

**Minutes of East Belfast Locality Planning Group  
Wednesday 11th Sept 2019  
Eastside Partnership Board  
Avalon House  
278-280 Newtownards Road  
Belfast BT5 1HE**

**Attending:-**

Tracey Wilson	Surestart (Chaired Meeting)
Barbara Wallace	Eastside Partnership
Rosy Mc Lean	Inner East FSH/NI Alternatives
Julie Clark	Life
Mary Murphy	BHSCT
L Feeney	Save the Children
Claire Humphrey	Barnardos
Charlene Mitchell	Outer South & East Belfast FSH
Alison Templeton	New Life Counselling
Stephen Cruise	Oasis Caring in Action

**Apologies:-**

Linda Armitage	EBCDA
James Scott	BDACT
Gillian Hamilton	EBCDA
Maggie Andrews	Eastside Partnership Chair

**In Attendance:-**

Marie Smith - LPG Admin Support  
John Joe O'Neill - QUB Student

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Tracy Wilson opened the meeting by welcoming those present. Tracy had previously agreed to chair this meeting in the absence of the regular chair – Maggie Andrews.

Apologies received and recorded above.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Clare Humphrey indicated that she had attended the previous meeting and was not recorded as attending.

Otherwise, previous minutes were agreed as a true and accurate account.

## 3. Matters Arising

### Childcare Briefing Paper

Tracey provided an update on a briefing paper being prepared by Maggie Andrews. The paper has been drafted from contributions provided by local services affected by reduced provision and a lack of investment in Tier 2 childcare places in East Belfast. In particular, the impact of local groups failing to receive Pathways Funding and the subsequent impact on Sure Start and the Family Support Hub. BHSCT Early Years team had also provided some data on their sponsored day care places and how the lack of local places is placing increasing demands on their very limited resources. The Trust information is being added to the paper with the plan to circulate to public reps alongside a request to meet representatives from the Early Years Network and LPG who are impacted by the issues.

**ACTION:** Maggie to finalise the paper and arrange the meeting with local political representatives.

*Carew 11 Closure:* - Tracy updated members on the current position in relation to the closure of the Carew II Centre. Eastside Property (the property arm of Partnership Board) has agreed in principle to assume ownership of the building, This will be on the understanding that the Partnership will facilitate discussions with stakeholders to support the continued use of the building as a focus for local families and children.

Surestart has agreed to continue to deliver services in the building. There was a lot of interest among members in the possibilities for the centre and an eagerness to be involved. Barbara pointed out that the building remains in the ownership of the group and discussions about future use is premature. It was agreed that all the local stakeholders involved in early years and family support should be involved in these discussions once the transfer process is complete.

**ACTION:** Anyone requiring additional information should contact Maggie Andrews.

## 4. Take 5 Event

Martin advised that the Take 5 event planned for September had been rescheduled after consultation with members. The previous date clashed with other meetings LPG planned to attend. The event will now take place on the **9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019** (9.30am – 12.30pm) in East Belfast Network Centre.

The organising sub-group has produced a draft agenda which will be circulated in advance with further event details.

The workshop aims to support organisations focussed on improving well-being throughout the community.

The Take 5 approach is a simple tool to suggest five steps to looking after well-being.

- Connect
- Give
- Take notice
- Be active
- Keep learning

The workshop will be an opportunity for you and your organisation to think about how you can use the Take 5 approach for yourself, within your organisation and to enable families. Additionally, it is hoped that by the end of the workshop a guide will be compiled for families about the types of activities available in East Belfast.

The information shared received a very positive response from the membership.

**ACTIONS:-**

- Martin to forward date for diary and agenda to ELPG mailing list.
- Sub Group to deliver Take 5 event on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019.

**5. HUB's**

**FAMILY SUPPORT HUB INFORMATION UPDATE TO LPG MEMBERS**

<b>FSH Area:</b>	<b>Outer South &amp; East Belfast FSH</b>
<b>Timeframe:</b>	July & August 2019
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	10 for South 34 for East
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	920
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Health Visiting, Self-Referrals, GP Services, Education Welfare Services.
<b>Key Gaps identified:</b> Support for families pre ASD diagnosis	

<p>ASD support Behaviour management support Alternative Therapies</p> <p>Waiting lists for services- some are currently closed and others have up to a three month wait before families can be accommodated.</p>
<p><b>Key Successes identified:</b></p> <p>FSH continues to make links with the local community. Promotion of services is being planned for the coming months to help increase self-referrals and awareness amongst professionals</p>
<p><b>AOB for Sharing:</b></p>

