

Children and Families Third Sector Forum

Tuesday November 28th

1-2.30pm, Hybrid

Chair: Helen Davis (WLYAP)

Note taker: Victoria Isbister (VSGWL)

28.11 Attendees:

Caroline Millar (Children's First)	Raymond Branton (Play Works)	Tracy Kerr (VSGWL)
Garry Walker (The Larder)	Gail McNair (HomeStart)	Zoe Brown (NSPCC)
Arlaine Barbour	Sharlene Boyd (WLC)	Stuart Barrie (VSGWL)

28.11 Apologies:

Jocelyn Crawford (Safe Families)	Janette Mitchell (Action for children)
Daisy Drop in	Andrew Murray (Safe Families)
Lynne Young (Mindroom)	Fraser Tayelor on A/L (Venture Trust)
Fiona Brown A/L (WLDAS)	Moreen Watson (Rock Trust)
Wilma Murray (COWL)	Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco)
Hazel Tyson (Circle)	Elaine Campbell (PJ foundation)

1. Welcome & Apologies.

Helen welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared apologies. Helen apologised for not getting last Forum minutes out due to work demands and ran through actions outstanding (see end). There has been some difficulty agreeing a date with Louise so there is no presentation today arranged. Minutes agreed.

2. Brief Feedback from other meetings

- a. Children & Families Strategic Planning Group / Alcohol Drug Partnership (ADP): There was a rushed timetable with lots of partners sharing information. It was felt that Mike Reid's presentation would have been better with visual slides of information which then could be circulated. Meeting tomorrow to discuss this.
- b. ADP / Whole Family Approach PSP: Looking at whole approach and funding. Continuing to explore early intervention and prevention as well as treatment. Increased drug use has been seen around the community which is presenting a few services with issues.
- c. Community Safety Group: Uncertain if Board has met recently. There were some incidents on November 5th (Guy Fawkes) however not as bad as last year or as bad as social media reports. A fire engine was damaged (broken window, no injury). Streetworks continuing to work with young people and partner agencies on responsibility and intervention. The area was contained in Blackburn. The event in Craigshill was unlicensed. A working group will continue to explore firework free zones – resources are a challenge.
- d. Food Network: Good representation at face-to-face business critical meeting and clear discussion on next steps. Overall majority voted to move on with SCIO (legal

structure). Call of action was sent out to Councillors highlighting food poverty issues. At the moment there is no funding allocation from the Scottish Government from April 2024 which would have a huge impact on many small organisations e.g., supplying food vouchers, hot meals. Raymond advised he had an email exchange with a Councillor discussing the issues and raising awareness. Raymond said they are seeing new families every week and everyone expects to see more demand over winter.

3. Agency Presentation

No guest speaker this time.

4. 16 Days of Action

Victoria emailed out information from Caroline to help raise ongoing awareness of key issues.

5. Third Sector Employability Forum

Meeting tomorrow - LEP update is main agenda item. The Consortium bid dominated last meeting. Brief feedback from meeting held at the Gateway yesterday from Garry who advised that they have been successful in Lot 1 and 2 however unclear on awards. Now in standstill period until 30th. Angela and Beverly attending a meeting later in the week. There have been difficulties with the process overall.

6. The Promise

Unable to discuss today but hoping Louise can attend future meeting. Ongoing process.

7. Supporting the Third Sector project

The two people running the project are willing to explore ideas and enthusiastic to work in West Lothian. Helen said that the Third Sector are well represented and have a lot of links and local structures (such as PDP). Helen feels positive that things are going to move forward. Proposal to potentially have an additional meeting early January to give all members opportunity to ask questions.

8. Mental Health Oversight Group

Now a long-term group with four separate subgroups. A lot of work moving forward in this area. Single point of access – such as an app – is still end goal but lots of complexities.

9. Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

There hasn't been a meeting recently however Sharlene is meeting Susan tomorrow after which hopefully some momentum. Delays down to recruitment, who can participate. Discussions surrounding referral routes and reporting. Raymond said he is Governance Group sector representative as no active interest in any project.

10. TSSG

No recent meeting or update. Next meeting December 7th.

11. VSGWL

- ❖ All welcome at Christmas Networking event (drop in) Tuesday December 19th 3-5pm: <https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/event/festive-networking-event/>
- ❖ Members survey results published yesterday, positive feedback.
- ❖ Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund year 3 ongoing – decisions published next week.
- ❖ Riverside Primary – office equipment pick up tomorrow.

12. Member updates

- Raymond advised that information is coming out this week about Craigsfarm who are open to notes of interest both from organisations to run things or for new trustees to make up a new board. It is a viable organisation who are hoping to find a new way forward. Brief discussion surrounding importance of Craigsfarm.
- Zoe (NSPCC) new service for children experiencing loneliness up to 19 empower young people, referral form, free, all online, 11 weeks, 1 hourly sessions Mon – Fri: Building connections. No waiting list at the moment.

Helen wished everyone a relaxing time ahead of upcoming holidays and Forum wished Garry well with his impending new arrival.

Next meeting dates

Tuesday 23rd January 1-2.30pm *Hybrid* at the Gateway

Tuesday 20th February 1-2.30pm *Hybrid * at the Gateway

Tuesday 19th March 1-2.30pm *Hybrid* at the Gateway

Circulate Strategic planning presentation slides	Helen
Share West Lothian GIRFEC Report	Helen
Connecting	Zoe
Feedback to Mike for clarity on presentation	Helen
January presentation / Denise (Record and add to Gateway website)	Sharlene
Volunteers needed for mini working group	Caroline and Douglas - ongoing
Confirm with Louise presentation at future C&F forum	Caroline and Douglas
Supporting the Third Sector project – gathering information then feedback	Helen
Supporting the Third Sector – circulate information and book meeting January	Victoria / Helen
Send Calendar invites through outlook	Victoria (completed)