

Present:

Claire Levvet – Principal Teacher Progress  
& Equity Leader - education

Rhona Davidson – AVA

Shirley Buchan – NHS

Agnese Carter – Child poverty  
engagement officer

Moyra Stephen – Strategic Policy Leader

Peter Kennedy – Employability

Kirsty Hannon – SDS

Gwen Watt – Student support, NESCOL

Debbie Rennie – North Aberdeenshire  
Foodbank

George Rutten – NHS

Sandra Ross – CLD

Several apologies were given.

Sandra Welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the focus for this session:

- A chance to reflect on the work we did last year – impact – and update.
- An opportunity to network and talk about challenges and priorities during the lock down period
- A discussion around how we work together and set priorities going forward.

FSM – Sandra was able to report that the number of children using their FSM voucher at Fraserburgh Academy had gone from the lowest uptake to the highest % increase across Aberdeenshire. This was a result from initial discussion by FLLCP partners – CLD funded pilot breakfast scheme– mini public and the continued effort and weekly campaign that Claire has been running during school term.

As a result of the lockdown all families who have children entitled to FSM now get that benefit paid directly into their bank account a month in advance and this will continue during school holidays.

### **Partner updates**

#### **Claire – PEF Priorities**

1. Mainstream has had to be my priority with the new timetable starting. We are setting work with all learners in mind.
2. Each member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) sit on a range of county themed teams e.g. Digital Learning, curriculum etc.
3. Now, I am finding out Which PEF learners have requested digital resources.
4. Guidance sent out a questionnaire to parents about online/ digital learning. A FAQ's was created for parents in response.

5. Working on what will be the best format for hosting online sessions for parents as part of Family Learning/engagement. We will be hosting one on digital learning as part of P7/S1 transition.
6. Derek – CLD – will be delivering a series of family learning sessions as part of the P7/S1 transition programme.
7. I will be continuing to work with the FSM Learner working group (Campaign Group) from the impact study via a Team.

Clare to contact Lynne Gordon, Peterhead SCLW, working with Young people team who are successfully engaging with all Peterdean pupils and have 100+ pupils signed up to Tuesday evening transition project [lynne.gordon@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.gordon@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)  
Claire and Agnese to work together on FSM and sharing information on Facebook Page

Claire has written up 2 case studies on the impact of the Breakfast allowance and changes to the FSM system and will share with FLLCP – Moira will include this in Community Planning updates

**George** – before the lockdown held an event at Fraserburgh and Banff hospital on self-management. Good attendance with stalls from welfare support organisations.

Support for pupils with low intensity anxiety. Pupil support works have been trained to deliver 8 x 45-minute sessions aiming to strengthen resilience. 8 staff trained but aim to have 12 in both areas. Project will be evaluated to look at uptake during lockdown – George will share the evaluation report with FLLCP

**Moyra-** I am part of the strategic community planning team and work with Angela Keith the area manager. Have been working on some projects while the community planning officer has been off. Looking at locality planning and booster projects, the area team weekly bulletin (not everyone has seen this). Part of a subgroup looking at resilience funding for each area and the criteria to apply. Moira also has responsibility for taking forward the LOIP and locality plan.

Moira will arrange to meet with Annette Johnston and Claire to look at the work around FSM.

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**Agnese-** My focus is child poverty engagement – We have an online forum of families across Aberdeenshire who have a lived experience from whom we seek views on what is working well or any issues they have with services /systems locally.

Families who are participating with the project receiving support for employment (e.g. carer advice, online courses, job search), income maximisation (e.g. benefit entitlement) and reduction of household bills (e.g. reducing energy costs) employment opportunities – online courses and career changes.

Created Families come together in Aberdeenshire Facebook page. It offers support / sign posting and awareness of what is happening in their area.

How I support parents has changed. Not the same as face to face. A lot of families are struggling, especially single parents and those with disabled children. They find it hard to get into a routine. Larger families are finding it hard to bulk buy shopping especially in rural areas.

Families are struggling with homework and parents worrying about how their children are coping – Agnese refers parents to the online psychology support.

Some families only have one laptop in the house – schools are trying to ensure staff and pupils have what they need.

This month focus for the forum is how are they doing- feedback – no negative comments so far and new services working well.

I hope to recruit more families over summer.

Suggested that it would be worth Agnese to contact Vanessa Case – team manager health and social care – Vanessa has been providing mobile phones to families who are finding it hard to keep in touch with key workers and services [vanessa.case@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:vanessa.case@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**Shirley** – The event at the hospital we had 100% vendor uptake and around 50% visitors.

Summer kitchen on hold but keeping in touch with families. Trying to get NHS campaigns up and running and added to the assistance hub website

here is a quick account of what has happened with North school Confidence to cook in 2019/20

Run with Nursery for Families in need of basic cooking skills and knowledge identified by the school.

