

**Newry & Mourne LPG**  
**Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 10am**  
**Via Zoom Video Conference Call**

<b>Attendees</b>		<b>Apologies</b>
Karen Clarke (Home-Start N&M) - Chair	Rosie Carey (EA Youth Service)	Eimer Trainor (EY Toybox)
Joanne Patterson (CYPSP) - Minutes	Maria Keenan (Clanrye Group)	Darren Curtis (CYPSP)
Kris Morrison (Autism NI) - Speaker	Fiona Ferris (Newry CCG)	Grainne Graham & Louise Quinn (Crisis Café)
Allison Slater (Bolster Community / FSH)	Ellie McKenna (NICMA)	Karen Sands (Sure Start Newry)
Katie Wilson (Early Years Toybox)	Charlene O'Hara (DfE, RAISE)	Caroline Potter (Bolster Community / FSH)
Marina Simone (Advocacy VSV)	Thom Denton (Cedar Foundation)	Bronagh Trainor (DfE Careers)
Shirley Keenan-Hughes (NMandDD Council)	Annie Clarke (SHSCT)	Maureen O'Gorman (EA YS)
Jen Anderson (Integrated Education Fund)	Fidelma Ruddy (SHSCT)	Raquel Rodrigues Keenan (Volunteer Now)
Karen Donnelly (Education Welfare Service)	Frances Murphy (Newry CCG)	
Ruth Hamilton (NMandDD Council)	Lisa Allen (Angel Eyes NI)	
Saleh Rifaie (Young Social Innovators)	Rebekah Rushe (NI Youth Forum)	
Name Not Disclosed (SHSCT iPhone)		

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action - By Whom</b>
<b>Welcome, Apologies, Mins. 04/06/25</b>	Karen welcomed all to the meeting. Brief Introductions given, as new members present. Apologies noted, per above. Previous Minutes agreed.	JP to upload to CYPSP website
<b>Speaker Kris Morrison (Autism NI)</b>	Kris provided an overview of the new service delivering to families living in a 5-mile radius of Belfast Rd in partnership with Arbour & Radius Housing. For families with a child with new/recent diagnosis of autism, they can avail of 3 sessions of home visit and support tailored to parent's needs. Information shared on other relevant Autism NI supports/resources: <a href="#">Helpline</a> , <a href="#">Support Groups</a> & <a href="#">Parents and Carers Support Courses</a>	Contact Kris for further details

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<b>FSH Update</b>	<p>Allison (<b>Bolster Community / FSH</b>): Recent drop in referrals from Community Paediatrics and rise in school referrals. Family Support Practitioners are renewing their contacts and strengthening connections with schools, highlighting the straightforward process and how relatively quickly a family can avail of support. Slight rise in self-referrals indicating an improved awareness in the community and trust in the service. Key issues: (i) Emotional and behavioural support for children and supporting parents with many challenges, including poor mental health, financial hardship, isolation, impact of addiction and domestic violence on children. (ii) Supporting families who have children awaiting a diagnosis of Autism and ADHD and those who have a diagnosis facing the same daily challenges around school, sleep, challenging behaviour in the home, anti-social behaviour in the community and the impact this has on the whole family. Unmet need: Therapeutic support for children and families, bereavement support, adolescent services and Autism &amp; ADHD support services.</p>	
<b>Member Agency Updates</b>	<p>Shirley (<b>NMandDD Council</b>): Project Funding Fair for Newry, Slieve Gullion &amp; Crotlieve District Electoral Areas on 22/10, 2-7pm at Cloughreagh Community Centre.</p> <p>Annie (<b>SHSCT, PWB</b>): Free Autism Reality Experience Training in Newry 18-19 Nov', targeted at those living within Neighbourhood Renewal Areas of Newry City or working with people with autism in these areas. Booking details in flyer and organisations invited to come along to promote relevant services. Positive Ageing Celebration Event at The Quays 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Participatory budgeting lets communities apply for up to £1,000 for health and wellbeing projects. Final event 6-9 pm tonight at Nautilus Centre, Kilkeel.</p> <p>Marina (<b>Advocacy VSV</b>): Continue to accept referrals via online form <a href="#">HERE</a>. Register to attend upcoming fundraiser, Lip Sync Battle, <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p>Fidelma (<b>SHSCT</b>): Recently changed job roles to 14+ Children's Services. Actively seeking hosts for STAY (Supported Transition &amp; Accommodation for Young People), as no hosts currently in N&amp;M Area.</p>	<p>JP to circulate links after meeting</p> <p>Flyers included in next 'FYI' - Please share widely</p>

