

South Armagh LPG
Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 10am
Via Zoom Video Conference Call

Attendees		Apologies
Annie Clarke (SHSCT) - Chair	Karen Donnelly (EWS)	Alannah Brennan (NMandDD Council)
Darren Curtis (CYPSP)	Marina Simone (Advocacy VSV)	Cailin McParland (SOPYC)
Joanne Patterson (CYPSP) - Minutes	Lizzy Smyth (SOPYC)	Caroline Potter & Allison Slater (Bolster Community / FSH)
Eleanor Eilerslie (Cruse Bereavement)	Jessica Wylie (SHSCT, EWTS)	Dorethy Davidson (SHSCT, MDT)
Bronagh Demeillers (Volunteer Now)	Aoife Quinn (Women's Aid AD)	Maria Killen (SHSCT, Parenting Partnership)
Caelan Donnelly (Youth Action NI)	Mairead Hearty (Women's Aid AD)	Ruth Neary (EA Youth Service)
Caroline Wilson (Sure Start South Armagh)	Jack Rogan (MACS NI)	
Helen Donnelly (DfE, RAISE Programme)	Stacey Arnott (PSNI)	
Michelle McKeever (Magnet YAC)		

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome, Apols., Mins. 18/11/25	Annie welcomed all to the meeting. Brief Introductions given. Apologies noted, per above. Previous Minutes agreed.	JP to upload Minutes to CYPSP website
FSH Update <i>*Received via e-mail</i>	Caroline (Bolster Community / FSH)*: Families coming to the Family Support Hub often face long waits for Autism assessment or diagnosis, leaving parents stressed, uncertain, and without guidance. During this time, children's emotional, behavioural, and sensory needs can escalate, increasing family strain and reducing parental confidence. Limited early intervention risks poorer outcomes for both children and parents. Emotional Based Non-School Attendance is also common, particularly among boys with ADHD. Families report school avoidance linked to emotional regulation difficulties and negative experiences, while parents feel overwhelmed navigating schools and behaviour at home. Prolonged absence worsens isolation and learning gaps. More programmes are needed to address the issue collectively. Bereavement support is another major gap, with long waits limiting help for grieving families.	

<p>Member Agency Updates</p>	<p>Eleanor (Cruse Bereavement Support): A range of services/programmes are on offer to the community, schools and other organisations who work with children and young people - See flyer in 'FYI'. Their Armagh/Dungannon premises are now located at Formation Works, Edenavey's Industrial Estate Armagh.</p> <p>Bronagh (Volunteer Now): Seeking to connect with local groups in working together to provide family volunteering opportunities in the area.</p> <p>Jack (MACS NI): Working with local young people aged 16-25 who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or struggling to maintain their tenancy - Contact Jack to further discuss any young person you are aware of who might need relevant support.</p> <p>Marina (Advocacy VSV): Continuing to support victims of sexual violence (both female & male) and can offer visits in the safety of their own home.</p> <p>Aoife & Mairead (Women's Aid Armaghdown): New Young Women's Project, for 16-18 year olds, launching soon, offering one-to-one sessions, educational work & emotional support. Upcoming One Stop Shop taking place in Newry Library on Thursday 5th February from 10am to 12 Noon. Local International Women's Day Walks planned for 7th & 8th March - Further details to follow.</p> <p>Caelan (YouthAction NI): Delivery of Amplify Peacebuilding & Leadership Programme ongoing. Caelan is leaving his post at YouthAction NI.</p> <p>Helen (DfE RAISE Programme): Have recently issued their draft letters of offer to successful Call 1 applicants - Visit the Department of Education RAISE Programme webpage HERE for further info. on locality-specific updates. Hoping to be in a position to go out with their Call 2 projects within the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>Lizzy (SOPYC): 'Empowering Women' International Women's Day Event on Wednesday 4th March, from 6pm to 9pm, for 12 to 15 year olds - Further info. to follow.</p>	<p>JP to circulate links after mtg. Flyers included in next 'FYI'</p> <p>Further info. on MACS NI available HERE</p> <p>Further info. HERE</p>
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Member Agency Updates	<p>Stacey (PSNI): PSNI currently recruiting for Police Officer & Police Staff roles HERE.</p> <p>Annie (SHSCT): International Women’s Day Event (schools & general public invited) taking place in Newry Leisure Centre on Wednesday 4th March, where local services will be available to share info. on the support which they can offer local women & girls.</p> <p>Michelle (Magnet YAC): Update provided on behalf of Gemma - See the next edition of ‘FYI’ for details on upcoming programmes being delivered by the Magnet YAC locally. New 12-15 year old starting up in Whitecross. Bessbrook Group, with 13-14 year olds attending, also up & running. Young Mums & Babies Programme starting in May, funded by RAISE and hoping to work in partnership with Sure Start South Armagh. The Magnet YAC are available to deliver tailored workshops for groups of 11-25 year olds across Sexual Health Week 2026.</p>	Contact Magnet YAC to discuss
Action Planning 2025-28	<p>Networking Event, open to all school staff across the N&M and South Armagh Areas to raise awareness of the range of existing support services they can link into in the community, taking place on Wednesday 4th February, from 2pm to 5pm, in Newry HS.</p> <p>Understanding Self-Harm Workshop, facilitated by Inspire, taking place tomorrow in Tower Hill Boardroom, Armagh - Fully booked & reserve list in operation.</p>	Register your info. stand HERE + Flyer to follow early next week
Discussion on Loneliness	SHSCT and N MandDD Council continue to work in partnership on the TILT project, with a dedicated website still a work in progress.	
AOB	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.	
Next Meeting	<p>Tuesday 24th March 2026, 10am, Venue TBC. (Further to Member Survey feedback, meeting formats will alternate between face-to-face and Zoom in 2026 - If anyone is in a position to host at their premises, please e-mail CYPSP to confirm.)</p> <p>Many thanks for your participation!</p>	Please accept Outlook Invite