

Armagh LPG
Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 6th November 2025 at 10am
Epicentre, Armagh

Attendees	Apologies
Michael McKenna (Youth Action NI) - Chair	Ainé Donnelly (Sense NI)
Darren Curtis (CYPSP)	Beth Robinson (SHSCT, EWTS)
Joanne Patterson (CYPSP) - Minutes	Andrea McCleneghan (SHSCT)
Roberta Johnson (Playboard NI) - Speaker	Donna Morris (BCM)
Adrian Hutchinson (EA Youth Service)	Edel Ferson (ABC Council)
Bronagh Trainor (DfE Careers Service)	Ellie McKenna (NICMA)
Caroline Dawson (Youth Justice Agency)	Jennifer Hamill (NOW Group)
Chantelle Murphy (Barnardo's NI / FSH)	Sophie Lester (ABC Council)
Eimer Trainor (Early Years Toybox)	Jamie Greer (Volunteer Now)
Julie Liggett (Links Counselling)	Karen Ross (PSNI)
Majd Almasalkhi (The King's Trust)	Liz Reed (SHSCT, MDT)
Naj Basketfield (PIPS Hope & Support)	Mark Doran (ABC Council)
Saleh Rifaie (Young Social Innovators)	Padraig McBrien (REACT)
Shannon Donnelly (NOW Group)	Thom Denton (Cedar Foundation)
Taiga Valdamane-Stecenko (BCM)	Stephen Harland (Ark Housing)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
Welcome, Apols., Mins. 04/09/25	Michael welcomed all to the meeting. Brief introductions made. Apologies noted. Previous Minutes agreed. Thanks offered to Adrian and the EA Youth Service Team for hosting today's meeting.	JP to upload Mins. to CYPSP website
Speaker	Roberta Johnson (Playboard NI): Presented to the group on Playboard NI's "Our Generation Spaces To Be" Programme, focusing on 9-11 yrs in school/community settings offering training and facilitated play sessions. Our Generation Learning Lab is also available offering a range of free training workshops for those working with 9-25 yrs.	Spaces To Be Flyer & Referral Form to be circulated by JP

FSH Update	<p>Chantelle (Barnardo's NI / FSH): 77 referrals received during July to Sep, 30 in Oct.. Increase in self-referrals. All families offered an outcome. Home visits very beneficial in terms of support. High demand for counselling / mentorship for the 10-17 age group and big demand for play therapy for primary school aged children. High referral rates for those on ASD/ADHD Waiting Lists. Disability Worker has worked with 15 families across the last quarter. 6-Week Parents Plus Programme has just finished with very positive feedback from evaluations. New programme commencing in January.</p>	<p>Contact Chantelle or Caroline with any queries</p>
Member Agency Updates	<p>Naj (PIPS Hope & Support): Christmas Service on 14th Dec, St. Mary's Church, Newry. 'I Picked A Date' TikTok currently trending, suggesting for users to pick a date to self-harm or end their lives.</p> <p>Ellie (NICMA): Bryson Play Resource are currently working with the SRC to bring a site to the Lurgan Campus, with the hope of that being up and running for Christmas.</p> <p>Ainé (Sense NI): The Together Project supports children with complex disabilities and their families across NI, focusing on early intervention through inclusive stay and play sessions, sensory learning activities and family support to help improve children's development and parents' confidence and wellbeing. Seeking to engage with both mums & dads and no formal diagnosis is needed to participate in the programme.</p> <p>Thom (Cedar Foundation): Engagement with YP in Armagh: Youth Matters Programme offer young people to get involved in social inclusion & personal development activities in local area. Board Game Café starting in Nov. in Dobbin St., Tuesdays 5-7pm.</p> <p>Saleh (Young Social Innovators): Currently rolling out a new youth programme in the area, Ignite Community, with programmes available for 9-25 year olds and training available for youth workers & volunteers.</p> <p>Karen (PSNI): Operation Encompass, a partnership between the PSN, SBNI, EA and schools, continues to support children / young people who witness domestic violence or abuse in the home. Still seeing incidences of hate crime linked to ethnicity, being</p>	<p>JP to circulate all links after meeting + Relevant flyers to be included in next 'FYI'</p> <p>Contact Ainé to further discuss</p> <p>Further details HERE</p> <p>Find out more HERE</p>

