



Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum

"Working together, sharing our knowledge skills and resources to support children, families and communities to reach their full potential".

Monday 25th January 2021
2pm – 4pm
Zoom

Attendees

Winnie Delaney	Aberlour
Jennifer Sherlock	Committed to Ending Abuse
Sharon Laing	Aberlour
Christine Brown	Falkirk Council
Arlene Mannion	Social Security Scotland
Jo McCorriston	Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Carers Centre
Janine Rennie	Wellbeing Scotland
Daniel Rooney	Wellbeing Scotland
Norman Philip	Barnardos
Scott Malcolm	CVS Falkirk

Minutes

Welcome, introductions and apologies.

Review of previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted.

CYP Engagement

SM informed the group of the work the Children's Rights and Engagement Group are with regards to engaging CYP in strategic decision making.



The group is currently consulting with Children and Young People (CYP) around feeding into the planning of the Integrated Children's Services Plan (ICSP) and also the incorporation of United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Currently we have a link to a sway presentation which aims to build capacity of CYP through information they might need and relevance in order that they can make informed decisions. Surveys are contained within the Sway but are also available separately.

We have found that people view the sway but do not complete the forms. One thought is that added facilitation, or even taking the time to ask CYP to complete the attached form, may improve the number of responses.

It would be great if organisations could invite CYP to participate.

The ICSP consultation asks what is important to CYP and build upon previous work, however anyone can take part from this stage.

The UNCRC asks which article resonates with CYP, again anyone can take part.

VSCSF Communications

Group communication between physical meetings was discussed.

SM suggested that online communication may include smaller organisation who could benefit from the experience of more established. It could also serve as a central resource of information which can be shared and accessed by all.

There were some concerns around new technologies, however it was agreed that some of the group would participate in a trial.

Action: SM to send Joining Instructions to Tapatalk VSCSF Forum.

It was also suggested that Microsoft Teams might be a better solution as organisations were already working in partnership in this way.

Action: SM to ask if CVS can administer a trial Multi-Agency working group on MS Teams on behalf of the VSCSF.

WD asked if the current level of email communication was too much. The group felt that there was a need for the amount of information and agreed to carry on sending information as requested.

This can be reviewed dependant on the outcomes of trialling other communication methods as mentioned previously.



Partnership Meeting Updates

Mental health and wellbeing service manager for you people is Jude Breslin – just been awarded the role. So, for people who are not applicable for Calms this is where this service will come in.

Employ research fellow.

Integrated Children's Services Plan – thinking of changing the name – consulting with children.

Are people aware of the practitioner's page? They are currently being updated.

Child Poverty Action Report – voluntary sector to share information on supported families – sally keen to know about the financial assistance – WD speak to sally I can share/collate information.

Cash First – could we do a third sector one.

- Mental health
- Education
- Social Isolation

Organisational Updates

Social Security Scotland

Currently 2 benefits relevant to CYP and Families.

Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is now open for applications Scottish Child Payment is a new payment for families on tax credits or certain benefits to help towards the costs of looking after a child. It is £40 paid every four weeks for each child under six.

The payment starts on Monday 15 February 2021, with first payments made from the end of February onwards, but Social Security Scotland is taking applications now to help manage demand.

You can apply if your child will be under six on 15 February 2021.

The qualifying benefits are:

- Child Tax Credit

- Income Support
- Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

Social Security Scotland will ask for evidence that the person applying is responsible for a child under six, usually through the child being named on a benefit claim form.

If more than one person applies for the same child, there is a process for deciding who gets the payment - prioritising the person who the child lives with most of the time.

Scottish Child Payment will not be considered for UK benefit and tax credit assessments and there is no cap on the amount of children this payment can support.

First payments will be made from late February onwards. When someone gets paid will depend on how many applications we get and the process each individual application goes through.

If someone applied before Monday 15 February 2021, this will be the date that their payment will be calculated from. If they apply after this date, it will be calculated from the date that they applied.

Payments will be made every four weeks following the first payment.
[Find out more information and apply](#)

School Age Payment

The Best Start Grant School Age Payment is a new £250 payment to help with the costs of preparing for school when a child is first old enough to start Primary school.

Eligibility is based on the age of the child.

The application window for children who were born between 1 March 2014 and 28 February 2015 is now closed.

The application window for children born between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016 opened on 1 June 2020 and closes on 28 February 2021.

Even if the child's school start has been deferred until next year, or if the child is not going to start school at all, parents or carers of children born between 1 March 2015 and 29 February 2016 should still apply for the payment by 28



February 2021. If they do not apply within this window, they will not be able to receive the payment.

For more information call Social Security Scotland on 0800 182 2222.

Falkirk Council

CB would like to link in with the VSCSF in order to Facilitate Newly Qualified Social Workers and Third Sector Organisation meeting to introduce themselves and their work in order to foster better partnership and multiagency work, through better relationships and communication.

VSCSF will share information on their services via an online and will set up a meeting between VSCSF and Newly Qualified Social Workers.

Action: VSCSF to collate info from organisations then have a meeting where we can put faces to names

NP made the point that phone referrals prompt discussion around cases which provide more pertinent information than completing a referral form.

Action: Winnie to look at VSCSF terms for relevant fields to complete service information form.

AOCB

Next meeting – 18.03.21