

Armagh LPG
Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 4th September 2025 at 10am
Via Zoom Video Conference Call

Attendees		Apologies
Michael McKenna (Youth Action NI) - Chair	Mia Murray (ArKe Sure Start)	Donna Gibney (SHSCT)
Darren Curtis (CYPSP)	Ellie McKenna (NICMA)	Padraig McBrien (REACT)
Joanne Patterson (CYPSP) - Minutes	Aine Campbell (PSNI)	Stephen Harland (Ark Housing)
Naj Basketfield (PIPS Hope & Support)	Gwen Bartley (ABC PCSP)	Glenda McMullen (Armagh Foodbank)
Bronagh Trainor (DfE, Careers Service)	Edel Ferson (ABC Council)	Raquel Rodrigues-Keenan (Volunteer Now)
Caroline Williamson (Barnardo's NI / FSH)	Mark Doran (ABC Council)	Sophie Lester (ABC Council)
Eimer Trainor (Early Years Toybox)	Jamie Greer (Volunteer Now)	Siobhan Brennan (PIPS H&S)
Adrian Hutchinson (EA Youth Service)	Paula Meenan (Deafblind UK)	Abbie Hayes (WAAD)
Majd Almasalkhi (The King's Trust)	Taiga Valdamane-Stecenko (BCM)	Karen Ross (PSNI)
Maria Killen (SHSCT, Parenting Partnership)	Sharon Donnelly (Bolster Community)	
Abigail Salt (Social Work Student with Barnardo's NI)		

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
Welcome, Apols., Mins. 08/05/25	Michael welcomed all to the meeting. Brief introductions made. Apologies noted. Previous Minutes agreed.	JP upload Mins to CYPSP website
FSH Update	Caroline (Barnardo's NI / FSH): New SHSCT Family Support Hub Flyer now available. Gillian McKeown has recently taken over management of the FSH and Caroline is now co-ordinating referrals and carrying out outreach work. 61 referrals during July & August - significant increase on previous summers: all referrals offered an outcome. Slight rise in referrals among families requiring support due to marriage/relationship breakdowns. Referrals for young people taking risk-taking behaviour (joyriding, alcohol & drugs) also increased. Rise in demand for counselling, talking therapies and mentoring for ages 10-17 and ongoing gap in play therapy for primary school-aged children. Referrals still coming in for families on waiting list for assessment or have had a recent diagnosis.	JP to circulate updated flyer

Member Agency Updates	<p>Edel (ABC Council): ABC Get Moving Autumn Programme recently released HERE.</p> <p>Majd (The King's Trust): Outreach work continues across ABC Council. 50% of programmes currently focusing on employability outcomes. Possible to run an area-specific Get Started programme for young adults aged 16-30.</p> <p>Maria (SHSCT, Parenting Partnership): Running evidence-based programmes for parents of children aged from pre-birth up to teens, from September through to June.</p> <p>Mia (ArKe Sure Start): Recruiting a dedicated Parenting Worker with additional needs focus. Now operating in Callan Bridge Community House. Aiming for re-accreditation under the Breast Feeding Initiative. Linking with Inclusive Ability group who are launching a sensory room in Sherrys Field in partnership with West Armagh Consortium.</p> <p>Caroline / Abigail (Barnardo's NI): Delivering a Parents Plus Early Years Programme (ages 1 to 9) in Armagh & Dungannon Area. New Disability Support Worker can take on an additional 5 families. Offering Disability Awareness Training through PosAbility. The Young People's Regional Group can travel across SHSCT Area and talk to 14+ aged young people with a disability. Currently consulting with young people with disabilities so contact Caroline or Abigail if you know of a young person who might be interested.</p> <p>Gwen (PCSP): Armagh & Cusher Community Engagement Meeting with PSNI at 7.30pm on 18th Sept, Armagh Demesne. Hope to link with Duke Of Edinburgh Award to encourage young people onto the Road Safety Partnership Cttee. This year's play with the SRC for P7 children will focus on hate crime at City Hotel: info. stand opportunities.</p> <p>Paula (Deafblind UK): Support for anyone with any level of sight and/or hearing loss or combined, NI-wide service. New Sensory Information Hubs currently being rolled out across various NI Libraries and there are some events forthcoming in the SHSCT Area. Continuing to develop relevant links in the community.</p>	JP to circulate all links after meeting + Relevant flyers to be included in next 'FYI'
		Register via link in flyer in 'FYI'

