

## FLLCP Meeting notes 19-08-2020

### Present for all or some of the meeting

Sandra Ross (Facilitator) Community Learning & Development – CD Team

Peter Kennedy – Employability Officer. Health and Social Care South

Joanna Haggath – Community Learning & Development – CD Team

Vicki Marioni – Key Worker Economic Development & Protective Services

Derek O' Halloran (Note) Community Learning & Development – WWYP Team

Kirsty Hannon – Skills Development Scotland

Claire Levett – Progress and Equity Leader Fraserburgh Academy

Elizabeth Bruce – Skills Development Scotland

Debra Campbell – Community Planning Officer

Shirley Buchan – NHS

Rhona Davidson – Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action

George Rutten – NHS

Karen Buchan – DWP

### Introduction and looking back

Sandra started out with a brief review of progress over the last year noting particularly how much things had moved on regarding the issue of access to Free School Meals. Sandra suggested the partnership had gone as far as it could with the Free School Meals issue while also acknowledging the ongoing work that Clare is still doing in the Academy. She spoke about the CLD Community Development team and the creation of a subgroup focussed on poverty.

Sandra introduced the survey circulated amongst CLD workers and how they understood food poverty and how they had experienced the issue while carrying out their work. The survey responses had been sent to partners in advance of the meeting.

The survey will now be circulated to partners to complete (See link below). Findings will be used to highlight similarities and opportunities as well as gaps. The CD team are asking that the survey be circulated to all LLCPS

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ\\_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC67KmlxJLz5BnmEaZtjQugpUMjIEMkFQM0xDVUdCN1Y1QTVCWk1OUTQyMy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC67KmlxJLz5BnmEaZtjQugpUMjIEMkFQM0xDVUdCN1Y1QTVCWk1OUTQyMy4u)

### Video presentation

Sandra introduced a short video where Michael Fakhri UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food spoke about a conceptual framework – differentiating the right to food from food provided via charitable efforts and also the issue of food security – he added that the key

difference in the rights based approach is that it is underlined by the principle of dignity – whereas the charity approach implies a lack of power on the part of the recipient and the food security approach emphasises policy over accountability. Perhaps most relevant to our context he said that it is responses to food poverty at the local level where the power to hold government to account is or can be best exercised. Sandra noted afterwards that the Scottish Government are working to put the Right to Food principle on a statutory footing.

<http://www.nourishscotland.org/campaigns/right-to-food/>

### **Presentation of results from CLD survey regarding food poverty.**

The survey results were circulated in advance of the meeting via email and are available there for anyone to view. However, a sample of the survey results were shared with the group including the following observations.

Multiple survey respondents observed a rise in demand for food banks

Respondents noted a stigma associated with accessing poverty related services with the issue of food poverty described as hidden and stigmatised.

Respondents also raised concerns regarding the potential for greater poverty when those currently on loan or mortgage holidays need to commence repayments.

Partners please complete the survey here

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ\\_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC67KmlxJLz5BnmEaZtjQuqpUMjIEMkFQM0xDVUdCN1Y1QTVCWk1OUTQyMy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC67KmlxJLz5BnmEaZtjQuqpUMjIEMkFQM0xDVUdCN1Y1QTVCWk1OUTQyMy4u)

### **Updates from partners**

#### **Debra Campbell – Community Planning.**

Debra detailed the local resilience groups and volunteers who had come together to respond to Covid 19 challenges. Many organisations /groups including churches, the community councils, the Salvation Army, Community Safety Group, Fraserburgh Community Heart, and rural groups organised food and care packages with the participation of up to 46 volunteers. As restrictions ease, they are considering more sustainable community initiatives rather than care packages. Fraserburgh resilience group (subgroup of the community council) met with CFINE and are working with AVA to explore the creation of a community pantry.

They are looking for premises where this may be based in addition to seeking additional partners. They would like to collaborate with schools on growing food and are interested in

the idea of using food that is still good but would otherwise go to waste. The local business centre has given them a temporary home for their efforts when a previous site was no longer available.

### **Claire Levett, Fraserburgh Academy Progress and Equity Leader.**

Claire shared that the academy is very much settling into the new term and many new routines required due to Covid 19. There is a new app for ordering meals in the school to help avoid congestion in the canteen and the additional subsidy paid to young people on Free School Meals to allow them to get breakfast is still in place. She added that she thinks the current climate is an opportune time to pursue the issue of Free School Meal provision / food poverty and she intends focussing on this at a national level over the upcoming school year.

