

East Belfast LPG Planning Meeting

Thursday 6th November 2025
Knocknagoney Community Centre, 41a Knocknagoney Drive,
Belfast, BT4 2QF
10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Tracey Ripley-McElvogue	LPG Chairperson	✓	
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration	✓	
Beth Johnston	Youth Empowerment Network	✓	
Lucy Baxter	Cedar Foundation	✓	
Fiona McMahon	RAISE Programme	✓	
Chloe Johnston	BHSCT	✓	
Josie Gibson	BHSCT	✓	
Lucinda Vance	King's Trust	✓	
Val Rowan	BHSCT	✓	
Ben Webb	Extern	✓	
Gail McLaughlin	Ark Housing	✓	
Christine Doyle	Toybox, Early Years	✓	
Rachel Davison	Walkway CA	✓	
Emma Shaw	Pheonix Education Centre	✓	
Ruth Guildea	Eastside Learning	✓	
Lois Corbett	OSEB Hub	✓	
Aine Mulvenna	BHSCT		✓
Andrea Mawhinney	Inner East FSH		✓
Bridget Tiernan	BHSCT		✓
Caroline Milligan	EIST, BHSCT		✓
Chloe McCann	Toybox, Early Years		✓
Gillian Hamilton	Eastside Partnership		✓
Joe McGovern	Extern		✓
Julia Hughes	Bryson Energy		✓
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council		✓
Marcela Vielman	Save the Children		✓
Rachel Balchin	Action Mental Health		✓
Sharon Morrison	Belfast Central Mission		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Marie Ann Templeton	EBCDA		✓
Tinya Parkes	Libraries NI		✓
Victoria Rea	Early Years		✓

Summary of Actions:

	Topic	Action	Responsibility
	Therapeutic Services – sub-group.	Feedback from the survey to be circulated.	Charlene Mitchell

1. Welcome and Apologies

Tracey opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and facilitating a round of introductions.

2. Previous Minutes

The previous minutes from 4th September were read though and the following Action Points addressed:

- Anti-Poverty – members were to share any information with Colleen Boyle, please continue to do so.
- Therapeutic Sub-Group – a meeting took place and a survey was circulated. More information regarding this discussion under Point 5 - LPG Updates below.
- Vice-Chair position – no responses received, however if you are interested please contact Jennifer Heverin.

3. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Inner East Belfast
Timeframe:	01 st September 2025 – 05 th November 2025
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	September 12 October 17 November 7 Total 36
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	
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:	
Practical Support – Electricity, Gas & Food. Therapeutic Support - Children	
Key Successes identified:	
EHWBT – programmes for children, YP and parents who are awaiting ASD assessment. UHUB – continuous support for YP & Children. CFC (Church) – Christmas support for 10 families confirmed.	
AOB for Sharing:	

FSH Area:	Outer South & East Belfast
Timeframe:	August 25 – 5 Nov 25
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	<i>50 Referrals</i> <i>Sep – 14</i> <i>October – 23</i> <i>Nov – 13</i>
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	173
Source of Service Requests:	Self – 18 School – 15 Social Worker – 2 Education Welfare – 2 Rise – GP – 7 HV – 3 Community – CAMHS – 2 Nurse – Voluntary - 1
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for under 4's outside Sure Start area. • Counselling and Therapeutic services Awaiting ASD Support 	
Key Successes identified:	
Sense family support service.	
AOB for Sharing:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	

Following the Hub Updates there was a short discussion around how to get organisations connected to the Hubs. It was felt that this was twofold:

- Existing Hub members need to engage.
- New Hub members, offering the sought-after services need to join.

Members who regularly attend Hub meetings allow the Hubs to know what services are available and if they have capacity for referrals.

4. Members Updates

Emma Shaw – Pheonix Education

Pheonix Education are running pre-loved uniforms and food provision. Also, a warm coat and workwear scheme is taking place on the Woodstock Road.

Gail McLaughlin – Ark Housing

Ark provides temporary accommodation for those experiencing homelessness. Those seeking help do not need to be tenants of Ark, but they do need have dependent children. Ark takes a holistic approach to the issue, looking at the reasons why someone has difficulty maintaining their tenancy.

Lucinda Vance – King's Trust

King's Trust offer counselling services for anyone who is undertaking any of their courses. They can also offer small groups for wellbeing workshops however the participants need to be economically inactive.

Christine Doyle – Toybox, Early Years

Toybox run homebound play sessions for newcomer and traveller families. They are open to referrals at present.

Fiona McMahon – RAISE Programme

Decisions are now being made on the next steps. On 25th November an event is taking place in Crumlin Road Gaol for young people. Children and young people were asked their opinions and views and this event is to feedback the outcome of this.

4. LPG Updates

Therapeutic Sub-Group

Following the sub-group meeting, it was noted that there is a lack of services that can operate within the Family Support Hub service timelines.

It was suggested that the Health Improvement Team within BHSCT may possibly have a small pot of money for training or mindfulness programmes and the like.

The next Belfast Area Outcomes Group meeting has been postponed until 18th December so hopefully we will have some more information around funding at this time.

GP's tend to send through a lot of referrals for counselling but this is not always the correct choice for the young person and not always available.

A discussion then took place around how counselling is not always the best fit and some young people can benefit with a chat to a youth worker. It was suggested that a leaflet stating what counselling is and what alternative services are available in the community, may be beneficial.

It was suggested that it would be beneficial to have someone from CAMHS present at one of the meetings, stating what they do and what services they can provide.

The feedback from the survey of the action group will be circulated.

Action Plan

The draft copy of the Action Plan was circulated on 18th September with a request for feedback, but nothing has been received to date. The group were therefore urged to have a quick read through the document now to ensure it is applicable to the current work that is being done.

The Action Plan is a working document subject to amendments and change. It follows 4 main priorities that apply citywide and then it is funnelled down into each of the 4 localities with actions that are specific to that area:

1. Early Intervention Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

The East Belfast part of this is to 'Strengthen links and awareness of emotional wellbeing and mental health supports among practitioners.'

2. Early Intervention / Early Help Family Support

The East Belfast action under this objective is 'Connecting local services and provision.'

3. School Disruption

Again, East Belfast's role is 'Connecting local services and provision.'

5. Poverty / Cost of Living

As before, we are looking at 'Connecting local services and provision' in East Belfast.

As the plan states, it is all about linking in with organisations who are carrying out the work and sharing information and ideas.

Charlene stated that if there is anything anyone feels is missing or needs added, please feel free to give feedback as this is only a draft at this stage. The next East LPG meeting is in January and it is hoped that the Action Plan will be finalised by then and we will be able to move forward with making those connections.

6. A.O.B

No other business was discussed and Charlene and Tracey thanked everyone for their attendance.

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 – Planning Meeting	10am	Knocknagoney Community Centre
3 rd July	10am	Knocknagoney Community Centre
4 th September	10am	Knocknagoney Community Centre
6 th November	10am	Knocknagoney Community Centre
29 th January	10am	TBC
5 th March	10am	TBC