

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 3rd December 2020
2pm – 4pm
Zoom

Yuliya Loutsenko
Ian Dickson
Sharon Laing
Karen Head
Winnie Delaney
Scott Malcolm

Committed to Ending Abuse
FDAMH
Aberlour
Barnardo's
Aberlour
CVS Falkirk

Apologies

Jennifer Sherlock
Jo McCorriston

Committed to Ending Abuse
Central Carers

Introductions

1. Previous Minutes

Minutes were accepted

2. Significant Case Review

SCR

Child F info and discussion

Actions taken so far from previous SCR:

- GIRFEC Refresh
- Child Protection Guidance Review
- FC Intake Team
- Renewed emphasis on training and risk assessments – use of analysis

- FV bruising guidance for non-mobile infants
- FV Vulnerable pregnancy pathway
- Health visitors training in GURFEC
- Police additional DS post
- Referrals to reporter process review

VSCS Forum Frequency

Thursday Monday every 8 weeks

FDAMH

No change in numbers

CEA

Christmas appeal

Barnardos

SG information – Local authorities not extending school holidays over Christmas period – standard dates. Staff supporting families access funding for gifts/food for Christmas period.

Central Carers

YC/YAC Team are still working from home.

- Virtual groups
 - Dropping resources/treats off to YCs
 - Back to face to face individual contact at schools a couple of weeks ago with YCs, this will be used for YCs who virtual contact isn't working or possible
 - Referrals still being taken, virtual home visits being offered for now
- Funders being flexible with change of use for funding

Social Security Scotland

[Job Start Payment](#) is a payment payable to 16-24 year olds who start work and have been in receipt of a qualifying benefit for 6 months. £250 for single clients or £400 if they have children. The link will take you to an article suitable for a news story on a website or social media.

[Child Winter Heating Assistance](#) is a one off payment and the first of our Disability Benefits. This is payable to anyone in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for Children at the Highest rate of Care Component. The payment will be issued automatically and paid into the same account as the DLA is paid. The link will also take you to an article suitable for a news story on a website or social media.

[Scottish Child Payment](#) is our biggie. This is our first recurring benefit. The claim has been opened up early to invite claims from this month. Payments will start from 15.02.21 and anyone that claims before that date will have their claim paid from then. If someone claims after that date, the claim will start from the date the claim was received. We are encouraging anyone to make the claim now. This is a payment of £10 per week for any child under the age of 6 years old. There is no limit on the number of children under 6 that can be paid for. The link will also take you to an article suitable for a news story on a website or social media.

Aberlour

Children's panel appeal, provost appeal and Falkirk Football Club – so contact them if families are in need they might be able to help out

Salvation Army – will be inundated so Aberlour not referring and going to help their service users with food provision

Urgent assistance fund still open -
<https://www.aberlour.org.uk/urgentassistancefund/>

2 new services in the new year

- Sustain Service

We help families on the 'edge of care' to stay together, by giving them the help and support they need to prevent a child from being taken into care.

Aberlour Sustain – Borders is an 'edge of care' service. This means staff work with families that are struggling. The families we work with need help for a range of reasons. Our workers spend time with children, young people, parents and carers in order to understand what the family needs to thrive. We understand that family life can be difficult for all sorts of reasons. Our approach is always sympathetic and non-judgemental.

How we help

Firstly, our service is flexible. We give support outwith usual office hours. Because we understand the challenges our families face, we also recognise they need support at all times of the day. We also realise that crises can occur at any time. As a result, we ensure that our team spend time in family homes and community settings.

Some of the issue that families on the 'edge of care' are affected by:

- Domestic violence
- Poor mental health
- Drug and alcohol use
- Unemployment
- Financial stress
- Disability and autism
- Anti-social or criminal behaviour
- Housing issues
- Social Isolation
- Children in the family have already been taken into care

- The Intensive Perinatal Support Service

Based in East Lothian and Forth Valley, we help mothers struggling with anxiety and depression in pregnancy, and after their baby is born.

We match the mothers with highly-trained perinatal befrienders, who offer emotional support to help tackle poor mental health and wellbeing.

Our befrienders are there for mothers throughout their pregnancy, until their baby is one. As a result, this relationship helps mum, her partner and immediate family. We aim to improve parents' mental health, reduce social isolation and promote healthy attachments between baby and parents.

If you are pregnant and answer 'yes' to any of the following questions, our service could help you.

