

**Voluntary Sector Children's Forum**  
**Minutes of Meeting 6 November 2006**

**Present:** Dave Gasparini, MELD; Allie Chery, First Step; Kelly Murphy, East Lothian Women's Aid; Caroline Davis, Dialogue Youth, ELC; Lesley Kay, North Berwick Youth Café; Jim Boyle, Bridges Project; Chris Lewis, Children 1<sup>st</sup>; Sharon Guest, Barnardos; Janette Statham, ELCAP, Caroline Harris, ABEL; Kay Affleck, Integration Planning Officer, ELC

**Apologies:** James Bruce, ELVON; Rebecca Dunning, John Muir Award; Linden Ross, Home-Start

**Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as accurate

**Matters arising**

**Problem Substance Abuse training**

A further raft of this training is currently being planned by the multi-agency training group. Ruth Munro is also looking into the need for provision within Education.

**ACTION:** Kay Affleck to liaise with Ruth to ensure no duplication

**Young Scot Presentation**

The Young Scot Presentation will be included in the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum **ACTION:** Caroline Davis

**COG Away Day**

The Voluntary Sector Children's Forum was represented by Eliot Stark of VDEL

**Child Protection**

Information on the new system for disclosure will be included in the agenda for the next meeting. **ACTION:** James Bruce

**Integrated Children's Services Plan**

No further input on this item due to pressure of work - any organisation which has not yet given full details of their contribution to the Integrated Children's Service Plan were invited to make appointments at the end of the meeting.

**DAAT Voluntary Sector Forum**

The Drug and Alcohol Action Team had seen a need to improve linkages with the Voluntary Sector. The Voluntary Sector Forum was therefore formed with a membership of seven organisations: Libra; Children 1<sup>st</sup>; EL Young Carers; ELCA; Friday Friends; 1<sup>st</sup> Step and MELD, and initially met every six weeks. However, this is now being amended to four meetings per year with minutes of full DAAT meetings and other information being distributed to the group by Dave Gasparini as the point of contact. He will also take forward to the DAAT any issues which they raise for consideration by the bigger group.

**COG Away Day**

A short report was given on the feedback from the COG Away Day. The importance of good evaluation processes was a major topic. Discussion took place on how projects were

evaluated and also how decisions regarding awarding of funds were reached. The new Generic Quality Indicators for joint inspection were highlighted both as a way forward for the COG but also for possible use with individual organisations. The Indicators can be found on HMIE Website and the title of the document is "A Guide to Evaluating Services for Children and Young People using Quality Indicators"

### **Multi-Agency Training Group**

Chris Lewis of Children 1<sup>st</sup> is now the Voluntary Sector Children's Forum representative on this group. A summary of the meeting was given which highlighted the following points:

CP multi-agency training has been very well received

Discussion on variety of training in place for parents and how to target service to where it is most needed

1<sup>st</sup> Step advised that they are currently offering training for parents where there are substance misuse issues. They will have capacity to add any other suitable families over the next two weeks. The course will run for another 9 weeks.

Solution Focused Training - the need to ensure that investment of 2 years ago in this approach was not lost. The group agreed that support groups could be very useful

Investors in Excellence Training is to be piloted with Integration team

### **Resources**

The group were advised of Pincotland, the pupil inclusion network which is designed to support the voluntary sector's work with young people who are disaffected or excluded from school. They have an excellent website [www.pincotland.org.uk](http://www.pincotland.org.uk) which has a wealth of information and also lots of free resources.

Discussion then followed on a variety of other resources that could be utilised free or shared by member organisations. It was decided that members would be asked to bring to the next meeting a list of any resources that they were willing to share and/or any websites which they had found useful in providing resources for working with young people/children. **ACTION: All**

It was further agreed that this could become a standing agenda item.

**ACTION: James Bruce**

### **Mind Matters**

This organisation has now been re-named "Young Scotland in Mind".

The group were advised of the Open Space event free for the Voluntary Sector to be held in Perth Concert Hall on 29 November. The main speaker will be Graham Bryce, child psychologist from Yorkhill Hospital.

**ACTION: Sharon to forward leaflet to James Bruce for circulation to the group.**

Anyone wishing to reserve a place can do so by e-mailing

[Samantha.lynch@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Samantha.lynch@barnardos.org.uk)

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Herald Article**

Herald Article of November 1 2006 on the reduction in ESF funding and how this can impact on the service the voluntary organisation provide was highlighted.

### **NEET (Not in Employment Education and Training) Strategy**

A small task group is currently working on preparing a draft strategy paper for how East Lothian will tackle the issues brought up in the NEET document "More Choices More Chances". It is estimated that there are approximately 500 young people in this group within the Authority. Once drafted the paper will be circulated to all relevant organisations for comment.

### **National Entitlement Card**

The Scottish Executive is about to launch the new National entitlement Card for young people aged 16 - 18 years. This will give them a 33% reduction in fares for bus travel and entitlement them to a free rail card.

Application forms are currently being circulated through schools and **Caroline Davis** will be pleased to visit any other organisations to give information to young people outside schools.

### **New Young Scot Booklet**

The new Young Scot booklets are being compiled. All organisations are being asked to check and update their entries on the East Lothian pages. **ACTION: All**

### **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be at 2.00 pm on Monday 26 February at Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre.