*Children and Families Third Sector Forum*

Tuesday August 20th, 1-2.30pm, Hybrid

**Chair:** Helen Davis (WLYAP)

**Note taker:** Victoria Isbister (VSGWL)

**Present:**

Wilma Murray (COWL) Tracy Kerr (VSGWL) Caroline Millar (Children’s First)

Tracy Murdoch (Kidzeco) Douglas Guest (Circle) Hayley Burton (Xcite)

Karen Nailen (CAB) Hazel Tyson (Circle) Gail McNair (Home-start)

Lynne Young (Mindroom)

**Apologies:** Raymond Branton (Play Works), Garry Walker (The Larder), Zoe Brown (NSPCC)

1. Welcome

Helen welcomed everyone to the meeting. June action note was circulated by email, approved. Previous actions reviewed. Survey completed, 9 responses - agreed Hybrid meeting every 2nd month. Helen has some no vaping posters but looking for more – some emerging concerns of Spice in vapes, reported in England, unsure if this is evident in Scotland, Helen will check with WLDAS and Laura Dougall in NHS Public health An increase in asthma referrals due to vaping use noted by Hazel (Circle) and general adverse effects.

1. Agency Presentation

Helen advised the summer had been quite hectic for WLYAP so had not been able to organise an agency presentation for this month. Agreed to approach: Child Poverty officer, Firefly and WL Thrive.

1. Brief Feedback from other meetings
2. **Children & Families Strategic Planning group meeting**

No inspection date yet for social policy. Last Children’s Rights forum was postponed. Young people had voted on a logo and were going to be asked onto mental health operational group, part of which is looking at Website development - draft out last week for feedback. Low scale launch on Sept 20th Roadshow (networking event) in Winchburgh at Sinclair Academy.

1. **Alcohol Drug Partnership**

Executive meeting this Thursday. Input (report format) from WLDAS, Circle and WLYAP. Operational group never really got off the ground. Need to ensure Third Sector outcomes are included in future Children Services Plan, initial meeting with Denise Arbiter was positive. Hoping there will be more staffing going forward to support ADP.

1. **Whole Family Approach PSP**

Waiting to see financial % increase. Scoping exercise for evaluation has now closed, don’t know yet who has been successful.

1. **Community Safety group**

Meeting tomorrow. No representation now from Third Sector due to Council reshuffle. ASB Young people – not huge amounts of reports over Summer. Morrisons Bathgate experiencing theft. Importance of reporting incidents to police (can be online, can be anon) discussed again as this will promote action.

[Contact us | Police.uk (www.police.uk)](https://www.police.uk/pu/contact-the-police/report-a-crime-incident/)

1. **Food Network**

Second meeting tomorrow of trustees. 17 organisations in total. Funding ends March 2025 so will be exploring sustainability. A lot of work still to be done.

1. **Climate action group:** Meeting tomorrow
2. **Child Poverty Steering Group :** Karen wasn’t at last meeting, will circulate minutes.
3. **Whole Family Wellbeing** – Has moved on a little from KPI’s
4. The Promise

Caroline and Douglas met following developmental session in June. Caroline was hoping to connect informally to get a sense of where we are at and intentions. Douglas feels things in general seem to be on pause following publishing of the plan. No meeting dates in diary.

[Welcome to Plan 24-30, Scotland's route map to keeping the promise by 2030 (plan2430.scot)](https://www.plan2430.scot/)

1. Mental Health Oversight Group

Trauma event – Sept 10th. Various meetings. Good events previously.

1. Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

Carers got funding which they used to pay for a support worker. The Gateway received money for managing Food Network. WLYAP is working in partnership with Youth Justice, but process is slow, partly due to council staffing. Assess and Connect (ACT), is the new service. Some expectation to ‘turn kids round’ in 3 months, however building positive working relationships with some young people can take months. Good project as extra support for families. KPI’s – performance measurement for government funding.

1. Third Sector Strategy Group (TSSG) – Meeting on Thursday
2. Volunteer Sector Gateway West Lothian (VSGWL)
* Income Max event for social enterprises 28th August 3-4.30pm in person.
* Functional Reflexology Awareness 5th September 10-12am. Taster session.
* Self-Harm Network Scotland offers free online training for either 1 hour or 3-hour sessions.   [Self-Harm Network Scotland Events - 17 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.sg/o/self-harm-network-scotland-67686722463)
* The NSPCC has just launched its Listen Up, Speak Up campaign across the UK aimed at empowering everyone to know what to do if they are ever worried about a child or family. They are offering organisations and groups a free one-hour training workshop which can be delivered face-to-face or online. Including Volunteers.
* Keep an eye on social and emails for info on launch of CMH – currently preparing guidance notes and application.
1. AOCB

**a. Terms of Reference review**

Circulated by email and shared online. This forum is important for sharing connections and is recognised by Council. Some updates made to draft online. Otherwise agreed.

**b. Forum chair role**

Helen happy to speak to anyone interested in this role as Helen has sat for longer than 2 years.

1. Member updates – any pertinent matters
* Caroline has been seconded into another role within West Lothian but will remain connected to groups she is involved with. Funding until end of March 25, Bairns House, model based on trauma and recovery for victims or witnesses. Supporting young people through this journey. Linking in with various partners inc Police PF and health.
* Kidzeco: Bathgate shop closed for 10 weeks for staff and customer safety due to ASBH. Crowd funder June/July for improvements including anti climb paint and CCTV. Reopened last Monday, 100 families. Support groups will start back start of September. Appreciated community support. Spoke about the continued difficulties with town centre safety issues – incidents have been reported but don’t seem to be getting passed on. General increase in threatening behaviour in Bathgate – not just by young people.
* Community Mental Health team event October 10th, Strathbrock
* Hayley introduced herself and spoke about her new role with Xcite as partnership and funding manager. Would like to build partnerships. Small pot of funding to deliver youth basketball Broxburn, connected to ASB, trying to work with the young people to see the areas as an asset and not vandalise.

**Meeting Dates:** 1pm - 2.30pm, Tuesday

October 22nd December 17th February 18th

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Feedback on website - WestSpace | Helen / Victoria to circulate |
| Police consultation – how do people want information and do they feel included | Helen / Victoria to circulate |
| Circulate Child poverty minutes | Karen (CAB) |
| Interested in forum chair position | All members to Helen |
| Meeting dates 25/26 – sit in middle TSSG | All members to Helen |
| CMH event date information | Tracy Kidzeco to circulate |