- Are you worried about bonding with your baby?
- Are you concerned about perinatal depression/anxiety?
- Have you received a diagnosis for mild to moderate perinatal depression/anxiety?
- Are you losing interest in things?
- Feeling slowed down?
- Are you staying at home a lot?
- Feeling unable to or worried about going out?
- Feeling anxious or stressed about things you usually would not be?
- Have you suffered mild to moderate depression/anxiety in the past?
- On medication for depression/anxiety?
- Are you feeling alone?
- Do you have limited support networks?
- Have you experienced difficulties during pregnancy?
- Have you found birth traumatic?

We also take referrals from GP's, midwives, health visitors and other agencies.

CVS Falkirk Updates

Connecting Scotland Funding

A second round of phase 2 Connecting Scotland has now opened. Allocation this time round is for 30 devices/connectivity packages - as we used all (and more) of our allocation last time round. However, we would

still urge people to put in an allocation anyway if they are aware of someone who fits the criteria and would benefit from a device.

The Application form can be found here.

The criteria for the second round remains the same:

- households with children, or where a child is normally resident (this includes pregnant women with no child in the household)
- care leavers up to the age of twenty-six (in line with eligibility for aftercare support)

The closing date for applications is 11am on 18th January 2021. Awards and delivery of devices will take place from early March 2021.

If you have any questions about this please contact Fairer Falkirk and one of the team will get back to you as soon as possible.

Consultation on the revised National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland

<https://consult.gov.scot/child-protection/consultation-on-the-revised-national-guidance/>

Overview

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland describes the responsibilities and expectations of everyone who works with children, young people and their families in Scotland. It sets out how agencies should work together with children, young people, parents, families and communities to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The National Guidance should underpin local multi-agency child protection procedures, guidance and training.

The current version of the National Guidance was published in 2014. As a recommendation of the Child Protection Improvement Programme (2016), the guidance is being revised to ensure it is consistent with the legislative and policy framework and current practice developments.

Why we are consulting

The aim of the consultation is to seek views on the tone, level of detail and approach in the revised guidance, in particular in relation to the

description of new or significant aspects, and whether there are any omissions or aspects that have not been adequately addressed.

Consultation responses will be analysed alongside the feedback from online engagement sessions. Views will inform the final content of the revised National Guidance, and future developments in child protection improvement work more generally. The final revised National Guidance will be published online in spring 2021. This will ensure accessibility and allow the National Guidance to be updated regularly to reflect legislative, policy and practice developments.

Read the consultation paper and draft National Guidance

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2020 VSCSF dates

The group decided to hold the VSCSF every 8 weeks in 2021 alternated between Monday and Thursday

Link Living - 2 online employability courses

10 Week Employability Programme

Beginning w/c 25th January 2021

Do you want to become more employable and learn new skills?

Our free course offers young people aged 16-24 in the Falkirk area the opportunity to develop their confidence, employability skills and the chance to meet new people whilst achieving an SQA Qualification.

Through interactive online learning, group discussion and 1:1 support, you will learn the following over a 10-week period:

- Increased confidence, personal development and self-awareness
- Personality Profiling – What kind of person are you? What areas best suit your skills?
- How to build a CV, write a cover letter and plan a phone call
- Basic IT Skills
- Supported job search assistance, including 'Find a Job'
- Further education options, including college or continued voluntary options.

- SQA Accredited Course, Employability Award Level 4

LinkLiving are running a unique 2-week programme to help with personal development needs of young people aged 16-24.

Steps to Resilience programme

delivered through online learning over six interactive sessions. We use reflection, group discussion and self-help techniques to support the young people we work with to make changes that matter to them.

The course starts on Monday 11th January 2021 and runs Mon – Wed over a two-week period.

The aim of Steps to Resilience is to build the capacity of young people to:

- recognise, understand and manage the challenges they face
- develop positive behaviours
- identify and work towards their ambitions
- increase in confidence and self-esteem

The training includes:

- developing skills to manage stress and anxiety
- fun and interesting activities that include CBT, mindfulness, nutrition & exercise and activities to build confidence
- learning new skills that will support you for the future
- 1:1 support

If you are interested, please request a referral form from the Link Academy Team on the details below. Please note the team can help in sourcing suitable devices for the training, if required.

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2020 VSCSF dates

Suggested 2020 dates based on every 6 weeks – do you want time to amend to every 4 weeks?

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Children in Scotland

Children and Young People's Panel on Europe Report

The Panel on Europe is a group of children and young people aged 9-19 from across Scotland who came together to ensure that children and young people's voices were heard as the UK exited the European Union. Their final report from Phase 2 of their work is now available [here](#), including their calls in relation to EU Funding, rights, travel and trade.

