Note of meeting of the Children and Families Third Sector Forum

Tuesday 25 April 2023

**1.00 -2.30 hybrid** on Teams and at Gateway

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| Chair:Guest Speaker:  | Helen Davis (WLYAP)Lisa and Jemma (WLC) and Moreen Watson (RockTrust)  | Note taker: | Tracy Kerr (VSGWL) |

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| Attendees: Jannette Mitchell (Action for Children), Wilma Murray (Carers of West Lothian), Caroline Millar (Children 1st), Hazel Tyson (Circle), Elaine Kinloch (LYPP), Zoe Brown (NSPCC), Raymond Branton (Playworks), Moreen Watson (Rock Trust), Jocelyn Crawford (Safe Families ), Garry Walker (The Larder), Emma Jackson (Wellbeing Scotland), Denise Arbeiter (West Lothian Council), Fiona Brown (WLDAS)Apologies: Rosemary Sleith (Open Door Project), Karen Nailen (CAB), Helen Rashad (Firefly Arts), Gail McNair (Homestart), Declan Harrigan (Smile Counselling) |  |
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| **Agenda Item** | **Decision/Action** | **Action By** |
| 1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Helen welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted all apologies. It was noted that this is Elaine’s last meeting as she will be leaving LYPP last week after 14 years. Graham will be covering meanwhile until her post is filled. All wished Elaine the best for the future. It appears that Blackburn Family Centre will be closing. This will be a sad loss for the sector and the families of Blackburn. |  |  |
| 1. **Action note from previous meeting/ Matters arising**

The action note from the consultation with Simon will be sent around the forum members. No action points arose from this meeting.  | Tracy to send on action note from last meeting  | Tracy  |
| 1. **Brief Feedback from other meetings**

**Children & Families Strategic Planning group meeting** The pattern of these meetings have changed and the next meeting of the extended membership is 15th May. Denise noted that there is no third sector representation on the smaller priority group which meets every six weeks. Anyone interested in being the representative should contact Helen. **ADP/ Whole Family Approach PSP** Regular meetings are ongoing, and the wraparound project is moving forward. There are positive outcomes from ongoing collaboration with Barry Sherridan from West Lothian Council. **Community Safety Group**The most recent meeting was cancelled, the next one will be on 23 May. Helen advised that there is now a direct service to raise safety concerns for women and girls. Helen will check if this is a separate email address and advise the forum. **Food Network**The new structure has been approved in principle and is moving forward. The steering group is made up of 15 organisations who have been working on obtaining funds for the first quarter and a development day with a focus now on future funding and governance. Partial funding for The Gateway to lead the network has been obtained through Whole Family Wellbeing Fund. **Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels (PDSP)**Helen will be attending the public and community session PDSP on Thursday. Helen asked that anyone with any feedback to get in touch. At the education PDSP held at the end of February, Raymond raised the gap in service with Signpost closing. The issue was not answered within the meeting and he has subsequently been made aware that West Lothian Council offered to meet with Signpost but the dates offered were after the closing date of the service. The next meeting of this PDSP is 16th May.  | Helen to send out a request for all to consider representing the third sector on the smaller priority group. Helen to confirm email for safer women and children. Tracy to circulate..  | HelenHelen/Tracy |
| 1. **Agency Presentations –** Lisa and Jemma from the Youth Housing team within West Lothian Council and Moreen Watson from RockTrust gave a presentation on youth homelessness.

Lisa, who works for Action for Children is currently working alongside Jemma in youth homelessness in West Lothian Council to identify and support young people at risk of, or recently homeless. They asked that organisations working with people at risk get in touch with them as early as possible. Moreen works in Rocktrust on the Nightstop service in Edinburgh and West Lothian. Nightstop provides an alternative to bed and breakfast accommodation for a young person without a bed by using volunteers who provide a bed, breakfast and evening meal for a young person.If anyone knows any potential volunteers for Nightstop, please contact Moreen. Email addresses will be sent out and shared as a point of contact for any young people of concern.  |  |  |
| 1. **Trauma Informed Practice – standing item**This is to be kept as a standing item on the agenda.

There was discussion on the topic which indicated that nothing has moved forward. Some organisations can provide training and it was suggested that a section could be added to the forum section of the VSGWL website to collate this information. Helen will speak to Isobel to get an update from the council on what is being done and ask if they have a central resource. Garry forwarded on an email which had been sent out in advance of the Mental Health Oversight Group meeting for training which related to trauma informed practice.  |  Tracy to check if pdf of trauma informed services could be added to the VSGWL website. Helen to speak to Isobel  | Tracy Helen |
| 1. **WLC Children’s Services Plan/ Performance Framework**

Helen will ask Denise for an update and forward on to the rest of the forum members.  |  |  |
| 1. **Mental Health Oversight Group - Update**

Feedback will be given after the upcoming meetings have been held. **Whole Family Wellbeing Fund**Seven proposals were received from third sector organisations. These have now been assessed and all advised of the outcomes. Approved proposals will go through finance and onto the strategic planning group for discussion and agreement.  |  |  |
| 1. **TSSG – Update**

Minutes of the TSSG meetings are shared on the VSGWL website here www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/working-together/west-lothian-third-sector-employability-forum**VSGWL - Update*** Communities Mental Health funding has been confirmed for year 3 by the Scottish Government. Once the figure for West Lothian has been confirmed VSGWL will share on their website.
* The new sector support assistant will be starting with The Gateway at the beginning of May.
* The closing date for the Lothians Child Protection Procedure consultation is Friday 28th April. Tracy will forward the details for all to consider responding.
 |  Tracy to email out consultation details.  |  Tracy  |
| 1. **Member Updates**

No members updates were given |  |  |
| 1. **AOCB/DONM**

The next meeting is on 30th May hybrid as usual either online or in person at The GatewayThe meeting on Tuesday 27th June will either be online or if Carers of West Lothian have availability, can be hosted hybrid at their offices.  | Wilma to check availability of space at CoWL for meeting on 27th June.  | Wilma |