I was to take part in the program and assist with teaching cooking/food prep skills to families.

Sharon Mellin head teacher applied for a Food skill grant to kit out the green room, so it was functional to be used as a cooking space. I made a of list of what was needed and could be obtained within the grant application of £200, a grant was awarded and the school staff, purchased the kitchen items.

The program was named Family Share

Our first family share session was on 20th February

6 families were invited to take part, only 3 families came to the first session. The program was running well up to the interruption of the pandemic and we hope to continue these sessions when school returns.

It is hoped that I can start to role the session out across other schools on our return.

Other work is being done in the area with Confidence to cook as we now have set up a CTC forum the aim is to pull all the information on session available in areas and CTC trainers so we know who might be available to help deliver sessions.

Exchanging information on Confidence to cook and any issues around poverty and food.

Jill Smith Co-ordinator NHS Public health team from Peterhead is the person to contact regarding becoming part of the CTC forum. However, we had met a couple of times before COVID at Pitsligo school hub and at Maud resources centre. where we were given an information session from Fiona Matthew on delivering confidence to cook.

**Debbie** – we are affiliated to the Trussle Trust – focus is those who are in food poverty - We are linked with the assistance hub and take referrals from them. Fraserburgh foodbank opened on 13<sup>th</sup> April in the FDT building. No pool of volunteers yet but will hold an information and recruitment sessions as restrictions lift. We are providing a delivery service at the moment via E referrals. 47 parcels fed 75 people including 15 children. We are working with the Salvation Army and other providers  
We are seeing a real difference in demand across centres but a 100% increase across Aberdeenshire- our strategy remains to reduce numbers that need food parcels

**Gwen** – Before lockdown we provided free sanitary products for students and started free breakfast provision, open to all but for those in most need. This will continue when we reopen. We are also working with the Student Association into the possibility of Campuses having access to microwaves which may be of particular benefit to those students using foodbanks currently.

We have been investigating with the student association and partners how left-over food at NESCol may benefit the students and wider community although we realise that there is some red tape surrounding this, which may prevent things moving forward.

Online teaching support – uptake has been good; we hope to have counteracted some of the mental health concerns that may accompany lockdown. This was done by launching The Big White Wall soon after lockdown was announced, a platform that supports staff and students with their mental health. This platform is available to all NESCol Staff and Students 24/7.

Students are still getting bursaries, only transport and childcare has stopped but funding from this has gone back into the Discretionary Fund to support students who are having financial difficulties

We have a session called BYOD (bring your own device) in place already for a large number of students but have also issued laptops and 4G dongles to allow students to continue to engage in their learning during lockdown – generally working well.

Downturn in Oil and Gas – we expect our services to be required in response to the downturn in the form of retraining etc.

We have supported our local community through providing over 33,000 units of PPE from our Labs at NESCol and also provided hundreds of 3D printed protective visors, several staff members have been working on these at home. These were donated to the central point of “Protecting our Essential Workers in the North East” based in Peterhead but providing PPE across the North East/Aberdeenshire. They have a Facebook page called “Protecting our Essential Workers in the North East”

We are providing PPE equipment to NHS

**Kirsty** – Priorities -School leavers – job and apprentice routes may be impacted due to COVID situation– we are contacting all pupils.

PACE work – career information and advice. We have a team of advisors working with companies supporting adults who have been made redundant.

National helpline being launched today and will appear on TV / Radio etc

**Rhona** - I am your local Development Officer for Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, (AVA). Supporting the wider Third Sector, linking into the strategic discussions on various plans. We can support any aspect of funding, group start up, charitable status, including all links related to all aspects of volunteering, being one of the 32 TSI's across Scotland. We recognise volunteers through a variety of awards and are part of the Wider Volunteer Scotland links and already link into the GCAH, etc too.  
[www.avashire.org.uk](http://www.avashire.org.uk)

**Martina**- Here in Day Services to adults with learning disabilities we have closed the service.

However with anything in this current situation we are actually responding to special requests for support and assistance to families where needs arise and we have a few service users coming to the building (deep cleans before and after, masks and PPE where deemed important, some adults can do the social distancing others are not so good.)

We have also done some outreach work where we meet folk at their doors and go a walk, keep fit session from outside the garden fence, we did a birthday surprise of music by a couple of us at a service users garden for her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday – the wee intimate gig myself and Jill the depute had planned with support of Denise the piper turned out to include all the neighbours in the quad as mum had advised them it was happening – phones/cameras awai! Anyway, it went down well and the birthday girl felt her birthday was a bit special because her local community came out and sang [happy birthday](#) and clapped and joined in with the music.