More background info [here](#) and phase 1 report [here](#).

The consequences of inequality and our chance to choose a different path

Launching the organisation's [Manifesto for the 2021-26](#) Scottish Parliament, Children in Scotland CEO Jackie Brock explains why, in the wake of the pandemic, we must turn towards a wellbeing economy.

Read full article [here](#).

Universal Rights to Period Products “Another Step Forward in Reducing Stigma and Strengthening Equality”

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Scottish Government Guidance and Papers

COVID-19: Third Sector Family Support – Guidance Summary

This guide is a summary of the varying Scottish Government and external guidance, which is relevant to the provision of Third Sector family support during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not new guidance, but a helpful tool to signpost those delivering family support to the guidance that is most applicable to them according to the [local protection levels](#).

Read the summary [here](#).

COVID-19: Supporting People at Higher Risk - Survey of Third Sector Organisations

This report examines findings from a survey of 530 third sector organisations in Scotland who supported people through the COVID-19 pandemic from March to August 2020.

Read the full report [here](#).

Policy and Projects

Children and Young People's SMS: CONNECT Service

SMS:CONNECT is a new online Self-Management Service for children and young people living with long-term health conditions.

SMS:CONNECT includes two online self-management programmes: one for children aged 10-12, and one for young people aged 13-17. Groups will have between 6-10 people and two facilitators work with each group. Programmes

run for six weeks on a safe, online platform, and they include fun activities, games and challenges. The service also includes a supported Hub where people can connect with friends they have met on the programme.

Read details [here](#).

Organisations needed to host discussions with young people about health and health data

Are you an organisation or youth worker supporting 15-18 years old in Scotland? Do you feel passionate about health and how health data is used?

Dartington and Shift are recruiting participants from now until February 2021 to host a 45-minute (max.) gameplay and short discussion with their young people. All volunteer organisations will be entered into a **£1,000 prize draw plus £500 in small vouchers** to be distributed to young people.

The new game – **Scotland On Mars** – sees young people act as health minister to create their version of the NHS on Mars (known as the MHS). It's funded by Nesta UK and ScotGov.

To get involved, please contact us at: ScotlandOnMars@Dartington.org.uk.

Funding

Connecting Scotland Fund Phase 2

The second round of applications to the Connecting Scotland is now open until 11am on 19 January 2021.

Connecting Scotland is a Scottish Government programme set up in response

to coronavirus. It provides iPads, Chromebooks and support to develop digital skills for people who are digitally excluded and on low incomes.

Phase 2 is focused on:

- households with children, or where a child is normally resident (this includes pregnant women with no child in the household)
- care leavers up to the age of twenty-six (in line with eligibility for aftercare support)

Applications close at 11am on Tuesday 19 January 2021.

Read full information [here](#).

Consultation and Research

Looking for Parents and Carers of Young Children to Share Their Experiences during COVID

Public Health Scotland has just launched its second survey **Covid-19 Early Years resilience and impact** aimed at parents and carers of children aged 2 to 7 years in Scotland. The survey aims to find out how families have been affected by the various restrictions as we continue to live with coronavirus. Questions include child behaviour, play, social interaction and parent and carer experiences.

Closing date: 7 December 2020

Click [here](#) to take part. If interested, [here](#) is the report from the first survey.

Support for Disabled Young People

The Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill is a Member's Bill introduced by Johann Lamont MSP on 30 September 2020. A Member's Bill is introduced by an individual MSP, not the Scottish

Government. You can read the Bill and accompanying documents [here](#).

The Bill aims to improve opportunities for disabled children and young people as they grow up.

The Bill would require:

- The Scottish Government to have a National Transitions Strategy explaining how they are going to improve opportunities for disabled children and young people.
- A Scottish Government minister to be in charge of improving opportunities for disabled children and young people moving into adulthood.
- Local councils to have plans for each disabled child and young person as they move into adulthood.
- Scottish ministers to review and submit a report to the Parliament every year to update on how the National Transitions Strategy and transition plans are working.
- People and organisations named in the Bill (including Scottish ministers, local councils, health boards, and integration joint boards) to follow the aims of the National Transitions Strategy.

Closing date: Monday 11 January 2021

For more information and to respond, please click [here](#).

Action Complete: Scott to send CVS Updates out by email and include SCR Presentation

AOCB

DRAFT