Note of meeting of the Children and Families Third Sector Forum

Tuesday 15th March 2022

**1.00 – 2.30 pm – In person meeting
Riverside Community Wing, Maree Walk , Craigshill (attached to primary school), Livingston EH54 5BP**

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| Chair: | Helen Davis (WLYAP) | Note taker: | Tracy Kerr (VSGWL) |

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| Attendees: | Monica Mochar (WellBeing Scotland), Wilma Murray(Carers of West Lothian),  Raymond Branton(FCDWL),  Collette Moran(School Bank WL),  Fiona Brown(WLDAS),  Hazel Tyson(Circle),  Andy (Safe Families), Lesley Mount(Signpost),  Garry Walker(The Larder) |
| Apologies: | Daisy Drop In, Smile, Denise Arbiter (WLC), Joanna Van De Burg(Firefly), Rania Quassi (Action for Children), Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco), Elaine Kinloch (LYPP), Rosemary McCabe (Children 1st ) |

# Minutes

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| 1: | Welcome and Apologies |
| Helen welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for the good wishes after her accident.  |
| 2: | **Minutes of previous meeting** |
| Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed although it was pointed out that the date was incorrect. Elaine from LYPP was due to give a service update but was unable to attend. Actions:Elaine will reschedule to May leaving Gary from the Larder to give the service update at the April meeting.  |
| 3: | Brief update from meetings |
| Children & Families Strategic Planning group meetingRaymond gave an update from the meeting including advising that the child services plan annual report which some of the group had contributed to was at the final stage. The meeting was the last for Jim Cameron (Head of Education retiring) and Tim Ward ( Social Policy – new position with care Inspectorate).. It is not yet known who The Promise lead for West Lothian will be.  |
| ADP/ Whole Family Approach Helen gave an update on the Champions board advising that people are dropping away and there have been lots of cancellations of the steering group for The Promise – Louise Henry current WL Lead is moving on>Helen read an email from Denise Arbeiter who was unable to attend, giving an update on the C&YP outcomes framework and the core wellbeing indicator set. Concerns were raised over how it will all fit in with recent changes already made. The group questioned if organisations funded by the promise could get together and meet? No one was aware of any organizations in West Lothian that were funded by The Promise. Helen and the group hope this will move forward quicker now.  |
| PSP No update.  |
| Community Safety GroupThe most recent meeting reported no major problems. There have been some reported fires in Blackburn.  |
| Adult Mental Health Group .West Lothian Wellbeing is now live.  |
| 4 | Presentation – LYPP  |
| LYPP were unable to attend the rescheduled date and will now present at the meeting in May.  |
| 5 | Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework – Key Theme of the meeting - to gain views on themes being presented around mental health and wellbeing, gaps/ opportunities and priorities – Discussion. (Phone calls to those not present) |
| The following topics were discussed. What are the key mental health concerns everyone is noticing just now?* Anxiety –over a range of concerns including school, covid, finances, social anxiety, bullying, self harm, parental anxiety over children, medication
* Higher level of mental illness
* Service waiting lists are full
* Variance in thresholds for services
* Poverty helplessness
* Stigma over needing help
* Isolation and being forgotten by other agencies
* Lack of self esteem and self confidence
* Not knowing what help is available, lack of provision in schools.

Where are the wellbeing opportunities? * Keep roots
* Agency waiting lists are closed
* There are gaps in capacity and provision
* Short term support is an issue
* Longer term funding
* Counselling service has improved but funding only allows for specific age groups
* Age range is an issue
* Accessibility of times of services ie families struggle out with 9-5
* How to build resilience - community connection and compression has to be the answer.

Priorities for the future* Improve communication
* More joined up service and commissioning
* Longer term 3-5 year funding
* Longer timescales for funding applications
* Develop partnerships

Helen will contact those not present for further feedback. Many of the points raised are covered in the Hustings manifesto which Helen will send round again. ActionHelen to get further feedback from those not present. Helen to circulate Hustings manifesto.  |
| 6 | Draft Commissioning Plan – Ongoing item |
| Denise is meeting with Alan to agree the details of the fund. There has only been one meeting. Helen has asked Denise who will be the lead for this now.  |
| 7 | TSSG – Update (Raymond) & VSGWL – Update  |
| TSSG A Reminder that a hustings event is being held in Bathgate Regal on Tuesday 12th April 1-3. All organisations are welcome. Register on Eventbrite.  <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/local-election-hustings-event-with-third-sector-tuesday-12-april-1-3pm-tickets-296863515767>VSGWLVSGWL gave an update on the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund.  |
| 8 | Group member updates/ opportunities |
| A brief update was done from all organisations. CoWL advised that there had not been a great response to their questionnaire and asked if VSGWL could circulate again. **Action**Tracy to arrange the questionnaire to be promotes through VSGWL again.  |
| 9 | Next meetings - Future dates TBC, to link with TSSG schedules – Garry Walker (Larder presentation) at April meeting. |
| Next meeting will be on 19th April at 1pm Organisation Presentation from Garry Walker, The LarderVenue The Gateway, 20-22 20-22 King Street, Bathgate, EH48 1AX |