

Note of meeting of the Children and Families Third Sector Forum

Tuesday 21 February 2023

1.00 -2.30 hybrid on Teams and at Gateway

Chair: Helen Davis (WLYAP)

Note taker: Tracy Kerr (VSGWL)

Attendees: Tracy Clusker (WLDAS), Caroline Millar (Children 1st), David Gibson (Smile Counselling), Emma Jackson (Wellbeing Scotland), Gail McNair (Homestart), Hazel Tyson (Circle), Helen Davis (WLYAP), Jocelyn Crawford (Safe Families), Lesley Mount (Signpost), Wilma Murray (Carers of West Lothian), Donna Adams (Daisy Drop In), Karen Quinn (Daisy Drop In)

Apologies: Collette Moran (School Bank West Lothian), Corrie Boyd (Youth Homeless Prevention-Strategic Development Education Services), Denise Arbeiter (West Lothian Council), Fiona Brown (WLDAS), Garry Walker (The Larder), Jannette Mitchell (Action for Children), Raymond Branton (Playworks)

Agenda Item	Decision/Action	Action By
<p>1. Welcome and Apologies Helen welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted all apologies.</p>		
<p>2. Action note from previous meeting/ Matters arising All previous actions are complete. January minutes were agreed as accurate.</p> <p>Lesley Mount updated the forum that Signpost will be closing and came along to say goodbye in person. All noted her huge commitment and contribution to both the forum and the sector.</p>		
<p>3. Brief Feedback from other meetings Helen gave an update on the discussions held at the meetings she had attended.</p>		

Children & Families Strategic Planning group meeting

The recent meeting covered

- The report from Linda Roddie from Axion.
- An update from corporate parenting advising that they will be looking to consult on the corporate parenting plan.
- A conversation around the most effective way to engage with the group. Linda Roddie reported that the Axion consultation was successful in obtaining the information they needed by speaking to the Third Sector Children and Families Forum.
- Social Policy will be having an inspection.
- The Whole Family Wellbeing Fund is still being worked on.
- A reminder that the council are facing cuts to their budgets.

ADP/ Whole Family Approach PSP

The group have met and have a new structure however the budget has not yet been confirmed. The chair is keen to engage with the community going forward.

Community Safety Group

Weekly meetings are continuing with discussion around a concerning amount of fire raising incidents. The next meeting of the six weekly group, will be held in March.

The fire service have had an inspection with input from others from the group. Positive feedback was given about working with the fire service.

C&F Performance Framework working group

The longer term plan for this is being reviewed. Children first are in communication with West Lothian Council.

Food Network

Support for the food network was previously provided by The Foodbank however they are no longer able to continue support. Around 15 agencies, who are members of the network, have submitted a proposal to the council executive committee of how this will continue going forward.

Due to the detailed information required to be collected as part of the funding criteria from Scottish Government, some organisations have opted not to continue membership of the food network.

Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels (PDSP)

The third sector is now represented on all of the council PDSP's. All meetings are recorded and are available on the West Lothian Council youtube channel and papers are available to read on COINS.

www.youtube.com/@WLC-Committees/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf_id=0

<p>4. Agency Presentations – There was no agency presentation at this meeting however Helen asked that as many people as possible attend the March meeting where Simon McGowan, Youth Housing options team will be attending to ask for feedback on services in advance of an upcoming inspection. The next meeting will be extended to 2 hours to allow time for this. April's presentation will be on youth homelessness by Corrie Boyd and Nightstop.</p>	<p>Update March meeting to 2 hours.</p>	<p>Tracy</p>
<p>5. Trauma Informed Practice – standing item This is to be kept as a standing item on the agenda. Isobel Denholm will be invited to a future meeting but meanwhile Helen will ask for an update on what is happening within the council and how the sector can be involved.</p>	<p>Ask Isobel for the latest update on Trauma Informed Practice and to attend in April if there is time after the agency presentation.</p>	<p>Helen</p>
<p>6. WLC Children's Services Plan/ Performance Framework The draft of the services plan was sent out with the agenda for the meeting. Helen verbally covered the key points of the high level plan and asked that any feedback be provided to her.</p> <p>Members of the children and families forum met in December to decide on indicators for the third sector to use as measurement against the plan. This was submitted to West Lothian Council Helen is waiting for feedback but will circulate again to the forum again and asked for any suggested changes or additions to be sent to her.</p>	<p>All to look over the full version of the plan.</p> <p>Recirculate a note of the agreed indicators.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Helen</p>
<p>7. Mental Health Oversight Group - Update Meetings of the 4 workstreams are ongoing.</p> <p>Whole family wellbeing fund. This is open to submit expressions of interest. Helen will re circulate the information to all. Linda Roddie from Axion has completed the strategic needs assessment. Helen gave a brief verbal overview and will circulate when she can.</p>	<p>Circulate Whole Family Wellbeing Fund Information.</p>	<p>Helen</p>
<p>8. TSSG – Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no update as there has not been a TSSG meeting since the last children and families meeting. <p>VSGWL - Update</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 2 of the £469k Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund opened on 1 Feb with a deadline for applications of 23rd Feb. Unpaid Carers Fund - £30K of the initial £70K fund is remaining for a phase 2 of funding. This closed last week and decisions will be out soon. Two vacancies have been filled with Hayley as the Community Volunteer Support Development Officer and Ray filling a Volunteer/Governance Role. The Sector Support Assistant role has been advertised. 		
<p>9. Member Updates</p> <p>Circle have filled one post but are still recruiting for two part time posts. All are being asked to share and signpost anyone interested.</p> <p>Carers of West Lothian have decided not to re-recruit for the employability worker post.</p> <p>Daisy drop in have secured funding for their playworker. The number of people using their service is increasing with many groups restarting.</p>		
<p>10. AOCB/DONM</p> <p>Next meetings are 21 March & 25 April 1-2.30pm hybrid at The Gateway.</p> <p>It was noted that the current uncertainty with funding is creating difficulties with all services.</p>		