 1-to-1 and small group work. Community counselling with ages 5+. Keen to resource school counsellors with signposting opportunities. Bronagh (Volunteer Now): Volunteers Week this week. Seeking to promote family volunteering opportunities. Wake The Giant in June, keen to involve young volunteers. Ryan (PSNI): Operation Encompass piloted in the district in 2021 and has seen 1,200 referrals being made to schools during this academic year. It has been really successful in opening up support for children & parents affected by domestic abuse.	
Action Planning 2024-27	Draft NI Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2028 consultation has closed. Action Planning with the 6 Southern Area LPGs will commence post-summer - A discussion took place on how the LPG might better raise awareness of the range of support services available to children, young people & families in the local area, through tapping into existing structures and events - Separate follow-up meeting to take place.	Contact DC to confirm your interest

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Discussion on Loneliness	A very successful event was held in Newry last week, focusing on loneliness of those who provide a caring role, with Ed Sipler speaking. SHSCT and NMDDC landing page on the Council website through the TILT initiative still a work in progress - Annie will keep members updated accordingly. SHSCT Staff linked with the TILT initiative have recently attended 'Bend Don't Break' training, which was really well received. If anyone wants to find out more about the various Chatty Benches & Kindness Boxes Initiatives running in the NMandDD Council Area, contact Annie.	Further details to follow from AC and to be included in 'FYI', when available
AOB	OUR Generation FREE Training for Youth Workers recently released (including helping young people navigate the digital world, working with neurodiverse young people, trauma-informed care for newcomer young people) - Register HERE. Reference Groups have been set up in all RAISE Programme target areas. Action Plans to be pulled together for all individual localities, based on needs & gaps which have previously been identified. RAISE are keen to tap into existing inter-agency structures. View the Scorecard RE: the Southern Area Annual Men's Health Seminar HERE. The two upcoming issues of 'FYI Newsletter' will include a dedicated 'Summer Is Coming' Section, to promote summer schemes, programmes, etc. taking place across July & August in the SHSCT Area - E-mail to follow. Thanks expressed to the EA Youth Service for hosting today's joint meeting.	DC to keep members updated
Date of Next Meeting	South Armagh: Tuesday 16th September 2025, 10am, N/Hamilton Community Centre. Newry & Mourne: Wednesday 15th October 2025, 10am, via Zoom. Many thanks for your participation!	Please accept Outlook Invite