

Newry & Mourne LPG
Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 10am
Newry Youth Resource Centre

Attendees		Apologies
Karen Clarke (Home-Start N&M) - Chair	Rosie Carey (EA Youth Service)	Allison Slater (Bolster Community)
Joanne Patterson (CYPSP) - Minutes	Aoife Quinn (Women's Aid AD)	Annemarie Sutherland (SHSCT)
Darren Curtis (CYPSP)	Julie Liggett (Links Counselling)	Fidelma Ruddy (SHSCT)
Caroline Potter (Bolster Community / FSH)	Maria Keenan (Clanrye Group)	Jayne Cully (CBITUK)
Eimer Trainor (Early Years Toybox)	Ellie McKenna (NICMA)	Kris Morrison (Autism NI)
Alannah Brennan (NMandDD Council)	Annie Clarke (SHSCT)	Maria Killen (SHSCT)
Jen Anderson (Integrated Education Fund)	Ciara Turley (SHSCT)	Louise Quinn (Crisis Café)
Karen Donnelly (Education Welfare Service)	Frances Murphy (Newry CCG)	Bronagh Trainor (DfE Careers)
Brenda McLarnon (Mourne Sure Start)	Rebekah Rushe (NI Youth Forum)	Maureen O'Gorman (EA YS)
Eimear Loughran-Fry (Barnardo's NI)	Mary O'Hanlon (SHSCT)	Thom Denton (Cedar Foundation)
Maria Kelly (Cedar Foundation)	Ryan Duffy (PSNI)	Ruth Hamilton (NM&DD Council)
Raquel Rodrigues-Keenan (Volunteer Now)	Stacey Arnott (PSNI)	Scott Byrne (The King's Trust)
Sophie Murray-Gibbons (Women's Aid AD)	Aoife Morgan (Autism NI)	Shirley Keenan (NM&DD Council)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action - By Whom
Welcome, Apologies, Mins. 15/10/25	Karen welcomed all to the meeting. Brief Introductions, Apologies noted. Previous Minutes agreed. Darren provided brief update on current status of RAISE Programme: Round 1 Letters of Offer for funding applications released next week, further to Judicial Review. 2 nd round of calls for funding to follow in the new year.	JP to upload to CYPSP website
FSH Update	Caroline (Bolster Community / FSH): Increase in referrals from schools, main focus on challenging behaviour and school attendance. More self and MDT referrals. In 2025 referrals saw higher levels of need; lack of services for autism & ADHD, families feeling isolated, children feeling socially isolated, seasonal financial requests & referrals for DV	

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Member Agency Updates	<p>Raquel (Volunteer Now): Gateway's Bite & Banter not happening this year. Volunteer Now holding a Social Connection Event on Christmas Day in partnership with The Haven (Salvation Army building, Newry 2-4pm for those who may be lonely and/or need a space to meet & share company. Contact Raquel for info on how to get involved. Newry Festive Volunteering Event Fri 12th Dec, Newry Library 10am-12pm.</p> <p>Alannah (NMandDD Council): Invited members to discuss how Health Inequalities may be able to work with local organisations to help tackle unmet needs in disadvantaged local communities. 'Laugh Your Blues Away in Cloughreagh' Blue Monday Event on 19th Jan, 1-5pm at Cloughreagh Community Centre.</p> <p>Caroline (Bolster Community): Parents Plus ADHD, in Armagh Business Centre, starting Jan, designed for parents of children aged 6-12. Parents Plus Adolescents, in Bolster Community's Marcus Street premises, starting Jan for parents of 11-17 yrs</p> <p>Annie (SHSCT, PWB): Barry Traynor from PWB Team can deliver Bend Don't Break Workshops, focusing on mental health & resilience, to local groups & organisations - Contact Annie to discuss. Southern Trust Recovery College Prospectus Jan to Mar 2026 now available, offering a range of e-learning & in-person courses focusing on self-care and mental health. 'Support While Waiting Grant Scheme' launched to help voluntary and community organisations provide support to people on HSC waiting lists.</p> <p>Maria (Cedar Foundation): Skills Connect offers 16+ year old individuals the opportunity to upskill themselves through a variety of academies which they run, including Health and Social Care, Green Economy, Travel and Hospitality and Employability Skills. Through training academies and inclusive learning pathways, the programme seeks to empower participants to access higher-level skills and meaningful employment, with participants receiving an OCN qualification.</p> <p>Ryan (PSNI): Operation Encompass continues to support children who witness domestic violence or abuse in the home. Ryan also highlighted the excellent Women's Aid One-Stop Shops which continue to run across the NMandDD Council Area.</p>	<p>JP to circulate links after meeting</p> <p>Flyers included in next 'FYI' - Please share widely</p> <p>Contact Bolster on 028 3083 5764 to register</p> <p>See links in next edition of 'FYI'</p> <p>See further info. in 'FYI'</p> <p>Click HERE to find out more</p>

