

## Voluntary Sector Children's Services – Falkirk Third Sector Forum

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020  
2pm-4pm  
Zoom

### Minutes

#### Attendees

Scott Malcolm	CVS Falkirk
Geoff Reid	SACRO
Gill Winters	Social Security Scotland
Allan Robertson	Social Security Scotland
Diane Cairns	Time for us (Transform FV)

#### Services during Covid-19

Services currently being delivered under Covid-19 were discussed by the attendees. It was felt that finding out what services are currently being offered within 3<sup>rd</sup> sector children's services would be beneficial to all. So I suggested sending out a short form to be completed which will capture that information.

CVS will collate using a form and send round to all on VSCS mailing list

Organisation	Contact	Current Services	Renewal Notes	Problems	Services during School Holidays	Contributed to ICSP?

#### COVID-19: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABILITIES - JUNE EVIDENCE BRIEFING

CVS mentioned the recent COVID-19: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABILITIES - JUNE EVIDENCE BRIEFING and some of the themes which have emerged.

Forum members requested that this be sent round the mailing list.

#### Food during School Holidays

Apparently, schools were not providing meals for children and young people during the school holidays, but this decision has now been reversed.

**Action:** CVS to investigate or other organisations to confirm

#### Integrated Children's Services Plan

Production of the ICSP was delayed until the end of June, however Councils now have more time to produce this due to Covid-19

Falkirk Council's Integrated Children's Services Plan is underpinned by Joint Strategic Needs Assessment developed by Community Planning Improvement Group. Information will also be provided by Falkirk Council CLD groups and from CYP engagement through CYPIC project all of which will inform the next ICSP and plans going forwards.

If orgs have not contributed to the ICSP through the Wider Commission Event earlier in the year or through the Voluntary Sector Children's Services Forum and would like to please email Scott Malcolm: [scott.malcolm@cvsfalkirk.org.uk](mailto:scott.malcolm@cvsfalkirk.org.uk).

The 4 Priorities of ICSP are:

- Mental Wellbeing
- Poverty
- Family Support
- Children's Rights

### **CYPIC update**

A collaborative project with the Children and Young Peoples Improvement Collaborative was undertaken earlier in the year. 2 3<sup>rd</sup> sector representatives (Scott Malcolm, CVS Falkirk and Geoff Reid from Sacro) along with Jude Breslin and Mark Meechan from Falkirk Council attended training from Scottish Government and Children in Scotland on Improvement Science.

- The aim was to co-design Falkirk's ICSP with 200 Children's and Young People
- We used open questions to gather Qualitative data and pulled themes from responses using Thematic Analysis.
- There were 211 responses: there were 13 responses from 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and 198 from CLD groups
- We asked groups to facilitate sessions with CYP and to feed back the results
- The results have now been collated and we are now at the stage of analysing the results and looking for themes or trends.
- Unfortunately there was a low level of responses from 3<sup>rd</sup> sector – due to Covid (*important because 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations represent some of the most marginalised sections of the community and these are the people who should be feeding in to ICSP via 3<sup>rd</sup> sector orgs*). Increasing responses from CYP through 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations is a priority for future engagement
- 1<sup>st</sup> test of change towards a true co-production model with CYP – this will be ongoing
- Currently info is being collated, and we are now analysing

**Next meeting** – The groups felt that more regular meetings would be beneficial, in the short term, to bring the group back together. A period of 3-4 weeks was discussed.

**Action:** CVS to create poll for next meeting date and invite agenda items

### **Updates**

### **Social Security Scotland**

- Best Start Grants – school age payment £250 one off payment (1<sup>st</sup> June - 28<sup>th</sup> February) – Applicants should be in receipt of Universal credit or income support - Extend windows for applying for best start which include payments for Baby, Nursery and School and children
- Young carers grant up to age 19
- Funeral support payment
- If people cant apply online they can call a number and get a call back!
- The first is around the benefits we are currently delivering. The second is about what changes to our eligibility we made to from 1 April due to covid-19. And the third is our latest newsletter and it would be great if you could encourage the group representatives to sign up for this.
  - [www.socialsecurity.gov.scot](http://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot)
  - [making-sure-people-impacted-by-covid-19-get-our-support](#)
  - [Newsletter](#)

For more information on any of the above please contact Gill Winters by email: [gillian.winters@socialsecurity.gov.scot](mailto:gillian.winters@socialsecurity.gov.scot) or telephone: 07341790215

### **Sarco**

- Currently offering online services to service users through WhatsApp and Zoom
- Collaborating on CYPIC project

### **Time for us (Transform FV)**

- Currently offering online=services
- Checking in with service users daily (safeguarding)
- Can offer socially distanced face to face meetings for more vulnerable or those who need it