Member Agency Updates	<p>Ellie (NICMA): New Research Report, “Understanding the childcare needs of families with children who have disabilities or additional needs” recently launched. Continuing lack of affordable childcare across NI and registered childminders are unable to reach related demand. Waiting for confirmation of funding to offer the Child Care Academy.</p> <p>Jamie (Volunteer Now): Outreach work with schools & FE colleges in Sept. Link, Lunch & Learn Positive Ageing Month VOLT Session in Dungannon Library 12-2pm on 25th Sept. Belfast Fleadh in 2026 will also offer a range of volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>Michael (Youth Action NI): Public Consultation of C&YP’s Emotional Health & Wellbeing (EHWB) Framework open. YANI are a partner in Our Generation Project, focus on building peace through emotional resilience. Delivering training to local youth groups and clubs and working on Cyber Security project, delivered through Peace Plus funding. Youth Start Employability Project available locally for 16-24 yrs. Youth Achievement Awards are another opportunity for local young people.</p> <p>Naj (PIPS Hope & Support): Hosting the Baton Of Hope in NI to raise awareness, hope, resilience, and partnership working to try and prevent other suicides. Thanks offered to ABC Council as actively involved partners in planning and developing the initiative across the borough and to CYPSP for hosting a stand at two separate networking events on the day. Congratulations offered to PIPS by several members who participated.</p> <p>Eimer (Early Years Toybox): Continuing to work with families from Roma and Irish Traveller community with children aged 0 to 4, offering play visits at home and support with transitioning to primary school.</p> <p>Bronagh (DfE, Careers Service): Free impartial careers information, advice, and guidance to all ages. Based in three settings, including careers resource/job centres, schools, colleges, and community outreach locations. Careers Action Plan launched in June between Dept’s of Economy & Education: key strategies to introduce careers ed. from primary school age; enhance support for all learners with special educational needs;</p>	Read the report HERE E-mail Jamie to register
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Member Agency Updates	<p>develop a new 1-stop shop digital careers portal and to improve professionalism, collaboration among providers and access to high-quality career support.</p> <p>Mark (ABC Council): Warm Packs and poverty resources coming soon from PHA.</p> <p>Adrian (EA Youth Service): Epicentre operating 4 evenings per week, had a busy summer with the Horizons Leadership Development Programme. Halloween Fright Night Event upcoming with young people involved in the planning. Inviting re-registration of members as well as new registrations at the Epicentre.</p> <p>Ainé (PSNI): Neighbourhood Teams in Armagh still engaging with a range of different community groups in the area and will be going back into primary and secondary schools to deliver talks on ASB, drugs & alcohol and sextortion.</p>	
Action Planning 2025-28	<p>Darren presented the Southern Area LPG Action Plan 2025-28 to the group.</p> <p>CYPSP Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Plan 2025-2028 HERE.</p> <p>Feel Good Armagh Community Networking Event Scorecard HERE. And Feel Good Armagh Services Resource 2025 HERE.</p> <p>Youth Workers Conference / Event (February 2026) currently in early planning stages.</p> <p>Download the Self-Care Programme 2025 Scorecard HERE.</p> <p>Armagh Good Relations Community Planning Day on Thur 16th Oct in Armagh City Hotel. (Ark Housing and ABC Council taking the lead on the event.)</p>	Presentation to be circulated by JP
AOB	Register HERE for Feel Good Dungannon Event , 27/9/25 10am-2pm, Ranfurly House.	
Next Meeting	Thursday 6th November 2025, 10am, Epicentre. (2026 Meeting Dates to be discussed.) Many thanks for your participation!	Please accept Outlook Invite