

Armagh LPG
Minutes of Meeting - Thursday 8th January 2026 at 10am
Epicentre, Armagh

Attendees		Apologies
Darren Curtis (CYPSP) - Acting Chair	Sophie Lester (ABC Council)	Abbie Hayes (WAAD)
Joanne Patterson (CYPSP) - Minutes	Jennifer Hamill (NOW Group)	Aine Donnelly (SENSE NI)
Caroline Williamson (Barnardo's NI / FSH)	Mark Doran (ABC Council)	Michael McKenna (Youth Action NI)
Andrea McCleneghan (SHSCT)	Donna Gibney (SHSCT)	Gwen Bartley (ABC PCSP)
Taiga Valdamane-Stecencko (BCM)	Edel Ferson (ABC Council)	Sharon Donnelly (Bolster Community)
Joanne Curran (Armagh Rural Transport)	Ellie McKenna (NICMA)	Stephen Harland (Ark Housing)
Majd Almasalkhi (The King's Trust)	Catherine McCormack (SHSCT)	Glenda McMullen (Armagh Foodbank)
Eimer Trainor (Early Years Toybox)	Mia Murray (ArKe Sure Start)	Adrian Hutchinson (EA Youth Service)
Saleh Rifaie (Young Social Innovators)	Helen Whiteside (NOW Group)	Bronagh Trainor (DfE Careers Service)
Raquel Rodrigues Keenan (Volunteer Now)	Lisa Daly (PIPS Hope & Support)	Maria Killen (SHSCT, Parent Partnership)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
Welcome, Apols., Mins. 06/11/25	Darren welcomed all to the meeting, as Acting Chair. Brief introductions made. Apologies noted. Previous Minutes agreed. Thanks offered to EA Youth Service for hosting today's meeting.	JP to upload Mins. to CYPSP website
FSH Update	Caroline (Barnardo's NI / FSH): 91 referrals in last quarter, 22 allocated to Disability Support Worker. Family mentoring, practical support and signposting offered, along with home visits, where relevant. Increase in self-referrals. Rise in demand for Counselling, Talking Therapy and ASD/ADHD Assessment Waiting List support. Gap remains for play therapy. Planning a summer Space To Be programme in Armagh/Dungannon Area, in partnership with Playboard NI. Winter Packs & hampers distributed pre-Christmas and currently identifying families to link into a Slow Cooker Programme with ABC Council.	Contact Caroline with any queries or to discuss referrals

