

East Belfast LPG Meeting

Thursday 4th September 2025

10am

**Knocknagoney Community Centre, 41a Knocknagoney Drive,
Belfast, BT4 2QF**

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Tracey Ripley-McElvogue	Vice Chair	✓	
Rachael Davison	Walkway	✓	
Laurie Montgomery	EBCDA	✓	
Colleen Boyle	EBCDA		
Kathy Waters	Belfast City Council	✓	
Ellie Butler	Cruse	✓	
Julia Carson	W5	✓	
Lucinda Vance	King's Trust	✓	
Lois Corbett	Outer South & East Family Support Hub	✓	
Emma Shaw	Phoenix Education Centre	✓	
Nichola Lockhart	Toybox, Early Years	✓	
Racheal Howe	Victoria Park PS	✓	
Tinya Parkes	Libraries NI	✓	
Bridget Tiernan	BHSCT	✓	
Mairead Jennings	RISE NI	✓	
Tora Galbraith	RISE NI	✓	
Michelle Fullerton	Ledley Hall	✓	
Lucy Baxter	Cedar Foundation	✓	
Ben Webb	Extern	✓	
Fiona Meenan	BHSCT		✓
Chloe McCann	Toybox, Early Years		✓
Joe McGovern	Extern		✓
Josie Gibson	BHSCT		✓
Julia Hughes	Bryson Energy		✓
Marie-Therese Cassin	Cedar Foundation		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Roisín O'Neill	Barnardo's		✓
Wendy Stewart	Action Mental Health		✓
Muriel Bailey	Parenting Focus		✓
Mary Maginn	Ascertain		✓
Keily Lawlor	Autism NI		✓
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT		✓

Summary of Actions:

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
	Anti-poverty	Members to share any anti-poverty information with Colleen Boyle	All members
	Therapeutic Services – sub group.	An expression of interest email was circulated with East LPG members in July. Meeting date will be set for September.	Charlene Mitchell
	Vice Chair position	An expression of interest will be circulated for the position of East Belfast LPG Vice Chair	Charlene Mitchell

	<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Tracey welcomed everyone to the meeting and facilitated a round of introductions. Charlene Mitchell has returned from maternity leave. A special thanks was extended to Caroline Milligan for her role as LPG Coordinator in Charlene's absence.</p> <p>An apology was given regarding the cancelled July meeting and communication difficulties in relation to this.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes</p> <p>The last Ordinary Meeting was 3rd April 2025, with the subsequent meeting of 1st May being the Planning Meeting.</p>
	<p>3. Presentation – RISE – Tora Galbraith & Mairead Jennings</p> <p>RISE NI is a regional early intervention service which supports children in pre-school educational and mainstream primary school settings by working closely with parents and education staff to help children develop the foundation skills for learning i.e. speech, language, communication, sensory-motor, visual perception, social, emotional and behaviour skills.</p> <p>Our Aim</p> <p>'To reduce underachievement and improve life chances of children and young people by enhancing their educational development and fostering their health, wellbeing and social inclusion through the integrated delivery of the support and services necessary to ensure that every child has the best start in life' (Hain, 2006)</p> <p>Who do we support?</p> <p>For children in mainstream Foundation and Key Stage 1, RISE offer a wide range of 'universal and targeted' levels of support including teacher & parent training workshops, whole class and small group programmes.</p> <p>RISE supports a small number of children at the specialist level. Specialist support is for children with persistent needs, who haven't improved with strategies that have been tried by school and assessment by RISE is indicated to help understand these needs.</p> <p>Children referred for specialist assessment must have at least two areas of need that the team can assess and support e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • language and motor skills • Social, emotional and behavioural • Speech, language and communication

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory processing, fine motor and visual perceptual • Gross motor <p>What do we do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation / liaison with Education staff • Training / information to Education staff, parents and carers • Targeted whole class / group programmes • Multidisciplinary assessment • Advice • Short-term individual or group support • Signposting and onward referral when appropriate <p>Links to RISE NI support services can be found here:</p> <p>Education Website: https://belfasttrust.pagetiger.com/RISEEducationStaff Parent Website: https://belfasttrust.pagetiger.com/RISEParent</p> <p>The RISE NI presentation has been attached for your information</p>
	<p>4. Presentation – APA – Colleen Boyle</p> <p>The East Belfast Anti-Poverty Alliance officially began in 2022 when a number of community and voluntary groups across East Belfast came together with a shared purpose, to build on the work of an existing coalition that had already been raising awareness and tackling the impact of poverty.</p> <p>The East Belfast Anti-Poverty Alliance was formed out of a shared belief that we are stronger when we work together. By joining forces, local groups, organisations, and individuals have created a united front against poverty, one that doesn't just focus on short-term fixes, but also looks at the bigger picture. Through collaboration, we are able to pool our strengths, share our knowledge, and raise one collective voice that speaks up for the people of East Belfast.</p> <p>Our approach is about more than tackling the symptoms of poverty; it's about driving real and lasting change. By adopting a strategic way of working, we aim to influence policies and decisions at every level, making sure the voices of local people are heard where it matters most. This isn't just about statistics or headlines; it's about the lived experiences of families, neighbours, and friends who know all too well the challenges of making ends meet.</p> <p>Four key themes direct the work of the APA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Local Economy • Innovation and Collaboration –Food Provision

