

Voluntary Sector Children's Forum
Minutes of Meeting 4 September 2006

Present: James Bruce, ELVON; Jim Boyle, Bridges Project; Chris Lewis, Children 1st; Angela Rousseau, East Lothian Women's Aid; Janette Statham, ELCAP; Allie Cherry, First Step; Raymy Boyle, Integration Manager, ELC; Caroline Davis, Dialogue Youth Co-ordinator, ELC; Kay Affleck, Integration Planning Officer, ELC

Apologies: Sharon Guest, Skylight; Kirsten Baird, East Lothian Special Needs Playscheme; Beki Dunning, John Muir Award; Caroline Harris, ABEL; Paula Edmonds, Carefree Kids; Helen Napier, Children 1st

1 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting on 17 July, 2006 were agreed as accurate.

2 Integrated Children's Service Plan

Due to a combination of circumstances no progress made as yet on visiting each agency. This work will take place over the next few weeks.

ACTION: Kay Affleck to contact each organisation.

3 Mind-Matters Scotland

A brief update was given on the event, a free conference, which is planned for November. Full information will be distributed on this and the possible name change for the organisation as it becomes available.

The groups was reminded of the event that is due to take place on Wednesday of this week, "Live in East Lothian", This is due to take place in the Brunton Hall and also covers Mental Health issues.

4 Multi-Agency Training Planning Group

A paper giving a summary of the minutes of the last training meeting was distributed and discussed. A request was made again regarding a representative from the Forum attending.

ACTION: Check whether more further Problem Substance Abuse training is planned - Kay Affleck

5 DAAT Voluntary Sector Forum

This item was carried forward to the next meeting

6 COG Minutes

A summary of the COG minutes was distributed and discussed.

- Information was given on the SELS programme and how effective a tool it could be. The group was advised that the Young Scot website also has

the facility to put out IT based questionnaires to young people as well as other IT methods of seeking young people's opinions.

The possibility of organising a presentation of SELS and Young Scot website to the Forum was discussed.

ACTION: Caroline Davis to give a presentation of Young Scot at next meeting

ACTION: James Bruce to investigate SELS Presentation

- The COG Away Day at Musselburgh Racecourse is planned for Friday 27 October from 9 - 1.30. The aim for the day is to clarify the spend on CCSF; revisit the action points from last year's Away day and evaluate progress; identify any barriers which have prevented successful evaluation and set priorities for the future.

As James Bruce is unable to attend this event an invitation had been Issued from the COG for a representative from the Forum to attend in his place.

ACTION: Anyone interested in taking part to contact James Bruce or Kay Affleck

- School Age Parents Project -Further information was given on this project which aims to assist school age parents to remain in school throughout the pregnancy and after the birth. Funding for this has been identified and work is currently being done on exploring which benefits these young people are entitled to.

7 Child Protection Committee

The summary of the minutes of the last meeting were distributed and discussed. The new Child Protection Procedures had been distributed along with the agenda for the meeting and the group agreed that length of this document could prove off-putting and make it difficult to practitioners to access the relevant information quickly.

It was felt that perhaps a shortened version for front line practitioners would be useful, this could be in the form of a flow chart.

It was highlighted in the document that voluntary organisations had a responsibility to have their own guidelines which all staff should follow.

Discussion also took place on the new system which is being brought in for disclosures. This will mean that systems can be put in place within an organisation to eliminate the need for multiple disclosures when a person moves between departments/identified organisations.

ACTION: Further information on this to be brought to the next meeting James Bruce

8 Any Other Business

➤ **New Youth Club**

New Youth Club is opening in Gullane Fire Station there will be an Open Day on Saturday 9 September 2pm - 5pm.

➤ **Bridges Project**

New member of staff, Jan Coppleton, has been appointed with funding from BBC Children in Need. The remit of the post is to work with pupils aged 14 - 18 who are in danger of being excluded. The post will cover both East and Midlothian.

Further new staff member to work in youth literacy field funding through New Futures. Age range 15 - 21 yrs.

➤ **Skin Cancer Prevention Worker**

Now in post working across Lothians dealing with the issues arising from young women and sun beds.

➤ **Youthlink Youth Work Strategy Consultation**

This was highlighted as having some very relevant issues for the work of many of the voluntary agencies and all were encouraged to respond.

9 Date of Next meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for 30 October at 2.00 pm in Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre. The group was advised that this may clash with the Parenting Strategy Review event which many of the organisations present may wish to attend. There may therefore be a need to amend this.