<p>Member Agency Updates</p>	<p>Ellie (NICMA): Recruiting registered childminders and approved home child carers to link parents into relevant childcare. Working to set up a matching scheme. Can speak to local groups about what NICMA can offer. Labour Market Partnerships Childminding Academy offers free training, advice, and support to individuals interested in becoming a registered childminder or approved home child carer.</p> <p>Saleh (Young Social Innovators): Rolling out a range of social action project opportunities for young people and training for youth workers (including volunteers), via Ignite Community. Can work with the 9-25 year old age group. Aiming to link up with relevant organisations to set up Digital Hubs to offer digital arts related programmes.</p> <p>Jennifer/Helen (NOW Group): Offering training/employability opportunities for those 16+ not in full-time education. Referrals are accepted from parents, keyworkers or self-referral. 1-to-1 employment support available. 18+ Skills Connect Level 1 Catering & Hospitality Academy starting up in Armagh on Wed. 28th Jan., capped at 12 participants.</p> <p>Sophie (ABC Council): ‘Rags to Runway’ trash fashion, eco-conscious project starting on the 28th January, with a planning day on 24th January. Various financial support opportunities available for local voluntary, community & social enterprise groups in the ABC Borough. Working with the Epicentre on a Life Skills Programme Pilot in the Armagh Area, in partnership with PCSP & PSNI, focusing on basic car maintenance, financial capability, healthy relationships, etc.</p> <p>Lisa (PIPS Hope & Support): Delivering various community training programmes: ASIST, Mental Health First Aid, SafeTalk Suicide Awareness, Shoulder To Shoulder, Building Resilience, Take5, GIMME5, Mental Health Awareness B+Positive. Some can be tailored to specific groups. See Suicide Bereavement Support Practitioner job post HERE. Hoping to open a Well Bean Café in Portadown soon, running in conjunction with the Ambulance Service & Hospital (3pm to 10pm Mon-Fri and 12-7 Sat-Sun).</p>	<p>JP to circulate all links after meeting + Relevant flyers to be included in next ‘FYI’</p> <p>See flyer in ‘FYI’.</p> <p>See flyer in ‘FYI’ Apply for ABC Funding HERE</p> <p>View Live Training Opportunities HERE</p>
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<p>Member Agency Updates</p>	<p>Mark (ABC Council): Currently project planning for next financial year. 40% down on warm pack quantities last year, but demand was still very high. Participatory Budgeting funding initiative in Apr/May. Autism Bus coming to the ABC Area in February.</p> <p>Eimer (EY Toybox): Continuing to work with Roma & Traveller families in the local area and are busy working on pre-school and primary school applications support at present.</p> <p>Caroline (Barnardo's NI): Parents Plus Early Years Programme concluded in November and another starting on the 17th February in Armagh. Barnardo's Poverty Fund Is available for families experiencing financial hardship. TiS project has closed, with a Celebration Event pending. 6th Sense project continues to operate once a month. Disability Awareness Training and Schools Programmes are ongoing.</p> <p>Edel (ABC Council): Various programmes available to children, young people and families. x2 new Sports Development Coaches in place. Daily Mile project ongoing in local schools. Hoping their See Sports Challenge will continue. Get Moving ABC working with clubs on a needs analysis, with the aim of creating an Action Plan with local groups.</p> <p>Mia (ArKe Sure Start): NICMA Workshop taking place soon. New Parenting Worker working with families with children with additional needs. See Early Years Assistant job post HERE. New Family Support Worker Role going out soon. Sure Start out of area accessibility outreach opportunities to be made available in the future.</p> <p>Joanne (Armagh Rural Transport): Seeing a real need for social transport, per community feedback - Looking at funding for community groups, where there is a need. Mini Bus Group Hire opportunity now available from Armagh Rural Transport.</p> <p>Catherine (SHSCT): Verve Network is ongoing through local Healthy Living Centres. Verve Health Trainers 1-to-1 Support still available across the SHSCT Area, with referrals (self or other) invited. Health Trainers can also deliver workshops out in the community. Sport NI Crowdfunder Funding Opportunity available across NI.</p>	<p>See flyer for visit schedule</p> <p>JP to circulate Toybox Brochure</p> <p>Contact Caroline to further discuss individual cases</p> <p>Visit the Get Active ABC Website HERE</p> <p>See flyer in 'FYI'</p> <p>Crowdfunder Info. HERE</p>
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<p>Member Agency Updates <i>*Received via e-mail</i></p>	<p>Majd (The King's Trust): Can work with local groups to get young people into employment via participation in their programmes. Based in Belfast, but can cover transport & lunch costs. Enterprise Programme offers young people the opportunity to apply for grants and have a dedicated business mentor.</p> <p>Raquel (Volunteer Now): Raquel met with ABC Heritage Officers yesterday, who asked for the Draft Heritage Strategy Consultation Link to be shared.</p> <p>Taiga (BCM): Busy with food hamper distribution and toy appeal in the run up to Christmas. Homelessness Prevention Fund available.</p> <p>Glenda (Armagh Foodbank)*: Foodbank continues to be busy. Donations have been generous from Harvest through to Christmas. Stepping Stones Pantry has 59 members, ranging from 10-22 visits every Tuesday between 9-10.30am. Pre-loved school uniforms helped 259 families during last year's summer Pop-Up Shop.</p> <p>Maria (SHSCT, Parenting Partnership)*: Invest In Play Programme starting later this month. Walking On Eggshells Programme starting on Tuesday 3rd February, Further info. on Evidence-Based Parenting Programmes in the SHSCT Area, available HERE.</p>	<p>See February Programmes Flyer in 'FYI'</p> <p>See all live volunteer opportunities HERE</p> <p>See 'FYI' for flyers on all upcoming Parenting Programmes</p>
<p>Action Planning 2025-28</p>	<p>ABC Council Area All About YOUTH Event on 26th Feb. in Craigavon Civic Centre.</p> <p>Armagh Good Relations Event, hosted by ABC Council & Ark Housing, took place in October. Needs Assessment Report pending. Armagh Only Networking Day on 14th May.</p> <p>FGA Youth Event taking place later this year. Funding already secured.</p> <p>Understanding Self-Harm Workshop, facilitated by Inspire, taking place on 21st January in Tower Hill Boardroom, Armagh - Fully booked & reserve list in operation.</p>	<p>Planning Group Meeting next Monday</p> <p>Contact JP to join the Planning Group</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Darren will be leaving his post at CYPSP in February. Best wishes shared by the group. Darren thanked members for their ongoing commitment to the LPG and its work.</p>	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>Thursday 5th March 2026, 10am, via Zoom.</p> <p>Many thanks for your participation!</p>	<p>Please accept Outlook Invite</p>