- Root Causes
- Excluded Voices

The APA presentation has been attached for your information

3. FSH Updates

FAMILY SUPPORT HUB INFORMATION UPDATE TO LPG MEMBERS

FSH Area:	Outer South & East Belfast
Timeframe:	April 25 – August 25
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	<i>123 Referrals</i> <i>April – 24</i> <i>May- 23</i> <i>June-55</i> <i>July -7</i> <i>August- 13</i>
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	123
Source of Service Requests:	Self – 38 School – 29 Social Worker – 8 Education Welfare – 5 Rise – 1 GP – 6 HV – 13 Community – 11 CAMHS – 8 Nurse – 2 Voluntary - 2
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for under 4's outside Sure Start area • Counselling and Therapeutic services 	
Key Successes identified:	
Belfast City Council Cost of Living Support EHWTB – Support for families pre diagnosis	
AOB for Sharing:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	

FSH Area:	Inner East Belfast										
Timeframe:	4 th April 2025 – 31 st August 2025										
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	<table> <tr> <td>April</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August</td> <td>14</td> </tr> </table>	April	24	May	25	June	54	July	10	August	14
April	24										
May	25										
June	54										
July	10										
August	14										
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	<p>From 1st April 2025 - 31st August 2025</p> <p>Total 127</p>										
Source of Service Requests:	Health Visitors, Self-referrals, GP's, Schools, Community and Voluntary, EWO's, CAMHS, Social Workers, Gateway. Community Paediatrics.										
Key Gaps identified:											
<p>Practical support from July 2025. Therapeutic support for children/young people.</p>											
Key Successes identified:											
<p>EHWBT – programmes for children, YP and parents who are awaiting ASD assessment.</p> <p>UHUB – continuous support for YP & Children.</p> <p>ADDNI – programmes for parents/carers (awaiting assessment) & programmes for one's with a diagnosis.</p> <p>Practical Support from December 2024 – June 2025</p> <p>School Uniform support.</p> <p>NI Alternatives – Counselling support</p>											
AOB for Sharing:											

	<p>5. Members Updates</p> <p>Discussion around financial pressures on families whose children are entitled to free school meals and school half days. Rachael Howe shared information with the group on the pressures families face when the school meal provision is unavailable for example before September when schools start back but school catering staff have not. This was noted as having an impact on children attending school. It was also noted that families that may need to receive foodbank support with have been give non-perishable items that are not suitable for a child or young persons lunch at school.</p> <p>There was also a discussion regarding period poverty and school attendance. Tinya from Libraries Ni informed members that all Libraries give out free period products. It was discussed that schools also hold period products but often young people have to ask for the products and feel too embarrassed. Lois Corbett also shared information that Lidl Northern Ireland give free period products when you have a Lidl plus App. More information on how to register can be found here: Period Poverty Initiative - Lidl Northern Ireland</p>
	<p>5. LPG Updates</p> <p>Nomination of a Chairperson – A nomination was received for Tracey Ripley McElvogue to take the role of East Belfast LPG Chair. Members were unanimous in their support for Tracey and agreed she is an excellent fit for the position.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to share information into Locality Planning to be added to the fortnightly newsletter. The newsletter will be an online link from September 25 to enable us to see download statistics.</p>
	<p>6. A.O.B</p> <p>The Raise plan for East Belfast has been finalised and sent to the Department for Education, it is now waiting for ministerial approval. Funding for this project is currently under review.</p>

2025/26 Dates for East Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES	TIME	VENUES
9 th January	10am	Knocknagoney Community Centre
3 rd April	10am	Knocknagoney Community Centre
1 st May	10am	Knocknagoney Community Centre
4 th September	10am	Knocknagoney Community Centre
6 th November	10am	Knocknagoney Community Centre
8 th January	10am	TBA
5 th March	10am	TBA