

Newry & Mourne LPG
Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 10am
Newry Youth Resource Centre

| Attendees | | Apologies |
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| Karen Clarke (Home-Start N&M) - Chair | Julie Liggett (Links Counselling) | Annie Clarke (SHSCT) |
| Joanne Patterson (CYPSP) - Minutes | Aoife Quinn (Women's Aid AD) | Bronagh Trainor (DfE Careers) |
| Allison Slater (Bolster Community / FSH) | Maria Keenan (Clanrye Group) | Hannah Cooke (YJA) |
| Katie Wilson (Early Years Toybox) | Ellie McKenna (NICMA) | Helen Donnelly (DfE, RAISE) |
| Alannah Brennan (NMANDDD Council) | Stacey Arnott (PSNI) | Jen Anderson (IEF) |
| Jessica Blomkvist (IEF) | Ciara Turley (SHSCT) | Karen Donnelly (EWS) |
| Niamh Quinn (Advocacy VSV) | Fiona Ferris (Newry CCG) | Kris Morrison (Autism NI) |
| Brenda McLarnon (Mourne Sure Start) | Gemma McKeown (Magnet YAC) | Maria Killen (SHSCT) |
| Nicola McCauley (SHSCT, EWTS) | Mary O'Hanlon (SHSCT) | Maureen O'Gorman (EA YS) |
| Thom Denton (Cedar Foundation) | Aoife Morgan (Autism NI) | Raquel Rodrigues-Keenan & |
| Shirley Keenan-Hughes (NM&DD Council) | Teresa Kearney (Magnet YAC) | Bronagh Demeillers (Volunteer Now) |
| Sophie Murray-Gibbons (Women's Aid AD) | Karen Sands (Newry Sure Start) | Scott Byrne (The King's Trust) |

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action - By Whom |
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| Welcome, Apologies, Mins. 10/12/25 | Karen welcomed all to the meeting. Brief Introductions made. Apologies noted. Previous Minutes agreed. | JP to upload to CYPSP website |
| FSH Update | Allison (Bolster Community / FSH): Referral nos. still high. Ongoing issues: lack of post-diagnosis support for Autism & ADHD, school refusal / non-attendance, lack of therapeutic/play support, more complex needs. Increasing referrals linked to children losing a parent and bereavement support being needed for the whole family. | |

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| Member Agency Updates | <p>Alannah (NMandDD Council): Children’s Mental Health Event took place last Friday in Newry Leisure Centre, in partnership with the SHSCT, focusing on the Take 5 message. Event coincided with Children’s Mental Health Week and half-term kids programmes taking place in the same venue and was very well attended.</p> <p>Nicola (SHSCT, EWTS): Seeing bereavement as a huge issue amongst young people and are now working with Cruse to deliver bereavement support in schools.</p> <p>Julie (Links Counselling): Finding Hope In Grief programme available as part of their wider community programme schedule - Upcoming programme taking place in Lurgan.</p> <p>Teresa / Gemma (Magnet YAC): Were recently unsuccessful with their EA funding application, however the funding was re-advertised and so they had re-applied and are awaiting a decision this Friday - Members to be kept updated and thanks expressed to those who recently sent letters of support.</p> | <p>JP to circulate links after meeting + Flyers included in next ‘FYI’ -</p> <p>Find out more HERE</p> |
| Action Planning 2025-28 | <p>Understanding Self-Harm Workshop, facilitated by Inspire, took place on 21st Jan. in Tower Hill, Armagh - Good attendance & feedback recorded. Scorecard to follow. Individual workshops can be delivered in the SHSCT Area.</p> <p>Schools Networking Event took place on 4th Feb. Thanks to Planning Group Members; Newry High School for hosting; and NMandDD Council for providing support funding. 37 Info. Stands and over x90 participants attended, including local primary & post-primary schools. Feedback very positive. Scorecard to follow.</p> | <p>See flyer in ‘FYI’ & contact Inspire</p> |
| Discussion on Loneliness | <p>SHSCT and NMandDD Council continue to work in partnership on the TILT project - Further update to be provided at next meeting.</p> | <p>AB to follow up with AC</p> |
| AOB | <p>SHSCT ‘Stronger Together’ Event taking place on the 12th March, aimed at parents/carers of children and young people who have disabilities or additional needs, which will feature stalls and presentations to help families access relevant information, opportunities and supports - Stallholders need to register with the lead organiser, but there is no need for parents/carers/professionals attending to pre-register.</p> | <p>See flyers in today’s follow-up e-mail</p> |

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| AOB | <p>General discussion on AI and related issues, including: sharing of deepfake images; children & young people developing relationships with AI; and misinformation. Several members suggested that awareness training would be useful.</p> <p>Bereavement Resources available on the CYPSP Youth Wellness Web HERE.</p> <p>'When someone special dies' Leaflets, tailored to various age ranges, available from Child Bereavement UK HERE.</p> <p>See the Southern Area LPG Meetings Year In Review 2025 document HERE.</p> | See 'FYI' for Safer Internet Day related info. |
| Date of Next Meeting | <p>Wednesday 22nd April 2026, 10am, via Zoom. (Further to Member Survey feedback, meeting formats will alternate between face-to-face and Zoom in 2026.)</p> <p>Many thanks for your participation and thanks to the EA Youth Service for hosting.</p> | Please accept Outlook Invite |