

MINUTES

**EAST BELFAST LPG MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY
20 July 2016 AT 10am IN EBP OFFICE, NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, BELFAST.**

PRESENT:

Maggie Andrews	EastSide Partnership
Laura Rankin	CYPSP
Amy Gillen	Alternatives (Inner East Family Support Hub)
Nicola Hannigan	Barnardo's (Outer South and East Hub)
Tracey Wilson	East Belfast Sure Start
Kris Morrison	NIACRO
Linda Armitage	EBCDA
Jillian Barr	Women's Aid
Natalie Killough	BHSCT Child Development Interventions Coordinator
Kathy Watters	Belfast City Council
Mary McManus	EBIAC
Joanna Zurawicka	Extern
Gerry Largey	BHSCT
Aine Kelly	Save the Children

APOLOGIES:

Claire Humphrey	Barnardo's
Paul McCombe	NIHE
Irene Blanchard	EBCCC
Su Finch	Nettlefield Primary School
Yvonne Cowan	BHSCT

1. Welcome and Introductions

Maggie welcomed everyone and a round of introductions took place, it was noted that it was a pleasing turnout due to the time of year.

2. Apologies

As recorded above

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes were agreed as accurate

4. Matters Arising

Jillian from Women's Aid was in attendance and plans to provide a short presentation at the next meeting.

Action: Jillian to present at the September meeting

5. Mencap Youth Inclusion Hub- Helen McVitty O'Hara

Helen was due to attend the meeting, however she is unwell. Youth Inclusion Hub presentation postponed to a future meeting.

Action: Youth Inclusion Hub presentation to take place in September/ November

6. Action Plan

6.1 Education (EastSide Learning)

EastSide Learning has tendered to deliver the SIF Education programme in east Belfast . It is unclear when a decision will be made. The programme is to be focussed on initiatives to improve education outcomes for children from the most disadvantaged areas. This includes literacy support for after schools clubs, work with parents, GCSE revision and family learning. There will also be a focus on transitions and support for parents and young people with making exam choices. Ensuring that the LPG Action Plan is suitably linked to this will be important. Maggie to update on this at the September meeting.

6.2 Sexual Exploitation Workshop (Outcome 7)

The Sexual Exploitation Workshop is being planned for late September. At an initial meeting with DoH, PSNI, BHSCT and safeguarding representatives, a potential target audience and aims for the workshop were discussed. workshop further meeting is planned for early September. The key for success will be presenting messages in an interactive way.

6.3 Action Plan Review

It was agreed that a smaller group would meet to review the Action Plan and bring recommendations to the September meeting. Input to this from the hubs is crucial as they understand local need and the gaps in services. Laura to email the Action Plan in advance so people can read it and have suggestions at the meeting.

Action: Action Planning Sub Group to meet at the beginning of September- Laura to circulate dates

Action: Laura to send Action Plan in advance of the September meeting

7. Family Support Hubs Update

Outer South and East

Nicola reported on the Hub activity from April- June 2016. During this time period there were 55 referrals and in July so far there have been 22. There are currently 16 core and 23 Associate members. The highest source of referral has been Health Visitors/ Nurses, followed by self-referrals and then referrals from community organisations. There have also been some referrals from Gateway, CAHMS, schools and doctors. Nicola explained that there are now more areas being reached by the Family Support Hub as it is becoming more widely known, demonstrated by nearly

all of the ward areas making referrals to the hub. The highest reason for referral was the need for parenting support/ programmes, then family support, and then need for childcare, youth activities/ support, clubs and activities for children with a disability and financial support (Food banks, benefit cheques etc). After breaking down the age and category of individuals the highest number of referrals have been for males age 5-11 with a disability (ASD, ADHD, physical) then age 25-44 females with Mental Health issues and then age 25-44 females who are from an ethnic minority background. Nicola gave the group an idea of unmet need, which included practical home support, pre-school settings for 2 year olds, home support management of children with ASD, childcare for last minute counselling sessions and availability of play therapy and counselling for children and young people (this is a particular issue due to the wide geography of this hub). Respite childcare was the biggest unmet need previously, however there are two services which the hub can now avail of for this.