<b>FSH Area:</b>	<b>Inner East</b>
<b>Timeframe:</b>	4/7/19 – 10/9/19
<b>Number of Service Requests Received in timeframe:</b>	51
<b>Number of Service Requests Received to date:</b>	1249
<b>Source of Service Requests:</b>	Health visitors, self referrals, GPs, voluntary organisations
<p><b>Key Gaps identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Childcare</li> <li>-Long waiting lists for play therapy/counselling</li> <li>-BME support</li> <li>-Support for parents with under 5's who live outside Sure Start area</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Key Successes identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Scaffolding project uniform scheme</li> <li>-Going to recommence Red Cross parents group following success of pilot</li> </ul>	
<p><b>AOB for Sharing:</b></p>	

## 6. BAOG

ASD / ADHD EVENT: Martin advised members of the consistent pressures that exist city wide regarding ASD / ADHD and this concurs with the reporting from the Family Support Hubs in each locality. This information / pressure has been highlighted at the BAOG for discussion and therefore a workshop has been agreed. The workshop is aimed to help organisations and family support practitioners better understand the journey undertaken by families through the Health and Education systems when a child is first identified as different. This can be a convoluted process for all involved and this workshop should help shed light on the processes for diagnosis or statementing within statutory frameworks. Work is underway to progress this event into a citywide event and attempts will be made to ensure that all LPG chairs and or vice chairs are part of the sub-group that progresses this work. The potential date for this event is 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 Belfast.

**ACTION:** Martin to ensure that Chair and Vice Chair are furnished with dates for meeting to discuss this citywide event.

PROCUREMENT: Members were advised that the procurement process for Family Support Services as commissioned by BAOG are well under way. It appears that this process is still in line with the information provided at the market engagement event held earlier this year (June 18<sup>th</sup>). EBLPG raised concerns again regarding the complexity of this process and the potential to have services removed from the community and taken up significantly larger organisations with no community presence.

ACES TRAINING: Discussion took place about the roll out of the ACES training commissioned via SBNI. A number of emails offering level one and two Ace awareness training has been widely circulated to members.

COMMUNITY PLANNING: Discussion took place about establishing a representative from BAOG on the Living Here Board within the BCC Belfast Agenda. This conversation has not been concluded. The connections between the focus of the BAOG and the Belfast Agenda were discussed.

REDUCED SCHOOL TIMETABLES: Discussion took place regarding the increasing numbers of children experiencing restricted/reduced timetables and the impact on parents. Accurate statistics about the incidence of this are not available. Those attending confirmed that this matter is not particular to Belfast and is a regional issue. BAOG has agreed to seek out hard data where it is available,

## 7. Members Updates

- **Alison Templeton - New Life Counselling:** Alison advised that they have received funding via Big Lottery for services to children impacted by Aces living in East Belfast. Service will deal with transgenerational trauma and will focus on children of school age 5 yrs. – 17 years. This funding is for 2 years and we are now at the end of the first year.
- **Claire Humphrey-Barnardos** provided an update on the Family Connections project. That has launched a Parent Engagement / Family Support initiatives. This project is hoping to develop some services within some of the schools in the Cregagh area. This work will focus on building parental capacity and establishing /building on paternal attachment. Incredible years programme continues to be delivered.
- **Julie Clark – Life:** updated members on the new befriending programme within children's home – children under 5. Organisation is actively recruiting befrienders. Project is open for referrals until early October.
- **Rosy Mc Lean - NI Alternative** – A wide range of programmes up and running currently.
- **Tracy Wilson – Surestart:** Continually changing programmes to meet the needs identified by parents and families. Tracy identified poverty as the biggest single factor that impacts on parents' overall wellbeing and poor mental health. Tracy reported an increase in the number of referrals / service users with additional needs. BME work and translation services continues to be a pressure point also.
- **Barbara Wallace - Eastside Partnership** advised Eastside Learning is currently completing the SIF funded Education Project. Funding has been secured to continue elements of the SIF programme through a 'Wrap Around Project' funded by the Department of Education under Fresh Start. Programmes such as parenting programmes, afterschool literacy and numeracy support and some family learning. In addition, ESL with the other Belfast Area Partnerships will deliver the Belfast City Council GCSE Support Programme across the city to provide community based and holiday revision support in East Belfast.
- **Stephen Cruise – Oasis** advised that the project continues to be very busy with a variety of initiatives under way. He advised that the Team 7 project for 14 to 25 year olds has been completed and has been very successful. A promotional Video for Oasis has been produced and it is anticipated that this will be available online shortly. This provides a good overview of Oasis Project in action and it includes personal journeys from service users.

## **8. Closing Remarks and Next meeting**

- **Tracy reminded members about the Take 5 initiative due to take place on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2019 (9.30am – 12.30pm) and will be held in East Belfast Network Centre.**
- **Tracy closed the meeting and thanked all for their attendance and participation.**
- **Next Locality Meeting.**

<b>13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019</b>	<b>EASTSIDE PARTNERSHIP BOARD</b>
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