

From mountain to sea

Buchan Local Learning Community Partnership Meeting

Skype Meeting
12 June 2020
11.30am-1.00pm

Present:

Jane Verity	Senior CLW, Community Learning & Development
Jacqui Gray	Session Worker, Community Hub
Di Faithfull	Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer
Sharon Tulloch	Skills Development Scotland
Linda Smith	Skills Development Scotland
Margo Paterson	CLW, Community Learning & Development
Joanna Haggath	CLW, Community Learning & Development
Morag Donaldson	Education Psychology Service
Peter Kennedy	Employability Officer
Martin Danzinger	Theatre Modo
Denise Whyte	Employability Officer
Donna Carden	NHS

Apologies:

Gerry McCluskey	Depute Head Teacher, Mintlaw Academy
Shona Sellers	Head Teacher, Peterhead Academy
Pauline Robertson	Employment Team
Elizabeth Richards	Senior Community Co-ordinator, Heath & Social Care
Seada Rodden	Action for Children
Helen James	Head Teacher, New Pitsligo School

Jane welcomed everyone and started by asking for an update from all.

Sharon and Linda, SDS are working hard – all advisors full-time. They have got help line for school (Tel 0800 917 8000). There will be an exam results help line coming soon. They have also got a website – www.myworldofwork.co.uk and facebook and twitter. Joanna asked if they know where redundancies will be made – they don't – will have to wait and see when furlough finishes. Apprenticeships may be a worry for a lot of people. They have contact from people who are looking to re-train.

Joanna & Margo, CLD – having continued contact with people in local areas, eg Longate. Spoke about the Assistance Hubs and how well they are going.

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WWYP work continuing and going well. Sharon asked about this and how engagement was. She wants to feedback to SDS on this. Margo and Sandra Ross supporting the Community Effort. Work will continue to support things.

Jacqui Gray, New Pitsligo Community Hub – The Hub is on shut down for face-to-face work. It is to be used as a classroom and Jacqui doesn't anticipate getting back into it until January 2021. She is doing a lot of food parcel deliveries, there are Conversation Cafes and digital training for clients. The next thing to think about is the Summer Holiday Programme – CLD to link in with this.

Donna, Health Visitor – Still delivering Universal Health Pathway (0-5 yrs). Workload has increased to a certain extent. Donna usually uses 'Teams' as opposed to 'Skype'. Main issue with families is Mental Health – loneliness, lack of social contact, especially if they have young ones. Redundancy/money worries is also an issue with a lot of folk. Joanna asked if Agencies/Support mechanisms are there to meet needs. She is aware there are volunteers/3rd Party out there – but there is a lack of awareness – too much info and it gets lost. Margo confirmed that the Assistance Hub can help to signpost folk to a 3rd party.

Denise, Employability – She is in touch with clients via whatsapp, emails etc. A lot of clients are really struggling – most are picking up new activities, eg gardening. She has one young client who is really struggling on her own. Whatsapp chat has been fantastic for communicating with folk. Jane mentioned Conversation Cafes (through Zoom). Any clients can attend this. Jacqui also said she is doing 2 Conversation Cafes – a small one in New Pitsligo 6-7 people which Denise's client can tap into. Jacqui to send Denise link to the next Conversation Café.

Di, Gypsy Traveller Liaison Officer – Maud site is in Lockdown – Di has been supporting travellers weekly by phone. Working with Gypsy Traveller teacher and arranging things for people. She also chats with about 20 people a week. This is the time the travellers move (called 'shifting'). Bins, porta-loos etc are delivered to them. The main issues are financial.

Martin, Modo – Lots of on-line work and lots of mental health challenges. Some young people are not engaging online due to digital access, getting privacy in home. Jane spoke about the Youth Work Ireland National Phased Transition for Lockdown document and will send out with the Minutes.

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School Hubs – Mado not sure who is running them during the holidays.

Morag, Educational Psychology – Morag covers Mintlaw area – Academy and cluster schools. Still operating ‘virtually’. Wanted to make service more accessible to parents – confidential phone line by professionals/parents. This was set up at the end of March. Will run over the summer holidays. Main concern is again Mental Health/Wellbeing. Website up and running. All Staff CPD is virtual and will continue. In the process of setting up a Facebook group which is a good opportunity to support wellbeing etc. Morag will e-mail group with contact details.

Peter, Employability – had connection issues but said that, as well as him and Denise, there are also 2 colleagues based in Peterhead – Jared Scott (Employability Officer) and Grant Boden (Employability Support Worker). As a service they cover the whole of North East Aberdeenshire. Referrals should go through Acting Team Manager, Kathleen.stewart2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Jane – spoke about Adult Learning (CLD). All staff undertook training at the beginning of Lockdown. Face-to-face work moved to online. Great response with people having access – digital, engaging by phone, sending out work. A Newsletter has been put together – will share in due course. Power-tools offered online – lots of supportive person-centred approaches.

Di mentioned the Gypsy/Roma History month - whole of June – lots of info. She was told not to use Zoom on Council laptops – Jane confirmed updated guidance (CLD) had come out a few days ago saying we can use it.

Connected Communities – Jane sent out information and wants to confirm that everyone ok with it all. This can be found through Connected Communities and is to reduce digital divide – specifically for people who are shielded/vulnerable due to health. There are about 300 devices (ipads, chromes books) available through Aberdeenshire. Denise has a client who is looking for a loan of laptop. Martin suggested she contact the Buchan Giving Tree.

LLCP Evaluation – due to time constraints, Jane asked if everyone wanted to discuss this or for her to email out the evaluation. It was suggested evaluation would be emailed out – feedback within 2 weeks.

Date of Next Meeting – Friday 14 August 11.30am-1.00pm. Anyone who wants to speak/chat to get in touch with Jane.