All service users are contacted weekly as a support to the families and to see how folk are doing, we have sent out activity packs and sent out communication sheets so they can keep in touch – have attached a couple for your information.

Our staff have taken over the development and running of a service for delayed discharges from the hospital where they have had to go onto 24 hr shift working, they have been quite impressive in taking on new work patterns and demands, quite humbling actually.

Staffing we have had one staff have a COVID positive result, one negative, on the whole we have been very vigilant and stuck to the rules to keep us all safe. Only one client was tested but found to be “not detected”

**Peter** - Aberdeenshire Council Employability Service continues to work with a range of clients with different health related conditions which are barriers to employment. The Fraserburgh and Peterhead teams; me and Denise Whyte (Employability Support Worker) in Fraserburgh) and Jared Scott (Employability Officer) and Grant Buchan (Employability Support Worker) based in Peterhead are working across the North East corner to support people look at learning opportunities that may increase their chances of finding and maintaining employment. We value the opportunities of meeting with members of FLLCP and the Buchan equivalent as we learn so much from other partners - thank you for coordinating these meetings and the network.

- **Alison** - In line with national guidance, sports and leisure facilities, libraries and museums operated by Live Life Aberdeenshire on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council are currently closed.
- Some staff have been redeployed to assist with the Council's overall response to the situation, supporting communities directly, working in care homes and in the Grampian Coronavirus Assistance hub, producing PPE kit, for example. Other members of the Live Life Aberdeenshire team are working hard to make sure sports and cultural services are ready to support communities again when the time is right.
- Live Life At Home page launched on LLA website – regularly updated with arts, sports, museums and libraries activities, resources and fun challenges. Please check it out! It also reminds communities that we are here for them. Developing themed / cross-service work including Gardening Week, Walking Month, Wellbeing Festival, VE Day:  
<https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-at-home/>
- LLA moving from Response to Recovery phase - planning is underway for some facilities to re-open to the public in a phased way and deliver some services and experiences in a different way to be covid compliant.
- Cultural sector support – Arts & Heritage team have been contacting local arts and heritage partners and third sector organisations to get a picture of the situation in terms Covid impact re: furloughed staff, finances and budgets, activity which has stopped, ability to continue project work, etc.
- Public events and participatory activity currently not an option and will be very difficult to plan for in the coming months, this is likely to be the case for some time, Creative Scotland are advising that unlikely any touring work can take place this year. Examples of impact on arts-led activity includes Year of Coast & Waters events and Across the Grain 2020, although we are hoping AtG can go ahead in an online/remote way.

Looking forward to seeing where everyone else is at as we navigate all this change.

**Neil** - "During lockdown many of our Live Life Aberdeenshire sports team in Fraserburgh have been redeployed to positions in Health and Social after completing essential Critical Support training modules on ALDO. Locally in Fraserburgh our staff have been deployed to Faithlie Care Home, Jarvis Court Sheltered Housing, Fraserburgh Hospital in a variety of supporting roles. Health and Social Care Managers have regularly commended our staff for the valuable assistance they are providing to critical front-line services during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have also provided staff to assist with building checks around the Fraserburgh Area, supporting the Grampian Coronavirus Assistance Hub and Child Care Hubs.

For our customers, Live Life Aberdeenshire have created an online portal with resources for those stuck at home and this has attracted 8,000 visits since its launch on April 3: -

**Live Life @ Home** here: <https://bit.ly/LLAhome>

**Community Learning** –CLD staff have been deployed in various roles during lockdown, Grampian assistance hub, Sheltered housing, food distribution etc. However, we are combining our new roles while still delivering the CLD service

**Adult learning** - our online learning is going well. Some groups are participating in Google Classroom, other learners we are checking in with by phone on a regular basis. ESOL going great online. No drop in numbers there for Fraserburgh at all... regular 11 attendees to the online class.

- Also, we are coordinating a learner lockdown type of newsletter across the North AL team. Chance for learners who are not in the right place for learning just now to still contribute. It will have jokes, recipes, maybe a quiz, community worker profile and some learner diary extract. Just an informal way of keeping everyone going and engaged.

**Working with young people** – Fraserdeen on track to achieve dynamic youth awards. We have had good attendance at our weekly drop in before the lockdown and 100% of young people who engage with us have achieved their goals. We also had good attendance at our transitions focussed family learning events.

- We continue to engage with young people using Glow and teams.
- We will continue to try and keep up and increase levels of engagement during lockdown with social media and Glow

**Community development** – core staff have been building skills and knowledge in using online platforms to engage with groups – google classroom – google meet and teams.

- Staff have been working with the ADP Forums to ensure that recovery and support groups continue to meet online regularly.
- We continue to support and connect with community groups through online meetings
- We are connected with local strategic groups including Community Planning and third sector partners such as AVA.