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<b>Member Agency Updates</b>	<p>Ruth (<b>NMandDD Council</b>): Free Home Safety Check Service available to parents with children under 5 yrs in NMandDD Council Area. Be Safe Campaign on 3<sup>rd</sup> week Jan and 1<sup>st</sup> week Feb, aimed at P7 children focusing on transition to secondary education.</p> <p>Saleh (<b>Young Social Innovators</b>): Currently rolling out a new local youth programme, Ignite Community, with accredited youth worker training as an option and can also help facilitate a 30-hour programme with young people from 9 to 25 years old. Funding is in place for the next three years.</p> <p>Jen (<b>IEF</b>): Local families are invited to join them for a free morning of family activities and discussion, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October, at The Imaginarium.</p> <p>Charlene (<b>DfE, RAISE Programme</b>): 5 objectives identified as part of the Strategic Area Plan, with two, school readiness and pupil emotional wellbeing, progressing to funding. A homeschool community link role is under strategic review for regional consistency. Community-based GCSE provision is planned. (There is a GCSE cross-cutting initiative that is being delivered in schools through RAISE and schools have been contacted directly about that.) Funding assessments await a judicial review outcome. Charlene will begin maternity leave next week, with interim cover pending.</p> <p>Ellie (<b>NICMA</b>): Low provision of local registered childminders, particularly around Kilkeel &amp; Annalong. Actively promoting their Child Minding Academy for childminders working from home. Working with approved home child carers and aiming match services for families in need of childcare, specifically those with additional needs. Can attend community events or group talks to help raise awareness of their service.</p> <p>Rebekah (<b>NI Youth Forum</b>): Delivering the Youth Start programme offering employability training and education support for young people who are economically inactive in a group or 1-to-1 setting and working with 16-30 year olds.</p>	Further details <a href="#">HERE</a> See flyers in 'FYI' Register <a href="#">HERE</a>

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<b>Member Agency Updates</b> <i>*Update received via e-mail</i>	<p>Frances (<b>Newry CCG</b>): Neighbourhood Renewal Community Development Worker, working alongside Fiona. Continuing to gather information and helping to support local community groups with their activities and committees.</p> <p>Caroline (<b>Bolster Community</b>): Wellbeing Walking Group starts 27/10 for 6 weeks in Derrymore Woods, meet at 11am. Tots &amp; Tea Parents' Group runs on last three Wednesdays of the month. Neon Nightmare Inclusive Disco on 29/10 in Canal Court, 7.30 -10.30pm. Bolster were gifted the Star Project and Sink or Swim Programme from Parenting Focus following their recent closure. An Droichead programme for young people 16+ with additional needs delivered in St. Paul's High School working very well.</p>	
<b>Action Planning 2025-28</b>	<p>Recent RAISE feedback has indicated that schools are unaware of the range of existing support services they can link into in the community. The LPG has received some funding from NMandDD DEA to run a <b>local speed networking event</b>. The N&amp;M ALC are to meet &amp; agree a suitable venue, date &amp; time and the event will be open to all school staff across the N&amp;M and South Armagh Area.</p>	DC to keep members updated on progress
<b>Discussion on Loneliness</b>	<p>The Council is preparing a webpage on loneliness, targeting all ages, including 16 to 24 year olds. Initiatives include: student-focused videos, sports club banners, bereavement support, older adult connections, and delivery of the "Bend Don't Break" Resilience Programme. Feedback from events will guide ongoing efforts.</p>	Further details to follow from AC
<b>AOB</b>	<p>See tomorrow's edition of '<b>FYI' Newsletter</b>, to find out more about other programmes, events, training opportunities, etc. running across the N&amp;M and SHSCT Area.</p>	
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	<p><b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 10am, Newry Youth Resource Centre.</b> (2026 Meeting Dates &amp; Formats to be discussed &amp; agreed.)</p> <p>Many thanks for your participation!</p>	Please accept Outlook Invite