### **Shirley Buchan – NHS**

Shirley described how menu cards were being put in alongside food parcels in Peterhead to assist recipients in how to use the food items. She suggested that additional information on staying healthy, eating a balanced diet, and staying active could also be enclosed with food parcels in the future. She spoke about duplicating this Peterhead based work in Fraserburgh. She also mentioned the initiative to promote local walking routes and said they were looking for volunteer walk leaders. She flagged the Positive Steps leaflet promoting these initiatives and signposting paths – the leaflet is available to download. She said she would welcome offers from partners to promote the walks initiative and other activities via their contacts and communication channels.

She explained that they were making arrangements to deliver Confidence to Cook training to CLD workers for use with young people on Fraserdeen and Peterdeen programmes and added that more broadly they'd been considering the possibility of online Confidence to Cook delivery for families. She also said that health hubs and a conversation café were beginning to start up again and said that both the Confidence to Cook and Walks initiatives could be included in the Winter Health Campaign.

### **Vicki Marioni – Employability Service**

Vicki provided an update on the Giving Tree programme saying that they were just beginning to consider what it would look like this year and that Covid 19 related considerations would mean this might be quite different to previous years. She invited suggestions from partners and described the Giving Tree programme saying that that each year they collected gifts which were then distributed via referrals from professionals working with disadvantaged folk. She said they had previously distributed food parcels, but this year may leave that to others and focus on different items. There was discussion regarding how the programme might work this year as some of the locations where the gifts were donated such as the library and community centre were currently closed. Vicki mentioned a similar programme in Glasgow that was using Amazon Wish List. Shirley suggested gift cards or vouchers as an alternative to actual gifts. There was a question as to

whether the community would donate cash to fund this as it had not been done previously with this project.

Vicki also provided a brief update on employability saying that in July and August they had many new referrals and that they expect this to grow as the furlough scheme is wound down. She added that they were continuing to work from home which presented its own challenges.

#### **Kirsty Hannon – Skills Development Scotland.**

Kirsty said that SDS were hoping to head back into schools over the coming weeks. She said that they hoped to reopen offices in September but only for appointments. Similar to Vicki she said that their service is busy at the moment but anticipated it getting busier. Sandra raised a question re 16 to 18 year olds and news that apprenticeships they may have been signed up to had stalled or were not going ahead – Kirsty said there was discussion around a pre apprenticeship scheme that could deliver the theory side of what an apprenticeship would entail while they were waiting for actual apprenticeships to come on line – but that discussions regarding this option were at an early stage.

#### **Rhona Davidson – Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action**

Rhona said that AVA had been working at a strategic level and were involved in a national level discussion with the Scottish Government. She said that they are also speaking to partners and taking a cautious approach to future action and they wanted to be sure to take the right steps. She noted that there had been great deal of community volunteering and good will generated since Covid 19 restrictions began and that they are involved in the Community Spirit Award to recognise this volunteering and commitment to community.

She flagged an upcoming round of funding for organisations and said that AVA would like to be involved in the Gift Tree programme.

#### **Peter Kennedy – Employability Service**

Peter said that they have continued their work with the Health and Social Care partnership but that the working environment had proved difficult due to the impact of Covid 19. He said some clients had lost their work and that they were having difficulty accessing benefits. He said that digital exclusion was a factor with clients not having access to devices and also not being comfortable using the internet even when they had access. He said they hoped to get back to working in their base in September. Overall, he said it had been a challenge not being able to work face to face with their clients. Peter also enquired as to the progress of the Fraserburgh Mens Shed relating how well the Peterhead Shed, which had reopened, functioned as a site for work experience for some of his clients. He said it was welcoming and informal and that his clients seemed to fit in and enjoy the experience in a way that they did not in other settings.

Debra is meeting with the mens shed this afternoon and will update us on their future plans and if they have moved forward with securing new premises

### **Karen Buchan – DWP**

Karen shared that the Job Centre had been commended by parliament for how they had gotten out new payments to recipients. She said there will be some opening of their offices for appointments going forward and that they are slowly working to safely bring back other services.

### **Derek O' Halloran - Community Learning & Development - Working With Young People team**

Derek explained that the Working with Young People team recommenced their work with S3 and S4 Fraserdeen groups in the last week and that 12 S3s and 13 S4s are currently attending the programme. He said that other school based CLD groups had not yet started back but that the team hopes to meet with the school over the coming weeks to progress this.

