

**South Armagh LPG**  
**Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 10am**  
**Newtownhamilton Community Centre**

| <b>Attendees</b>                            |                                   | <b>Apologies</b>                       |
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| Annie Clarke (SHSCT) - Chair                | Karen Donnelly (EWS)              | Aoife McComiskey (NM&DD Council)       |
| Darren Curtis (CYPSP)                       | Sinead Travers (Advocacy VSV)     | Lizzy Smyth (SOPYC)                    |
| Joanne Patterson (CYPSP) - Minutes          | Ryan Crilly (EA Youth Service)    | Bronagh Trainor (DfE, Careers Service) |
| Alannah Brennan (NMandDD Council)           | Jessica Wylie (SHSCT, EWTS)       | Eleanor Ellerslie (Cruse Bereavement)  |
| Caroline Potter (Bolster Community / FSH)   | Cailin McParland (SOPYC)          | Niall Murray (N/Hamilton CC)           |
| Raquel Rodrigues Keenan (Volunteer Now)     | Nicola Johnston (YJA)             | Ita Gibney (N.Hamilton CC)             |
| Maria Killen (SHSCT, Parenting Partnership) | Katie Wilson (Early Years Toybox) | Ryan Duffy (PSNI)                      |

| <b>Agenda Item</b>                     | <b>Discussion</b>   | <b>Action</b>  |
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| <b>Welcome, Apols., Mins. 16/09/25</b> | Annie welcomed all to the meeting. Brief Introductions given, as new members present. Apologies noted, per above. Previous Minutes agreed.  | JP to upload Minutes to CYPSP website  |
| <b>FSH Update</b>                      | Caroline ( <b>Bolster Community / FSH</b> ): Varied recent referrals include parent support, support for families with children on various waiting lists, help for those going through the Autism/ADHD statementing process, emotional & behavioural support at home and in school, family breakdown and its subsequent impact, bereavement support (Cruse open for referrals but 5-6 month waiting list). Family Support Workers are in both schools and community. Lack of therapeutic play and bereavement support continues.    |  |
| <b>Member Agency Updates</b>           | <p>Maria (<b>SHSCT, Parenting Partnership</b>): Invest In Play and Parents Plus Special Needs Parenting Programmes in Jan '26. Positive uptake in programmes but seeking to involve more parents with a particular focus on dads. Click <a href="#">HERE</a> for further information on upcoming Evidence-Based Parenting Programme across the SHSCT Area</p> <p>Nicola (<b>Youth Justice Agency</b>): Working with young offenders between the age of 10 to 17. Funding available where a corresponding need can be evidenced'</p> | JP to circulate links after mtg. Flyers included in next 'FYI' Contact NJ further discuss. |

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| <b>Member Agency Updates</b> | <p>Alannah (<b>NMandDD Council</b>): ‘Stay Warm, Informed &amp; Supported This Winter’ Community Event in Crossmaglen Community Centre on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 11am-2pm. ‘Laugh Your Blues Away in Cloughreagh’. Blue Monday Event on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan. ‘26 1-5pm, Cloughreagh Community Centre. Working on a Health Lunchboxes Pilot in partnership with SHSCT, further to the recent announcement of an increase in school dinner costs: in early planning stages and currently carrying out a needs assessment with parents.</p> <p>Ryan (<b>EA Youth Service</b>): Running provision for 13-15 year olds in Bessbrook on Friday evenings and 14+ on Thursday evenings. Engaging with newcomer families in the Newtownhamilton Area is proving challenging: meeting with Sure Start South Armagh to discuss. Local T:BUC work continues. South Armagh Champions League initiative due to run again in January with 14-16 year olds, in partnership with PSNI.</p> <p>Caroline (<b>Bolster Community</b>): Festive Sip &amp; Shop Event on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. in Whitegates Newry 4-7pm. Social Kitchen is open to Housing Executive tenants every Tuesday (Whitegates Community Centre) and Thursday (Bolster Community Marcus St), 10am-1pm.</p> <p>Annie (<b>SHSCT</b>): NMandDD Council’s Financial Assistance 2026-2027 Call 1 now open for applications, closing 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. ‘26. Further information <a href="#">HERE</a>.</p> <p>Raquel (<b>Volunteer Now</b>): Offering multiple free volunteer management services to all types of organisations/groups, including safeguarding training and AccessNI support. Further details on the Youth Impact Awards <a href="#">HERE</a>. Currently focusing on promoting Christmas related volunteer opportunities - see <a href="#">HERE</a>. Christmas Card Kindness Postbox initiative upcoming. Norbrook deliver hot meals in run up to Christmas. Bite ‘n’ Banter isn’t running in the Gateway this Christmas Day. Recent Positive Ageing Event involved several local schools (Newry High, Our Lady’s &amp; St. Colman’s) and a Thank You Event is planned at the Bosco Youth Centre.</p> | Register <a href="#">HERE</a> for “Laugh Your Blues Away” |
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| Action Planning 2025-28  | 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 support a planned <b>Speed Networking Event</b> which will be open to all school staff across the N&M and South Armagh Areas.   | DC to keep the group updated on progress           |
| Discussion on Loneliness | <p>The SHSCT and NMandDD Council continue to work in partnership on the TILT project. Free 'Bend Don't Break' &amp; Self-Compassion Training Workshops can be delivered by the SHSCT PWB Team to local groups/organisations.</p> <p>The SHSCT are aiming to develop a programme, with the Simon Community, to follow on from National Homeless Day on 5<sup>th</sup> December, seeking to better engage with harder to reach individuals and raise awareness with staff in supporting and more effectively communicating with those who are homeless. Cedar are running an event in Newry from 9am-1pm to coincide with National Homeless Day.</p> |  |
| AOB                      | <p><b>Understanding Self-Harm Workshop</b>, due to be delivered by Inspire, was postponed and has been re-scheduled for Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. '26 10am-12pm in Tower Hill Boardroom, Armagh. Those originally registered to be contacted first.</p> <p><b>Self-Compassion &amp; Bend Don't Break Workshops</b> planned to be made available to members in the new year - Further info. to follow from Darren.</p>   | DC to advise of any additional available spaces    |
| Next Meeting             | <p>Dates for next year's LPG Meetings proposed (First 2026 Meeting provisionally scheduled for Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Jan.). Meetings to commence at 10am, formats TBC.</p> <p>Many thanks for your participation!</p>  | Complete 2026 Meetings Survey <a href="#">HERE</a> |