**Children and Families Third Sector Forum – Tuesday 10th August 2021**

**Action note**

1. Welcome and Apologies

**Attending**

Helen Davis, Chair (YAP), Raymond Branton (FCDWL), Lesley Mount (Signpost), Alison Wright (Carers of West Lothian), Joanna van den Berg ( Firefly-arts), Andrew Murray (Safe Families), Monica ?? (WellBeing Scotland ), Denise Arbeiter (West Lothian Council), Rosemary McCabe (Children Ist), Xanthe Daziel-Carruthers (Carers of West Lothian), Alan McCloskey (VSGWL)

**Apologies**

Stuart Barrie (Homestart), Daisy Drop In, Rania Qussasi (WLFSS Action for Children), Declan Harrigan (Smile counselling), Wilma Murray (Carers of West Lothian), Simon McGowan (Children 1st), Alex Collop (Circle), Lisa Drinnan (CAB), Mark Kennedy (Circle), Fiona Brown (WLDAS)

1. Minutes of previous meeting / Matters arising

The note of the previous meeting was agreed for accuracy.

Helen advised that she was still progressing speakers for future meetings. All other actions completed.

1. Feedback from Children & Families Strategic Planning group meeting, ADP Children and YP sub group meeting, Community Safety group etc – brief update.

Helen updated on the key points arising from the Children & Families Strategic Planning group meeting. There is a feeling that the national risks based approach for Children may be vague. It was noted in West Lothian it was for >26s rather than those aged 18.

Helen advised that there was very little inclusion in the National review of Youth Justice. The local arrangement will be much more focussed.

She advised that the Gender based violence strategy needs assessment was being developed. There are concerns about the local rise in levels of violence however more research was required to understand the reasons behind this. The draft consultation strategy can be circulated.

**Action: Raymond to circulate the strategy to TSSG**

There was a general discusson around the Carers Scotland Act and young carers. Denise advised that she was the lead for West Lothian.. A Carers Support Plan Implementation Group had been established. The group will meet every 6 weeks. An action plan has been agreed and relevant members are included. The membership of the group will be extended moving forward. All to note Ian Buchanan`s report which included statistical information.

**Action: Helen to circulate papers**

Health and Wellbeing leads to be identified in the Children Services plan. The mapping work is ongoing.

Helen advised that the ADP Sub group included families and had developed links to the Blackburn ADP Working Group. This was in recognition of concerns raised in the local area. The local schools in Blackburn were involved with a focus on support, education prevention and diversion. Helen advised there may be a gap in the education area. Joanna added that changes in funding had impacted on the capacity to support. Denise commented that funding may be available and this could present a collective opportunity.

Helen advised that a variety of partners were involved in the Community Safety Partnership. Although the focus may not always be relevant to the Children & Families forum there could be issues for families and local communities that would be of interest. Helen can be contacted by any partner, and she would be happy to facilitate and feed concerns into the wider Partnership. She highlighted Housing as a valuable connection.

**Action: All to consider**

1. GIRFEC update and CLD Plan update

Helen advised that a short life Working group had been established locally. The lack of a national framework was an issue and guidance could be delayed until December. Significant case reviews highlighted the different reporting, measuring and assessment tools. Differing processes were hampering progress. Local process would be in place until Spring 2022 and would include training.

Helen thanked Raymond for circulating the CLD plan to colleagues. All felt that aspects were a bit vague but acknowledged this could have been deliberate. Alan confirmed that he had circulated the consultation documentation previously allowing partners to provide an input. It was acknowledged that there was a cross over between the Children Services plan and the CLD Plan. Helen agreed to collate any comments from members.

**Action: Helen to contact Beverley to discuss with Beverley to establish if additional comments could be submitted.**

1. C & F Mental Health Partnership development – Update

The next meeting of the group was on 18TH August. The majority of the Forum are involved in the group. Rosemary confirmed that the invoice had been paid. The funding period ran from Aug 21-Aug 22. More information would be provided at the upcoming meeting. Denise said she would chase up internal processes and update Rosemary accordingly. Helen highlighted schools referrals. Denise also offered to table a presentation about the role of the third sector.

**Action: Helen agreed to consider**

1. Agency updates – Protected time for any sharing of information

It was noted that the Commissioning Plan was still to be developed.

There was insufficient time to discuss this item fully. Helen agreed to proprise time at the next meeting.

**Action: Helen to rearrange agenda at future meeting.**

**Action: Raymond to circulate in due course.**

1. Funding – Info to be tabled at the meeting/ Partnership Opportunities

Helen advised she will arrange to circulate:

**Action: Helen to progress**

1. AOCB

Developments around the National Care Service for Scotland to be considered as agenda item on next meeting.

1. Future meeting dates :-
	1. 7th September 1.30-3pm
	2. 5th October 1.30-3pm
	3. 9th November 1.30-3pm
	4. 2nd December 1.30-3pm