

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."

Thursday 8th October 2020
10am - 12pm
Zoom

Present:

Scott Malcolm (Acting Chair)
Geoff Reid (GR)
Winnie Delaney (WD)
Kim Carey (KC)
Jo McCorriston (JMc)

CVS Falkirk
SACRO
Aberlour
Aberlour
Central Carers

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed forum members to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 27.08.20

The forum agreed the minutes were an accurate record.

3. Food Network Future Service Provision Development

A meeting was held where proponents of various options, regarding future food provision, could be asked questions regarding their proposed options by representatives from 3rd Sector Community Groups. Following the discussion there was a survey created so that organisations had a chance to make it known which option would benefit the communities they provide services to.

Once the survey closed a report was produced and sent to Falkirk Council in order that the thought of the third sector be represented at any future discussion at elected member level.

4. Children's Commission Leadership Group (new member required to attend 2 meeting in 2020)

GR nominated himself to attend these 2 meetings and if relevant to his work and role he will continue.

Next meetings:

27th October 2.30pm-4.30pm

1st December 2.30pm-4.30pm

WD sent action log to GR for context and info from previous meetings.

5. Sharing examples of effective working practices during 'Lockdown'.

JMc - Working from home promotes "doing things" due to being at your computer while on the meeting and also reduced travel time.

JMc – Carers centre has adopted the use of online forms, which has dramatically cut down workers time in admin processes and freed up more time for them to be working with service users. Cutting out the data entry part of various processes. They use Jotforms although other providers are available such as Microsoft and Gmail. This led on to a conversation about who currently used Microsoft Teams and the information that Falkirk Council were moving over to MS Teams. With this in mind I have proactively produced a basic factsheet about how smaller third sector organisations can access for free.

Action: Scott to share with group once completed

This prompted a discussion about remapping services due to changes, such as more online provision. I mentioned I had been thinking about mapping and was conscious that many organisations were about to start mapping processes for various reasons and would it be better if those stakeholders got together and produced one mapping document instead of organisations being approached multiple times. The consensus was that this would be a good idea.

With regards to effective working processes it was mentioned that MentiMeter is a good way to gather opinions from people while on conference calls and is more interactive, displays live results, although involved using a mobile phone.

Carers Centre staff are keen to start back working with service users face to face. Some activities have started back, which might be a reason that online engagement has reduced recently and shows that young people are not as engaged with online activities as they used to be. There could be other reasons for this such as sharing the computer or room with others etc.

6. Partnership Meeting Updates

Children's Commission Leadership Group

Terminology around forms is causing confusion with organisations and, more importantly, families. So there has been discussion in CCLG to change some of the terminology around processes and forms to make things easier to understand.

Community Wellbeing Framework funding will be coming through soon and will be used to employ a staff member at Grade M. Could be internal (Falkirk Council) or third sector.

GIRFEC group requiring £12,000 for resources and were looking for donations

ICSP was due December but is likely to be pushed back to march and the plan will cover 2021-2023.

CYPIC is preparing for engagement with CYP phase 2 which will validate previous responses, data analysis and methods used (preparing notes for facilitators). In the future we will be looking to reach marginalised young people through organisations like yourselves to have more CYP represented in the planning process. A report will then be produced and given to children's commission. This project will inform ICSP, children's commission and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

7. Organisation Updates

Aberlour

Enquired about Food provision due to a recent case where a service user requires food.

Action Complete: SM to Liaise with Roots near Denny to enquire about their service provision and connect with WD

Passed details of Denny Community Support Group are apparently doing parcels until October

Sacro

GR discussed an increase in serious offences such as absconding and drug and alcohol use – this could potentially be attributed to boredom.

FDAMH

ID noted an increase in contact from school aged service users.

CVS Falkirk

CEO has moved on and interim CEO is now Victoria McRae

8. AOCB

Next meeting – Thursday 5th November 2020 10am-12pm