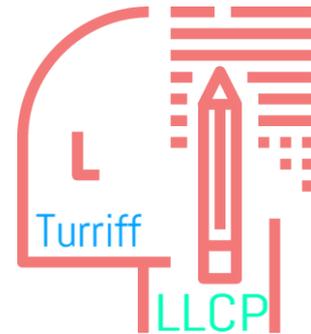


Turriff LLCP



Update from Jenna Adams. Employability Key Worker

All still working from home but are now able to go out and meet clients providing a meeting space can be found and socially distancing measures are in place. Working with a client in Huntly, the library and Community Centre are not suitable venues but managed to get a room at Gordon Rural Action. There are a few clients who struggle without face to face contact. Referrals on a team scale are slowly starting to pick up from the job centre. Employability set up a survey to get a find out what sort of help people are looking for, whether it is help with CVs, interview skills or job searching. Later in the year they may be wage subsidies for employers an incentive to employ new people in posts again. Jenna will share further details once things are confirmed. Jenna reminds clients that food parcels are available in Turriff if required. Jenna has signed up to The Trussell Trust so voucher can be offered if required.

Update from Meriem Kayoueche-Reeve, AVA

Things are picking up. Volunteers are getting in touch asking about volunteering opportunities. Organisations are getting in touch to advertise their services.

AVA are working on how to better map the third Sector in Aberdeenshire, collecting details of partners, third sector organisations, volunteering opportunities and volunteers. AVA will share with partners and see where support is needed.

AVA are picking up volunteers from the hub. AVA have been in touch with volunteers from the hub who want to continue volunteering out with the hub. Meriem has 10 individuals who are keen to continue volunteering. Ava held Community Spirit Award in July. 200 nominations received within the shire. Certificates will be sent. AVA are to be a sponsor to the Inspire Awards later in the year. There will be Covid themes within this, Meriem will update later.

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Update from Calvin Little, Public Health

Still under the direction not to do public health work. Calvin work's half time on the hub which is getting quieter now that shielding guidelines have changed. There has been funding available for smart phones and tablets for some of the shielded who are eligible. When contacting the shielded with smart phone or tablet it would be good to ask if they would like to learn more about social online opportunities. Calvin coming off hub mid-August, but they want to keep something going, in case of a second wave.

Councillors asked for mental health First aid Training online. This is not possible as there isn't a license and online is not the best for when someone needs emotional support

Calvin is supporting Health and Wellbeing staff to make a short online mental health awareness course for counsellors.

Supporting the virtual Conversation cafes getting up and running. Turriff is not active. Residents are missing out. The cafés use zoom as a platform. Perhaps AVA's volunteers might be keen to help with virtual sessions. Partners were asked for programme suggestions for virtual conversations cafes

Update from Claire Christie, Turriff CAB.

5 advisors are working each day, which is down from normal. Phone, email, online video chat online advice. There is no date for reopening. Possibly September before face to face work in Turriff. Work has to be done to Turriff office before clients can come in.

Formerly known as Turriff & District CAB now known as North West Aberdeenshire CAB from 15th July. Information will be sent to partners in the next month. Still looking for Banff office, put on hold due to Covid. Due to the workspace in Turriff looking at the possibility of utilising council offices to do face to face meetings.

Really busy, seeing a lot of new people. People coming out of furlough and becoming redundant, building up a lot of debt. There is a large interest in volunteering but cant facilitate any more volunteers at the moment. Pre Covid volunteers were being trained but this has been postponed meanwhile. Can't to do face to face inductions at the moment.

CAB have had no referrals for food parcels, but make people aware of the HUB, Barnardos, and Trussell Trust.

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Update from Beverley Bruce, Social Work Manager, Turriff Resource Centre.

Staff are able to come into the office to carry out work that cannot be done at home maintaining social distancing. ie supervised/supported contacts with children and parents, joint investigative interviews with parents are a priority. Pieces of work such as one to one when face to face contacts is better. All health and safety measures are in place. It has been difficult for some families who are missing the routine and structure as well as home education. It will be a long time before things are back to before Covid but continue to provide a very good service to the people they know about. During Covid social work become aware of new cases that should have been aware of before. Will follow this up with Education. Social work continues to forward food parcel referrals.

General discussion comments.