Member Agency Updates	<p>perpetrated by young people in the Armagh Area. Some young people are being radicalised and currently some U18s living in the Borough are under investigation for terrorism. Telegram & Discord Apps are exposing C&YP to high-risk content.</p> <p>Jennifer/Shannon (NOW Group): Shannon is new Employment Officer for the ABC Council Area. Just finished an Employability Programme with M&S in the area, where 6 out of the 8 participants gained employment as a result.</p> <p>Mark (ABC Council): Planning to bring the Autism Bus to the ABC Council Area in Early 2026 and seeking wraparound services to attend/partner with them.</p> <p>Eimer (EY Toybox): Continuing to work with 0-4 year olds, offering play sessions and signposting to Irish & Roma Traveller families in the area. Currently open for referrals from professionals & self-referrals. Can stay with the family until P1.</p> <p>Caroline (Youth Justice Agency): Half of current caseload is neurodivergent young people who seem to be very vulnerable and at higher risk.</p> <p>Sophie (ABC Council): Community centres and local churches are eligible for funding through ABC Council support. A programme for new mums recently ran in Dobbin St., off the back of high demand for those falling outside of Sure Start / Home Start areas seeking related support.</p> <p>Stephen (Ark Housing): Armagh Good Relations Community Planning Day in partnership with ABC Council was at Armagh City Hotel on 16th October. Evidence gathered on local needs and corresponding report pending. Positive collaborative on the day and further local connections were made amongst participating services.</p> <p>Michael (YouthAction NI): Youth Start Employability Programme still running in Armagh. Our Generation Project also running (Contact: Adam). Cyberquest PeacePlus Project is running in Keady. EVAWG work taking place in Keady and the young men & women involved have created a manifesto to be rolled out locally. Ofcom Report focusing on</p>	
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Member Agency Updates	<p>Social Media & Young People recently launched with related consultation pending on reporting crime.</p> <p>Padraig (REACT): 1-to-1 Mentorship work ongoing: referrals to come through the FSH.</p> <p>Adrian (EA Youth Service): Area-Based Youth Services funding opened on Monday. Generic Funding available to wider local groups. Epicentre continues to offer universal provision to local C&YP aged 4 to 25, offering a safe, warm space and early intervention programmes (based on demand/need), centre open 4 evenings per week. Leadership Development Programmes run for 18-25 year olds. Horizons Project is an opportunity for the EA Youth Service to grow their own leaders. Halloween youth-led event recently took place, supported by Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, and was a huge success.</p>	
Action Planning 2025-28	<p>ABC Council Area Youth Workers Conference / Event currently in early planning stages Due to take place on Thursday 26th February 2026 in Craigavon Civic Centre.</p> <p>The Feel Good Armagh Community Networking Event will not be replicated in 2026. The focus for next year will be on an FGA Youth Event, with young people being involved in the planning & delivery process.</p> <p>Feel Good Dungannon Event took place on 27th September at Ranfurly House.</p>	
AOB	<p>Cultural Competence Event, hosted by the SHSCT & CYPSP, took place in Armagh City Hotel on Thursday 23rd October - Well attended & very impactful.</p> <p>Recently planned Understanding Self-Harm Workshop cancelled as Inspire's Trainer was ill - Revised Early 2026 date to follow from CYPSP.</p> <p>Thriving Minds Workshops to be delivered in the SHSCT Area by ASCERT, in early 2026 focusing on Self-Compassion and Bend Don't Break.</p>	
Next Meeting	<p>Dates for next year's Armagh LPG Meetings proposed (First 2026 Meeting provisionally scheduled for Thursday 6th January) - Meetings to take place at 10am, with formats TBC. Many thanks for your participation!</p>	<p>Complete 2026 Meetings Survey HERE</p>