

Craigavon LPG
Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 10am
Brownlow Community Hub, Craigavon

| Attendees | | Apologies |
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| Deborah Millar (Home Start Craigavon) - Chair | Tim Strain (Youth Justice Agency) | Darren Curtis (CYPSP) |
| Joanne Patterson (CYPSP) - Minutes | Sinead Travers (Advocacy VSV) | Anastazja Wisniewska (SSYCC) |
| Roberta Johnson (Playboard NI) - Speaker | Stephen Johnston (SHSCT) | Emma Marshall (AWARE NI) |
| Adrian Hutchinson (EA Youth Service) | Ainé Campbell (PSNI) | Emma Metcalfe (Hand Of Hope) |
| Chantelle Murphy (Barnardo's NI) | Alex Clifford (ABC Council) | Maria Killen (SHSCT, Parenting Partnership) |
| Frances Haughey (ABC Council) | Gwen Bartley (ABC PCSP) | Siobhan Brennan (PIPS H&S) |
| Abigail Salt (Barnardo's NI) | Julie Liggett (Links Counselling) | Thom Denton (Cedar Foundation) |
| Helen Donnelly (DfE, RAISE Programme) | Lisa Grant (NIACRO / FSH) | |
| Majd Almasalkhi (The King's Trust) | Michael Hart (SHSCT) | |
| Naj Basketfield (PIPS Hope & Support) | Sarah Wilson (Aspire NI) | |
| Nichola Lockhart (Early Years Toybox) | Matthew Williams (YJA) | |
| Sharon Donnelly (Bolster Community) | | |

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action/By Whom |
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| Welcome, Apols., Mins. 09/09/25 | Deborah welcomed all to the meeting. Brief introductions made. Apologies noted. Previous Minutes agreed. Thanks offered to Frances from ABC Council for helping to organise today's venue. | 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 | Lisa (NIACRO / FSH): Post summer referrals increased: good range from services/agencies and self-referrals, a lot for complex needs. Met with SHSCT to discuss forward-planning. Bolster Community to provide family support alongside the Hub. Current issues: Families awaiting ASD/ADHD Assessment, 5-10 year old age group, pre-school | |

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| FSH Update | age and teens needing mentoring support. Linking into long-term supports with EA Youth Service. Continuing to connect families into Oasis programmes. | |
| Member Agency Updates | <p>Chantelle/Abigail (Barnardo's NI): Several programmes across all of NI: Young People's Regional Group, free Disability Awareness Training, Transition Programmes in Schools and Sixth Sense Youth Groups. Referral form to be shared with CYPS.</p> <p>Naj (PIPS Hope & Support): Christmas Service on 14th Dec, St. Mary's Church, Newry. 'I Picked A Date' TikTok is currently trending, suggesting for users to pick a date to self-harm or end their lives.</p> <p>Adrian (EA Youth Service): Delivering frontline services across local centres (Craigavon, Drumgor and Tullygally), open 4 evenings a week. Continually assessing needs, in consultation with young people. Visit HERE for further info. on funding currently available from the Education Authority. Some newcomer families are reluctant to disclose information to statutory organisations when completing programme application forms.</p> <p>Deborah (Home Start Craigavon): Continuing to offer Befriender Service (delivered by volunteers), along with Group Work. Dads Programme now available which includes Baby Massage: group has to be a min. size of 6 participants.</p> <p>Sharon (Bolster Community): Autism Connect Services are currently being provided in the area – specifically aimed at autistic adults.</p> <p>Alex (ABC Council): More children & young people with additional needs coming into programmes and sometimes parents do not raise related needs in advance.</p> <p>Helen (DfE RAISE Programme): Dept of Education RAISE Programme webpage HERE for further info. on RAISE. First call for locality led projects has closed and all proposals have been assessed. Subject to outcome of an ongoing Judicial Review, applicants to be contacted in coming weeks. Intending to open a further call in 2026 inviting project proposals to deliver against remaining locality objectives. Online Stakeholder Information Sessions are forthcoming. RAISE are encouraging collaborative applications.</p> | <p>JP to circulate all links after meeting + Relevant flyers to be included in next 'FYI'</p> <p>See flyers sent, via e-mail, post-meeting</p> <p>E-mail Helen to receive ongoing updates directly</p> |

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| Member Agency Updates | <p>Tim (Youth Justice Agency): Working with 10-18 yrs involved in offending behaviour or at risk of offending. Team has recently expanded to reflect nos. in the area. Aiming to increase early intervention/prevention work. Responsibility of looking after the Juvenile Custody Centre in Bangor and have a bail support foster family located in Armagh Area.</p> <p>Stephen (SHSCT): Community Access Team works with 12-17 yrs, but referrals have to come through social workers. Working in partnership with EA and Barnardo's to offer social opportunities to young people with additional needs or disabilities. Clubs running in Armagh, Brownlow & Dromore which the Team are happy to help young people transition into. Also run bespoke programmes throughout the year.</p> | |
| Action Planning 2025-28 | ABC Council Area Youth Workers Conference/ Event in early planning stages: to take place on Thur 26 th Feb in Craigavon Civic Centre. Event to provide networking opportunities for both paid-for and voluntary youth workers, good practice sharing will form part of the day. | |
| AOB | <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 will be delivered in the SHSCT Area, by ASCERT, in Early 2026 focusing on Self-Compassion and Bend Don't Break - Flyers pending.</p> | |
| Next Meeting | <p>Dates for next year's Craigavon LPG Meetings proposed (First 2026 Meeting provisionally scheduled for Tuesday 13th January) - Meetings to take place at 10am, with formats TBC.</p> <p>Many thanks for your participation!</p> | Complete 2026 Meetings Survey HERE |