It was mentioned that Home Start would be a good resource for the hub; however they currently have a shortage of volunteers. Members noted that this may be due to Home Start support being more long term and this could be the reason for the lack of volunteers. It was suggested that it would be good to get a representative from Volunteer Now to speak to the group around the best way to get appropriate help. Tracey added that SureStart would offer practical support, but there is difficulty with the geography of the Outer South and East Hub as it does not have full Sure Start coverage. Members discussed the responsibility of schools around meeting some of the needs arising, perhaps identifying individuals in the community who are willing to help out if they know there is a need e.g. helping out with giving lifts to school etc.

Action: Laura to bring Volunteer Now representative to a future meeting

Inner East

Amy provided an update of the hub activity for the period April- June 2016. During this time there have been 73 referrals; 19 in April, 25 in May and 29 in June. There have been 19 referrals in July to date. The highest source of referrals has been self-referrals, Health Visitors, community and then GPs. The age group for referrals is 0-4 years old, then 5-10. A large proportion of referrals are in relation to disability (mostly ADHD/ ASD), out of 97 referrals for children there were 24 with disability referenced. Over half of the referrals have come from single parent families, then families with both parents and then kinship carers. The highest referral reasons were for youth activities/ support (referrals for summer schemes), emotional and behavioural difficulties of primary school age, childcare support, parenting programmes and financial support.

Amy noted that she has had referrals in relation to counselling for ethnic minority children and there is nothing available. This was acknowledged by the group as a significant gap. Due to the sensitive nature of counselling, it may not be appropriate

to have a translator present. Linda confirmed that EBCDA are currently looking at crisis services including counselling services, however there is not currently a joined up approach about what is available in terms of counselling with translation services. Family Support NI website has a useful translation option for 16 languages- however this does not mean that the appropriate service is available. The importance of interpretation was highlighted as a lot of families come to the hub with 'socially acceptable' issues and there may be underlying issues which need to be identified e.g. financial issues/ domestic violence. It was agreed that members should follow this up to find out what is available in terms of counselling and this will be shared at the next meeting. The following organisations should be contacted: Joanna (Extern), EBCDA, BHSCT, New Life Counselling, EBCCC.

Action: Laura to contact counselling organisations services are available in other languages

Members were interested to find out that areas with the highest referrals to the Family Support Hub were also areas where there are most Sure Start referrals. It was suggested that it would be useful for organisations to do a short report about what their highest needs are to the LPG meeting.

Action: Template to be developed for organisations to feed back their greatest needs

Mary reported to the group that there are alarming trends as we are now seeing the impact of benefit re-assessment and welfare reform. There are currently 9870 people on DLA in East Belfast and many of these individuals may have their benefits taken away as a result of the re-assessment. It is important for organisations to work together to provide the help that is needed. Organisations agreed that it would be good to have an information session for practitioners so they have the correct information to pass on.

Action: Linda (EBCDA) and Mary (EBIAC) to organise a session for practitioners on welfare reform and members to support this

8. Feedback from Belfast Area Outcomes Group/ LPG Chairs

Maggie gave the group an update on the Outcomes Group meeting which took place on Tuesday 28th June. There is funding to provide ongoing support for Locality Planning, and there is an ongoing discussion about how this will happen.

The Outcomes Group are currently reviewing their Action Plan and it will be influenced by discussions at LPG level. All BAOG minutes are on the CYPSP website.

9. Member Updates

- Save the Children have a support programme called Eat, Sleep, Learn, Play, for children living in severe poverty. There are crisis grants to provide household

essentials, such as a child's bed, a cooker, or toys and books, to low income families who can't afford to buy these items themselves.

- Natalie has completed a scoping exercise of evidence based programmes, to show what is available in the local area- this is currently being finalised
- EBCDA are offering nutrition and cooking workshops with families to combat 'Holiday Hunger' and show examples of budgeting in 5 community areas
- 3 Men's Sheds are being set up in East Belfast- useful knowledge for hubs

Action: Linda agreed to send EBCDA updates for circulation

10. Any Other Business

- Maggie gave out 'A guide to crisis support services in East Belfast' to members as a directory of numbers which may be needed and could be replaced easily
- There is an emerging 'Neighbourhood Networks' private social network for neighbourhoods, if someone needs to connect with others in their community for practical help or to share information they can easily contact those in their area online. For more information visit www.nextdoor.com

11. Date of next meeting

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