

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 5th November 2020
10am - 12pm
Zoom

Susan Milne
Norman Philip
Lauren McGregor
Allan Robertson
Geoff Reid
Sharon Laing
Winnie Delaney
Scott Malcolm

Christians Against Poverty
Barnardo's
Committed to Ending Abuse
Social Security Scotland
Sacro
Aberlour
Aberlour
CVS Falkirk

Apologies

Carrol Wilcox
Kay Pearson

One Parent Families Scotland
Barnardo's

Introductions

1. Previous Minutes

Minutes were accepted

Investigate Mentimeter as a way for facilitators to work with groups while complete forms

2. Partnership Updates

a. Notes and updates from Children's Commission Leadership and Planning Group, Children in Scotland Third Sector Meeting and Scottish Government Voices Forum

a.i Voices Forum CYP Engagement Project

CYP Engagement project were asked to present to the Scottish Government at Children in Scotland's Voices Forum Phase 2 coming want organisations to help engagement

- Will be working on a paper for Children's Commission
- Started working on a children and young people's engagement plan

a.ii UNCRC Incorporation

Suggested that it might be helpful for Juliet from Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights) or a copy of her presentation to be shown at the next VSCSF to gain more information on the potential implications of UNCRC Incorporation – for example with age of criminal responsibility. We might see children's rights resulting in a raising of the age of criminal responsibility over time.

a.iii Pupil Equity Funding: Attainment Funding

Scott Malcom attended a meeting which local Attainment Advisors presented information which included asking where Third Sector organisations have been commissioned to work with children/families funded by PEF money.

The Advisors are keen to build relationships with third sector in their geographical areas.

Action Complete: invite our attainment advisor along to discuss

a.iv Parental Employment Support Fund (PESF) - Information for parents

Are you a working parent aiming for the next step on the career ladder?

Do you need help to do this?

We may be able to help you if you are in any of these eligible groups:

- Lone parent
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
- Youngest child under 1 year
- Parent aged under 25
- Disabled parent
- Parent with 3+ children

PESF is voluntary and offers person-centred help for parents to look at their barriers to progressing in work.

This might include:

- Support to gain a qualification
- Help with improving skills or work experience
- Money advice
- Motivational support

To be eligible for PESF, you need to be in one of the target groups, have the right to live and work in the UK and need some in-work support.

If this is you, or anyone you know, contact the Employment and Training Unit to find out more:

01324 504408

etu@falkirk.gov.uk

Action Complete: Scott to share with third sector

b. Notes from Falkirk Child Protection Committee - 21/10/2020

- **Young People and mental health**

Anecdotally GP's and CAMHS not seeing a significant increase in referrals but difficult to get data.

There has been an increase in adult inpatients in adult mental health services by adults not previously known to services

School nurses have noticed an increase in referrals related to mental health

- **Equal Protection Bill**

Police have received additional training. Will have an impact on front line policing. There will be a number of areas the Police will consider on whether to charge and/or proceed to IRD including if the the child is on the CPR or the adult has been convicted of domestic abuse. Police expect to see an increase in IRD and joint interview of children but IRD will not be the default.

- There new national **guidance on conducting Significant Case Reviews** out for consultation ending on the 25/11/. There will be a Forth Valley response

CP learning and improvement

- Learning Summary for Child D will be shared on the National Knowledge Hub
- Education and Health are still undertaking the learning sessions
- Increase in OLLE child protection training update has been seen across all service areas
- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/fa/GirfecFalkirk/learning-development/creating-the-conditions-for-getting-it-right-in-integrated-risk-assessment/>
- GIRFEC materials all being refreshed and rolled out with training. Focus on assessment of need and risk

- Number of children on the register has fallen from 52 to 42 in the last quarter but still significantly higher than the national average
- There was an audit and some findings : 1. all were appropriately registered. 2. There could have been more effective multi-agency working in 13% 3. Some pre-birth assessments have revealed that older siblings have been at risk. 79% already had SW involvement for some time before registration.
- There are significant improvements in meeting timescales this quarter with 60% of ICPCC on time (previous quarter was 38%). 70% of initial core groups on time
- Team Around the Child will be the next area to be scrutinised. Parents have not been invited to TAC or CPCC but this will change as using Microsoft Teams to facilitate. Face to face have been paused.
- There are significant staffing shortages in staffing in health visitors, school nurses and social work. This impacts the whole system. Everyone is asked to be persistent in efforts to share information where there are CP or welfare concerns

3. Organisational Updates

a. Allan Robertson Social Security Scotland

Scottish Child Payment – money for any child under age 6 (no cap on amount of children) – opening early to avoid too many applications at once – open now! – first payments by end February

SG – support for families with disabled children £200 towards fuel for heating – highest rate DLA care component – people don't need to apply they get it automatically

Names changing of particular benefits

For more information on these or advice for your service users you can contact Allan by email on: allan.robertson@socialsecurity.gov.scot

c. Christians against Poverty

Online Money Course available for families to help with budgeting, tracking income & expenditure and planning future spend :

<https://capuk.org/i-want-help/courses/cap-money-course/introduction>

c. Winnie Delaney Aberlour

National annual campaign : 16 days of action in response to supporting families affected by Domestic Abuse

Dates: 25th November to 10th December

Forth Valley Plan: There will be a timetable of online workshops, Information Sessions etc Look out for emails sharing this information with services t (Sue Johnston, Christine Brown) -

Falkirk Family Support and info line – support for children during school holidays – has continued beyond and will keep continuing – successes in signposting, listening ear, reducing social isolation – simple things to help mental health – speaking to people – building relationships – there will be a refresh of this service

d. Carers Centre

Carers centre reported that in the main they are working remotely in partnership with schools.

e. CVS Falkirk

Wellness in Winter

This is a meeting we are having to discuss potential thematic areas to hold working groups in.

Action Complete: Scott to send details by email

4. AOCB

a. Future VSCSF online meetings

Those attending today's meeting agreed to plan this on a 6 weekly basis for 2021. The effectiveness of the timetable will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

b. Action Complete: Remove Agnes McMillan from distribution list