

North Belfast LPG Meeting

Currie Primary School, Limestone Road, Belfast

Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 10am

Name	Organisation	Present	Apology
Claire Allen	LPG Chairperson, Reach Out HLC	✓	
Charlene Mitchell	LPG Coordinator, BHSCT	✓	
Jennifer Heverin	LPG Administration, BHSCT	✓	
Gail McLaughlin	Ark Housing	✓	
Julie Kinnear	Upper North FSH	✓	
Katherine Ferguson	Education Authority	✓	
Diane McMullin	BDACT	✓	
Mervyn Bell	Smile Surestart	✓	
Charlene Harris	Forthspring	✓	
Lucy Baxter	Cedar Foundation	✓	
Emily Howe	Youth Empowerment Network	✓	
APOLOGIES			
Aine Mulvenna	BHSCT		✓
C Latham	Seaview Primary School		✓
Carla Montgomery	King's Trust		✓
Caroline Milligan	EIST, BHSCT		✓
Chloe McCann	Toybox, Early Years		✓
Chris Hackworth	EANI		✓
Edith McManus	Lower North FSH		✓
Eleanor Ellerlie	Cruse		✓
Fiona Meenan	BHSCT		✓
J Smyth	St Columban's Primary School		✓
Joe McGovern	Extern		✓
Julie Jamieson	Reach Out		✓
Keeva Watson	ROC		✓
Kerri McCarry	Health Improvement Team, BHSCT		✓
Laura Feeney	Save the Children		✓
Laura Spiers	MACS NI		✓
Leah Semple	BHSCT		✓
Meliosa Sturgeon	MACS NI		✓
Michelle Weir	Papyrus		✓
Naibh Adams	Action Mental Health		✓
Natasha Peacock	Cedar Foundation		✓
Pamela Hughes	Kids Together		✓
Phil Lindsay	Barnardo's		✓
Pól Brennan	Connected Community Care		✓
Rachel Balchin	Action Mental Health		✓

Roisín O'Neill	Barnardo's		✓
Sharon Morrison	Belfast Central Mission		✓
Sinead Campbell	Advice NI		✓
Tinya R Parkes	Libraries NI		✓
Tora Galbraith	RISE NI		✓
Val Rowan	BHSCT		✓
Victoria Rea	Toybox, Early Years		✓
Wendy Stewart	Action Mental Health		✓
Emma Duncan	Bryson Pathways		✓
Amanda Sherwood	BHSCT		✓

Topic	Action	Responsibility

<u>Action by:</u>	
	<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Claire Allen opening the meeting by welcoming everyone and facilitating a round of introductions.</p>
	<p>2. Previous Minutes</p> <p>The previous minutes of the planning meeting from 9th September were read over and agreed as a true reflection of the meeting. No amendments required.</p>
	<p>3. Presentation – Tora Galbraith, RISE NI</p> <p>Tora sent apologies for today. The presentation has been rescheduled for January's meeting.</p>

4. FSH Updates

FSH Area:	Upper North Belfast FSH
Timeframe:	1 st September – 31 st October 2025
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	September – 13 October - 22
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	2,686
Source of Service Requests:	Self-15, school 1, GP 6, Gateway 3, EWO 2, CAMHS 1, Health Visitor 3, Voluntary1 and Allied Health Professional 1.
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social groups and clubs for primary school aged with ASD or awaiting assessment. 	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edith McManus and my-self was invited to Belfast Boys Model to meet with Jane Devlin family support officer to discuss possible supports. • Stephen Reid and my-self had a meeting with Laura and Leanne from Mini & Minds explorers to discuss their programme and possible supports. 	
AOB for Sharing:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini & Mind Explorers programme started in the Vine Centre. The service will provide support to children aged 5-11. The programme will help children have a better understanding of their thoughts and emotions, developing self-regulation and coping techniques, promoting confidence building, self-esteem and self-worth, understanding the importance of healthy relationships, and learning how to handle stressful situations. 	

FSH Area:	Lower North Belfast
Timeframe:	29/8/2025-27/10/2025
Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:	38
Number of Service Requests Received to date:	2527
Source of Service Requests:	Community, Self, Health Visitor, School
Key Gaps identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling services for children 	
Key Successes identified:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in availability of primary school mentoring from Mini & Mind Explorers and Macs • North Belfast Co-ordinators continuing to reach out to schools to further build relationships. 	
AOB for Sharing:	

Following the FSH Updates a discussion took place around winter gas and electricity vouchers. It was noted that some people expect the vouchers every year regardless of need. In these circumstances we need to break the cycle and educate on how to budget and manage money.

5. LPG Update

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 North Belfast part of this is to 'Improve access to services for emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people.'

2. Early Intervention / Early Help Family Support

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

3. School Disruption

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

4. Poverty / Cost of Living

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

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

There was some discussion around a North Belfast directory of services. However, it was felt that this would not be that beneficial as parents can pick what services sound the nicest, but this may not be the best fit for their child. This part is therefore being removed from the Action Plan.

CAMHS Letter

There is an issue with a letter that is being sent by CAMHS to parents/carers when they are unable to offer a service. The letter directs to the Family Support Hubs but it worded in such a way that it implies the Hubs will offer a service/solution instead of CAMHS. The letter is currently being withdrawn and re-written.

Schools Event

Laura Feeney is linking in with schools regarding holding another "speed dating" networking event for local schools. More information to follow.

6. Members Updates

Lucy Baxter – Cedar Foundation

Lucy said that Cedar is looking to create a primary-school age group of children. The group will probably be based in their Ravenhill Road offices.

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.

Charlene Harris – Forthspring Intercommunity

On 5th December Forthspring are holding an ASD information event for parents and carers. Also, on the same day they are holding a Christmas Budgeting Workshop. A community Christmas lunch is being organised for 17th December and everyone is welcome.

Diane McMullin – EDACT

There are new leaflets out around pregnancy and alcohol.

Diane also does lots and lots of workshops on various drug and alcohol issues. These are usually presented to staff who can then take the information back to their schools and organisations.

There are plenty of downloadable leaflets and information on their website.

Emily Howe – Youth Empowerment Network

Formerly known as Youthstart, the Youth Empowerment Network run a number of courses for 16-24 year olds. Courses are accredited and usually last around 20 weeks. Cyberquest is a cyber security course for over 18's and they get a qualification at the end. Likewise, their Construction Academy and HSC Academy are also accredited and there is a guaranteed interview at the end.

Katherine Ferguson – EA

'Wavebreakers' is a learning to swim course for P3-P7's in certain postcodes for children in receipt of free school meals or Universal Credit. The lessons are partially funded so cost £1.50 per lesson and there are a no more than 6 children per class.

7. A.O.B

No other business was discussed and Claire thanked everyone for attending and wished them a Merry Christmas.

2025/26 Dates for North Belfast LPG Ordinary Meetings

DATES (Tuesdays)	TIME	VENUES
25 th March 2025	10:00	Teach Ellis
13 th May 2025	10:00	Teach Ellis
8 th July 2025	10:00	Cancelled
9 th September 2025	10:00	Teach Ellis
11 th November 2025	10:00	Currie Primary School
13 th January 2026	10:00	TBC
10 th March 2026	10:00	TBC