**Children & Families Third Sector Forum**

**Tuesday 9th February 2021– via Zoom**

**1.30pm**

**1. Welcome:** Helen welcomed everyone to meeting

**Introductions:** Helen welcomed new members Monica & Mags to group

**In Attendance:**

Helen Davis (Chair), Alex Collop (Circle), Rania Qussas (FSS), Lesley Mount (Signpost), Wilma Murray (WL Carers), Raymond Branton (FCDWL) Beth Maclean (Safe Families), Lisa Drinnan (CAB), Hilda Dolan (YAP) Joanna (Linlithgow YP) Simon McGowan (Children 1st) Rosemarie McCabe (Children 1st) Stuart Barrie (Home Start) Mags Gray (Smile Counselling) Monica Mochar (Wellbeing Scot) Fiona Brown (WLDAS)

**2. Apologies:**

Daisy Drop-In - Dawn Henderson (Families Outside) Elaine Kinloch (Linlithgow YPP) - Diane Cameron (WLSEN), Alan (VSGWL).

**Notes from Previous Meeting:**

**Action** – Minutes from last meeting approved

**3. Children’s Services Plan – Update**

Raymond checking movement on COINS and updated that PDSP meeting had been held on Friday 15th January 21, plan is with W.L Council.

**Action:** Helen attending next CSP meeting being held on Monday 22nd February and will update group at next meeting.

**4 & 5. C & F Mental Health Partnership Development**

**Helen –** The key aspect of this meeting is to discuss the opportunity being presented by WLC to the third sector in West Lothian to form a partnership to provide key mental health services for children, young people and families, utilising the funds we aim to hold discussions as to the best mechanism to adopt, ensuring that the funds allocated are used in the most effective way and meet the gaps in services identified by WLC.

Helen discussed support from P 4 P project that supports agencies to look at partnership bids. Yvonne, support worker is happy to work with group on a way forward, if agreeable to group?

**WLSEN** – Introduction /information on support to the WL Mental health Forum.

Helen provided the update from Diane - brief introduction/ background to the Mental Health Forum . A new leaflet (draft) has already been sent out for comment to forum members. Diane happy to chat to anyone directly and Helen will pass on her contact details. **(Action Helen)**

**Simon** – Mental Health Funding - Attended meeting with W.L. Council to discuss Scottish Gov. Mental Health Funds that have been issued to WLC. £383K to be spent to provide support in relation to (Covid) impact. This is a one -year rollout from 2021 to 2022, one -off grant payment which will not be repeated. We need to demonstrate how the 3rd sector will fill this need. Mental health co-ordinators post to be created within WLC Social Policy in the next few months to do mapping exercise looking at identifying gaps in mental health supports. Simon made the point that there has been so many mapping exercises and discussions and that West Lothian already know the gaps.

There is also another £511k (Scottish Gov Funding) in next round of funding but WLC no plans yet on how this will be spent so if we can demonstrate positive impact with the £383k we should be in a much better position to be involved in future planning.

Simon has suggested that whole amount be given to 3rd sector to look at where are the gaps etc. WLC have shared key list of how they hoped funding would be spent with autism referral support being highly sought after along with support for children around domestic abuse, practical family/school attendance support, encouraging young males to engage in services along with children and families support. This is a good opportunity to demonstrate a new model of the third sector working pro-actively with W L Council. Downside is the timeframe. Simon informed group that Sarah Summers ( Chair of Wellbeing Recovery group) is moving on and her last day will be 28th February. Gillian Scott will be helping to take things forward. Sarah would like to have some indication on what we are thinking before she leaves. Today’s open discussion will be around whether this is something we can achieve? and how do we take things forward?

**Action Simon** - List of data and priorities to be passed to Helen to be distributed to group **Action Helen**

**Group Input:**

* **Helen** – Data has been produced from the Wellbeing Recovery Group. There are gaps and data will evidence the requirement of parental support, anxiety being passed from parent to child. Increase of domestic violence, increased support required for children & young people with ASD etc.
* **Raymond** - Constant issues and gaps, lots of parental support needed. We may need to look at bringing in additional partners to address highlighted gaps – e.g. Women’s Aid.. We need to look at how we can make realistic differences because not a massive amount of funding.
* **Lesley** - Need for physical space to talk, sometimes parents just need space to discuss anxiety.

Bereavement support for families, opportunity as a starting point – one year opportunity to heavily influence that 3rd sector can work and provide self-care programmes for families with children with autism.

* **Helen** will make link with new worker at CAMHS (Barry) and build new connections. **(Action Helen)**
* **Mags** - Stats from children from schools 50-55% experiencing relationship difficulties with family and peers, trying to understand if this is due to other issues or cycle and if we should develop self- care programme for adult and young people..
* **Simon -** Scale of challenge – Total of 525 primary, secondary and specialist education children/young people diagnosed with autism stage 3/4

Continued discussion took place on gaps and potential opportunities from third sector partners.

It was agreed thatonce we receive the details of gaps in services identified by WRG it would be good to keep connection with P 4 P on general procurement needs and models etc...Helen will liaise with Yvonne at P4P to establish if they can provide an information session, Raymond also agreed to do 5/10min workshop on the previous Supporting Families (PSP) model.

**Action –** Helen to arrange P4P session

It was agreed that group would start getting ideas together. Benefits and how they could contribute, providing the 3rd sector with the opportunity to show our credibility and expertise. We can ask P 4 P for advice but steer it ourselves

**Action** - Group to email Helen with suggestions and examples and any new ideas.

* **Simon** – Timescale is tight so we need to move quickly, rough draft needed for Sarah Summers to have a look over asap.

**AOCB:**

* **Raymond** - Managers Support Group meeting Friday 12th February

CCP board meets next month. Partners planning commissioning plan for those who get WLC Social Policy funding.

**Initial Meeting with P4P** -Wednesday 17th February 10am?  
 **Helen to inform group members of details**

**DONM:** Tuesday9th March - 1.30pm