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Member Agency Updates	<p>Aoife (Autism NI): Updated the Family Programme, running in partnership with Radius & Arbour Housing: can now work at pre-diagnosis stage. Families must live within a 5-mile radius of the Belfast Rd. Lot of school-based avoidance through the service.</p> <p>Rosie (EA Youth Service): Newry, Mourne & Down Local Assessment of Need 2026-29 and Local Youth Development Plan 2023-26 are now available online.</p> <p>Jen (IEF): Parentkind National Parent Survey Report released for NI 2025, highlighting parenting challenges, experiences and aspirations. Families Achieving Change In Education (FACE) is an approach which seeks to improve restorative practices.</p> <p>Eimear (Barnardo's NI): Barnardo's Child Poverty Fund is available to children & young people engaged with the service to help purchase clothes and support families.</p> <p>Karen (Home-Start N&M): Great financial support shown by the Salvation Army, who have been helping local families in need.</p> <p>Sophie / Aoife (Women's Aid Armaghdown): New project pending, working in partnership with other local organisations, for 16-20 year old young women who have experienced partner violence and/or domestic abuse.</p> <p>Karen (EWS): Ongoing Need: Lack of opportunities for 14-16 yrs to boost confidence & develop skills if not in formal education. Links can offer remote support if permission granted by parents. SHOUT and Samaritans as possible options. Public consultation launched on new draft strategy to improve school attendance and understand reasons behind absence. Armagh Community Hub hope to run a Christmas Dinner.</p> <p>Rebekah (NI Youth Forum): Small pot of money available to support those at risk of homelessness with grocery vouchers and fuel.</p>	<p>See flyer in 'FYI'</p> <p>Links will be in next FYI</p> <p>Click HERE to view</p> <p>Consultation info. HERE</p> <p>Contact Orla (Community Hub) for more info. HERE</p>
Action Planning 2025-28	<p>Recent RAISE feedback has indicated schools are unaware of support services in the community. NMandDD DEA is providing some funding to support a planned Speed Networking Event to be open to all school staff across the N&M and South Armagh Areas. Save the date of Wed 4th Feb from 2-5pm in Newry High School.</p>	<p>Flyer to be circulated, when available</p>

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Action Planning 2025-28	The planned Understanding Self-Harm Workshop to be delivered by Inspire has been re-scheduled to take place on We 21 st Jan from 10am-12 Noon in Tower Hill, Armagh. Spaces all confirmed but there may be an opportunity for another workshop to be delivered in the SHSCT Area.	Contact DC to further discuss
Discussion on Loneliness	<p>SHSCT and NMandDD Council continue to work in partnership on the TILT project. Website still a work in progress and will sit on the Council website. Banner pending, which will be available for services to borrow for relevant local events.</p> <p>Sports clubs & schools recently attended a workshop on resilience & self-compassion. SRC are seeing loneliness, isolation & anxiety amongst young people and sessions are being delivered to help address this emerging need.</p>	Further details to follow from AC
AOB	<p>Emotionally-Based School Avoidance Parent Group, for parents & carers in the SHSCT Area, will meet online on Mon 12th Jan 7-8pm.</p> <p>Further info. on upcoming Evidence-Based Parenting Programmes being delivered across the SHSCT Area, available HERE.</p> <p>Bereavement Resources available on the CYPSP Youth Wellness Web HERE.</p> <p>Click HERE to register for the NIHE Oil Savings Network, as mentioned by Darren.</p> <p>Information Day for Parents & Carers of Children with Additional Needs planned to take place on the 12th March, in Armagh City Hotel, as was mentioned by the Children's Disability Service during yesterday's Southern Outcomes Group Meeting.</p>	E-mail HERE to register Further details to be shared in due course
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Dates for next year's LPG Meetings proposed (First 2026 Meeting provisionally scheduled for Wed. 18th Feb.). Meetings to commence at 10am, formats TBC.</p> <p>Many thanks for your participation and thank you to the EA Youth Service for hosting our 2025 face-to-face meetings.</p>	Complete Survey HERE