Third Sector Forum: Children and Families

Tuesday December 17th 1pm-2.30pm

Chair: Helen Davis (WLYAP)

Minute Taker: Victoria Isbister (VSGWL)

Attending: Laura Cain (WLC), Sharlene Boyd (WLC), Zoe Brown, Tracy Kerr (VSGWL), Caroline, Douglas, Electra McPhillips (Firefly Arts)

Apologies: Garry Walker (The Larder), Wilma Murray (Carers), Hazel Tyson (Circle), Daisy Drop in, Fiona Brown (WLDAS), Simon Henderson (Play Works), Tess Hamilton (Cyrenians)

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** Helen opened the meeting.
2. **Agency Presentation: Short Breaks Service:** [Laura.Cain@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.Cain@westlothian.gov.uk)

* Please see presentation
* Promoting in local communities – supermarkets, job fairs. Raising awareness.
* Setting the scene – family-based care service, Organisational structure, Short breaks
* Happy for members to share presentation
* How long are short breaks and what frequency – child led however would like to offer more. 1 night a month / every other month / a week in summer.
* If there is someone interested in being a carer – enquiry form on the website or can email in
* Family support workers and Pupil support workers who work term time – these people know the kids for assisted support needs so well.
* Trying to work creatively with recruitment

1. **Agency Presentation: Firefly Arts: Electra McPhillips:** [hello@westlothianff.scot](mailto:hello@westlothianff.scot)

* Please see presentation
* 30-year history and What’s next! Founded 1987.
* Who are we? Our Board, Our Values (Accessibility), Recent projects: Explorers, Navigators, Voyagers.

1. **In work poverty project update: CAB: Karen Nailen** – c/f Feb Agenda
2. **Action note Oct, actions and matters arising.**

Previous minutes amendment: Mark Vance – WLDAS (not smile). Westspace pack not received yet, Helen will share when available, there are posters and leaflets available. No interest received for Forum chair position – Helen happy to continue. Please get in touch if interested in Vice position. Tuesday 1pm agreed forum day and time. Next meetings - Feb 18th and April 22nd. Can slot in extra dates if required. Simon H is taking over from Raymond at Play Works – welcome addition, will join Children and Families strategic group along with Simon McGowan from Children’s 1st. New TSSG chair is Louise Crozier (CAB). Helen will link in with Louise. PDSP deputy reps – if anyone interested, please get in touch. [Policy Development Scrutiny Panels (PDSP) - Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian](https://www.voluntarysectorgateway.org/working-together/policy-development-scrutiny-panels-pdsp/) We are trying to be more active. Important platform.

1. **Feedback from other meetings**
2. Children & Families Strategic Planning group meeting – Helen wasn’t able to attend this, Helen will send out minutes.
3. Alcohol Drug Partnership –Survey was circulated and up to date information was useful regarding substance abuse. Naloxone training well received through WLDAS and helped remove some stigma. Vaping continues to be a concern and is difficult to manage as no NHS public statement. Vaping supports smokers who wish to quit unfortunately, a lot of young people are getting involved in vaping. Ash Scotland have a small pocket of money for a vaping campaign and Helen is meeting with them first week in January. No data-based evidence yet to say where harms are. Environmental issue also with disposal. Government have taken acted by stopping single use vapes.
4. Whole Family Approach PSP: Mike Reid chairs. Positive news, uplift of £13k next year, much appreciated. Re-request for Circle to continue piece of work, 18hr post from existing small budget. Meeting in January.
5. Community Safety group – TAC, Helen no longer sits on this as WLYAP contract changed. Current anti-social behaviour not too bad, some issues in Livi centre. WLYAP working with police and security guards. Also working with a group of young people who have huge alcohol and drug issues and keen to work with WLYAP. None in full time education (on part time timetables) and engaging in risk behaviour. Have a good connection with Craig Turner, AC team, Whole family wellbeing fund. Safeguarding training. Programme on last night about Telegram - social media platform which has not been well monitored. Just finished 16 days of action, positive stories.
6. Food Network – Moving ahead however struggling with funding. Will be working on National Lottery application. Ray (VSGWL) has submitted application for Robertson Trust. Next meeting January. Demand getting busier, especially as 2 pantries have closed in Armadale; orgs are looking at how to meet need.
7. Climate Action Group – Tracy attended last week. Big event next year Howden Park centre, orgs only am, public pm. Working with young people – Helen will meet with Neil to follow up.
8. Child Poverty Steering Group (Karen, CAB) – no update this month.
9. **The Promise (Caroline / Douglas)**

There has been a bit of a lull. Caroline fedback from PIP meeting last week which spoke about new plan 24-40. Louise Whitlock talked about updating Promise Scotland website which is welcome as approach has felt fragmented. What is the WL plan? Pip meetings next year will be themed, last weeks was education. There is opportunity for different areas to collaborate. Third sector is so vast and varied – how do we capture what’s important (Event held with Children and Families Forum in June). Caroline keen to make meaningful input, asking how do we move the narrative forward? And stop it moving ahead without us. What are other areas doing? What can we do? Layered, so much additionality. Trust project are at the College – Pip session. Collaborative meet every 2 months. Caroline can send Helen dates of events next year to see where can link in, in person best for useful conversations. Would benefits from a designated resource, some TSI’s have a designated Children and Families worker.

1. **Mental Health Oversight Group**

Various workstreams, developing website is main focus - Health in Mind and Westspace.

1. **Whole Family Wellbeing Fund**

Development session was cancelled. Rescheduled for January.

1. **Third Sector Strategy Group**

Presentations from Stuart about PDSPs and Tracy on VSGWL new Service Locator test site and spoke about next steps.

1. Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian

* Community centre review – held meeting here with management committees and Joint forum. Positive feedback. Interesting to hear everyone’s comments and journeys.
* Communities mental health fund – panel has met and decisions made. Successful
* Sivitas consultancy, social enterprise, 1 day a week, Jan – Dec
* Sustainable funding Scottish government, national insurance increase impact on sector, TSI network to government. Comment surrounding lack of impact assessment. Challenging environment.
* Service Locator will be launched next year. Looking to have up to date information on all services and groups to help Users locate information quickly and easily . Tuesday afternoon student volunteer updating Salesforce. Extended work placement through schools. Orgs will have a simple form which will . Alan and Tracy meeting with HSCP in January as they are also working on a directory. Least onerous on the Orgs.
* Dec 18th – Networking Event 3-5pm: all welcome for hot drink and
* Jan 22nd – Support event for sector leaders
* Feb 18th – evening networking recognising that
* Communities’ benefits gateway

1. Members updates
2. Date of next meeting: 1-2.30pm \*Hybrid\* at the Gateway: Tuesday Feb 18th 1pm – 2.30pm

Actions

1. 3rd week of month – June, August, October, December.