

MINUTES

EAST BELFAST LPG MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 May 2016 AT 10am IN EBP OFFICE, NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, BELFAST.

PRESENT:

Maggie Andrews	East Belfast Partnership
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Amy Gillen	Alternatives (Inner East Family Support Hub)
Nicola Hannigan	Barnardo's (Outer South and East Hub)
Paul Mc Combe	NIHE
Lynn Heatley	Parenting NI
Yvonne Cowan	BHSCT
Irene Blanchard	East Belfast Counselling
Natalie Killough	BHSCT Child Development Interventions Coordinator
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council
Mary McManus	EBIAC
Joanna Zurawicka	Extern
Donna Murray	Youth Justice Agency
Lorraine Brennan	BHSCT
Claire Humphrey	Barnardo's Family Connections
Aine Kelly	Save the Children

APOLOGIES:

Tracey Wilson	East Belfast Sure Start
Kris Morrison	NIACRO
Linda Armitage	EBCDA
Su Finch	Nettlefield Primary School

1. Welcome and Introductions

Maggie welcomed everyone and a round of introductions took place.

2. Apologies

As recorded above.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes agreed as accurate.

4. Matters Arising

The Locality Planning Chairs had each met with Women's Aid, about how best they could connect to Locality Planning and the hubs – given their staffing

structure. It was agreed that this dilemma is not uncommon for organisations. It was suggested that Women's Aid is invited to a future meeting to discuss their services. The hubs agreed this would be useful as domestic violence is often an underlying issue for hub referrals.

Action: Laura to contact Women's Aid to do a presentation about their services at next meeting

5. Feedback from Belfast Area Outcomes Group/ LPG chairs

Maggie reported that the work of the Belfast Outcomes Group was gradually making better connections with Locality Planning and the Family Support Hubs. It is hoped that permanent funding will be available to cover the locality work in Belfast. There are many common issues across the city and these are beginning to be reflected in the BOG Action Plan which is currently being finalised and will be circulated in due course.

6. Natalie Killough- Child Development Interventions Coordinator

Natalie provided an update on her role and how she will be involved in the Locality Planning Groups in Belfast. The post is funded by the PHA to look at evidence based parenting support programmes such as Strengthening Families, Incredible Years etc. and what the barriers may be to these programmes. Natalie will also be looking at organisations who are working with parents and how to build relationships. She explained that she will also be researching standardised tool and measures of success. While the post does not come with funding attached, there should be an opportunity to influence programmes. Lynne who was attending from Parenting NI also outlined her role in support of CYPSP. It was agreed that developing a more 'joined up' approach to parenting initiatives will be very important going forward especially as some work is also planned as part of the EastSide Learning agenda.

7. Action Plan

7.1 Infant Dental Health project (Outcome 6)

The dental health resources have been produced and are due to be used in childcare settings from September – the programme will be managed by SureStart the Early Years Network and BHSC. LPG helped facilitate this project by making the link with local dentists.

7.2 Education (Outcome 5)

Maggie informed the group that the QUB research has been focussed on identifying issues for some local schools. The attendance issue will be picked up by EastSide Learning as there is a growing concern in East Belfast about the closure of schools and the impact this may be having on attendance.

7.3 Sexual Exploitation Workshop (Outcome 7)

See Agenda item 9.

7.2 Action Plan Review

Outcome 1 & 2

It was suggested that Outcome 1 & 2 could be merged together as part of the Early Intervention Support Service (EISS) from the Family Support Hubs. However, it was pointed out that EISS is only available in some areas, and not all hubs have access to this. In order to discuss this further, it was agreed that there should be a more in-depth conversation to review the Action Plan, and have a small task and finish group to have a look at this and other Outcomes, which can now be informed by the hubs.

Action: Laura to bring together Action Plan review sub group

8. Family Support Hubs Update

Inner East Family Support Hub

So far there have been 12 referrals in March, 19 in April and 19 in May so far. The areas with the highest referrals are Bloomfield, Ravenhill, Ballymacarratt and the m Orangefield. The most prominent issues are emotional and behavioural difficulties/ challenging behaviours, youth support i.e. teenagers not attending school due to anxiety, schooling issues (around ASD), single mothers being affected by depression and anxiety and childcare respite. At the hub there are 20 core members and 23 associate members.

Members noted that there is concern around 'holiday hunger', as children who normally receive free school meals are not receiving these over the summer. While EBCDA and Greenway Women's Centre have applied for funding to try and combat this, no-one was available to update on their plans. It was noted that it would be useful to have a joined up approach to these pots of funding. Amy had circulated an email to ask what organisations were running summer schemes; it would be useful to find out if they will be providing meals. Kathy offered to send a list of Belfast City Council Summer Schemes to the hub co-ordinators.

It was emphasised that any issues which the hub are facing should come to Locality Planning Groups, as they can be fed up to the Outcomes Group.

Action: Amy to send email to organisations to see what summer schemes are available and if any food will be provided

Outer South and East Family Support Hub

So far there have been 80 referrals to the hub; and 6 in the month of May so far. The highest numbers of referrals have been for children with behavioural problems, ASD difficulties and children with a disability aged 5-11. The areas with the most referrals have so far been Cherryvalley, Cregagh and Dundonald and the sources of referrals have been mostly Children with Disability Team, followed by Self Referrals and then Health Visitors.

An issue so far with the hubs has been respite day care to allow families to attend services. There has been investment in Sure Start but it is still a significant issue, especially for Outer South and East as they do not have Sure Start coverage.

9. Sexual Exploitation follow up work

Maggie gave members an update Sexual Exploitation work. There is a planning meeting due to take place on the 17th June with key stakeholders; to see what structures are in place and how best to focus any workshop in September.

10. EastSide Learning Update

The group agreed that it would be good to get a comprehensive update on the Eastside Learning in September when the decision re. who will be delivering the SIF Education Programme in east has been made. EastSide Learning had organised Reading Fair in March in Skainos and over 360 parents and children attended. It was supported by Urban Village and Belfast Learning Festival. Relationships are currently being strengthened between local schools, communities, parents and schools. Two sub groups have been established around aspiration and attainment.

11. Member Updates

- Paul made the group aware that the a particular focus of the NIHE will be on supporting tenants in the local area in future.
- EBIAC have introduced a new project that is linked with the hub to maximise finances for families e.g. looking at bills, giving advice re. welfare reform, personal dependence allowance etc.
- It was highlighted that EBCDA circulates a regular e- bulletin, if any organisations would like to publicise something, contact Linda
- PCSP have made funding available to do Drug and Alcohol work in East Belfast. Due to the closure of FASA it is hopes organisations will work closely together
- From 19th- 22nd November EastSide Arts and Connswater Community Greenway will present the 3rd C.S Lewis Festival. As part of this a series of sculptures are currently being built to honour the author and will be displayed in a civic square in East Belfast.
- Members commented that the new Victoria Park near the Connswater River is great.

Action: Joanna to ask those from FASA joining Extern to come and talk about their service

12. Any Other Business

No other business was recorded

13. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20 th July 2016 @10am	East Belfast Partnership Board
Wednesday 21 st September 2016 @ 10am	East Belfast Partnership Board
Wednesday 16 th November 2016 @10am	East Belfast Partnership Board