He said that the CLD WWYP team had worked with Claire Levett the Progress and Equity Leader at the school before and during the summer to run a Free School Meals social media awareness campaign to reduce stigma and increase awareness of the entitlement. He mentioned phase 2 of the campaign which envisaged working with sports people such as Hannah Miley, locals, and school staff to create a social media campaign promoting Free School Meals and challenging stigma around the entitlement. He suggested that this campaign could also work alongside local partners to encompass community-based efforts to present food banks and a food pantry in a more positive light that promotes the dignity of those in receipt of the services.

He mentioned an intention to work in partnership with the NHS previously mentioned by Shirley Buchan - to train CLD staff in Confidence to Cook so that they could deliver the programme to Fraserdeen young people. He added that CLD staff were undertaking SQA assessor training in part so that they could supplement the Confidence to Cook programme with Core skills qualifications. He also suggested that CLD could work with academy pupils, school and library service partners to promote the Gift Tree programme in Fraserburgh Academy.

### **Theory of Change and revised priorities - Priority setting**

Following the partner updates Sandra referred to the Theory of Change priorities that FLLCP partners had collaboratively developed and agreed in November of 2019.

## 2020 Theory of Change

- Partners want to continue to build on all the good work done so far and what people have told us in things like the mini public and summer family kitchen.

There was discussion about the Hub at North School that had grown out of the Summer Family Kitchen and an observation from Shirley that opening up the hub / Summer Family Kitchen to a wider group than just the families of pupils from North School had benefitted the initiative as folk seemed more inclined to attend if they felt it was more for the broader community and they weren't being singled out as different. Shirley added that they were considering hubs at other schools off the back of the work at North School.

Shirley advised that hub based in North school had come to a complete standstill due to lockdown.

**Possible action / priority** – LLCP to look at supporting the development of an online family hub in partnership with NHS and North School

- Things like continuing to focus on FSM uptake are important – there is still lots of room for improvement.

The campaign to promote the benefit of using FSM in school is continuing led by Claire and Derek

There was discussion of how the Free School Meal entitlement had been made available to families via a direct payment to their bank accounts across the summer and how this represented an acknowledgement from government of the fact that families faced food poverty all year and not just during the school term. There were also concerns raised as to whether the direct payment would be used for food when in some households there might be a temptation to use it to pay bills or for other purposes

**Possible action /priority**

FSM has reverted to now going on the pupil's card daily between 8am to 2 pm.

There was a suggestion to consult with families and ask them how the direct payment had worked for them and that feedback from families could be used as evidence in a campaign for the continuation of the Free School Meal entitlement year round and not just during term time. George Rutten suggested any consultation or research with families could also ask what food they had purchased with the Free School Meal payment to ascertain if they were buying fresh or processed foods.

Partners to work closely with Fraserburgh Academy and engagement with parents / pupils

Food Fund - this could fund cooking, growing and food projects at a local level. It is managed through the Area Managers office – contact Debra Campbell for more information.

- As partners we make more impact working collectively – we should be helping people assert their rights and accessing benefits they are entitled to.

There was some discussion of exploring whether further flexibility in how young people access Free School Meals might be possible and whether young people might use their card to access their entitlement at local businesses in the town.

There was mention of the ongoing work at Fraserburgh Academy to reduce stigma around Free School Meals and the link to the UN principle on the Right to Food and the importance of dignity as a cornerstone in approaches to remedying food poverty. The question of whether reducing stigma and promoting dignity regarding food poverty might be a suitable priority going forward was raised.

### **Possible action / Priority**

Work with local businesses / school /catering service / Fraserburgh local resilience group to look at the development of a local resource in the town (Food Larder/ Pantry/ community fridge)??

- Continue to build the network and networking sessions/events.

Partners to think about our joint CPD session in November and what the theme /content should be. To plan the sessions content to be agreed before our next meeting in October.

- Developing a more strategic approach to food poverty – but underpinned by a person-centred approach.

Sandra gave an overview of the community planning structure and the development of 3 Banff and Buchan Hubs:

- Connected and Cohesive communities
- Health and wellbeing
- Poverty

Sandra and Rosin (SCLW Banff) will be co-chairing the Banff and Buchan poverty hub.

The Hub will provide an opportunity to bring key partners together to collaborate on projects that benefit the wider geographic area of Banff and Buchan

Next meeting will be on Teams and focus will be further developing our agreed priorities.

**DONM = October 21<sup>st</sup> 10 – 12 noon**