Still a stigma about food parcels despite. Perhaps with families who are eligible for getting free school meals getting £12.50 per child cash, mortgage holidays, increase in universal credit all might be helping families in the short term. Perhaps run a healthy eating cooking session. Funding available. Food Swap or Food Larder

Lots of food being donated in Turriff, but not necessary going out. Perishable food is being taken by a volunteer to Care Hub in Aberdeen, to cook meals.

Food Fund would help the set up of an allotment or a larder. Works well if it is accessible. Towie House, Library? Need to further investigate and promote this service.

Meriem might have volunteers who would be keen to stand next to a table outside or, in a Church hall

Jenna has 3 or 4 single parents who might be up for Cooking on A Budget . Baden Powell could be a venue. Funding would be available through the food funding. Can't plan anything until the schools go back and parents know what is going on

Moving out of lockdown ...

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NHS strongly recommend volunteers collecting/delivering prescriptions to others to be PVG checked.

There is a bank of volunteers... volunteering is not a problem

Sam has a concern people are becoming dependant on volunteers. Some are taking advantage.

All volunteers have been contacted by AVA. 100 volunteers have indicated that they would like to carry on volunteering.

Resilience Groups should have an exit plan

Everyone needs to raise awareness that food parcels are available and support each other. There is no criteria in Turriff to get food parcels.

Make awareness of free school meals and the other things that come along with that

Gateway will not be open to the public. CLD will continue to work from home or find elsewhere to deliver.

AVA are thanking individuals and organisations

SAM thank you to everyone instead of highlighting individuals

Resilience group will be going back to dormant. CP will still be engaging with The Resilience group as CP look at the Community Impact Assessment.

Free school meals when schools go back. AH will have a conversation with education.

Promotion of food agenda

There will be an increase in families who are entitled to free school meals. Those on furlough, reduced hours, unemployed, etc.

There are other benefits that come along with free school meals

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The following are answers to the questions set out on the agenda that were provided during the meeting.

Action plans/development plans/ forward thinking will be planned in due course.

What has been working well in the Turriff area during lockdown which, if supported, could be maintained?

- *Food agenda need to be supported. Possible further development of food larder and increase of volunteers to promote and distribute through the district.*

Do you consider there to be a need for agencies to support the volunteers after lockdown?

- *Issues of people becoming dependent on volunteers.*
- *Resilient groups having an exit plan.*
- *If there are still referrals from the HUB, do we need to look at support, Care management or scrutinise to see if the request meets COVID. Are the task suitable for volunteers?*

Do you have any thoughts about holding some kind of 'thank you' event. I know that this wont be anytime soon but we could be planning.

- *AVA held a Community Spirt Award. A mix of staff and volunteers applied.*
- *Up and coming awards – Inspire Awards – there will be some COVID themes set within the award scheme. Awaiting further details.*

What support opportunities are on offer for school leavers, adults etc.?

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- *No details as partners not in attendance to give any details.*

What gaps need to be addressed?

- Distribution of food needs to be developed and made accessible to all.
- Work to allow Turriff Conversation Café to function within their own community. At the moment they are joining other online engagements.
- What does the local economy look like with regards unemployment and families/individuals moving into universal credit?

Mixed.

- Families who have opted for the payment holiday for mortgages have more money in their pocket.
- Families who are receiving free school payment are feeling better off.
- Too early to tell.
- It was also felt that due to the above, that the uptake of food requests has declined over the past few weeks.
- This will be monitored in the weeks ahead when payment have to be made and people are going back to school/work/reduced hours or unemployment. Etc.

Do we need to do something to encourage the uptake of free school meals for families moving into lower income?

- A conversation needs to be had with education.

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- It has been confirmed that school meals will continue to be delivered in schools when they go back, so the payments will then be stopped. We don't know what school meals will look like on their return.

Are there community groups struggling due to lack of funds and are not able to access available funding?

Not discussed but it was felt that there was a surge of ICT equipment out there which would help communities to connect.

Looking forward to getting back to 'normal' workplace, what does that look like for partners?

- *Social Work are back working under strict booking of desk space.*
- *Other partners were not confident of getting back into their office space this side of the year. This is mainly to do with desk space for social distancing and multi use of staff social areas.*

How engaged are the care homes in community life given that they were in lockdown from friends and family?

- *Not discussed.*

The next LLCP meeting will be held on TEAM on Tuesday 22nd Sept 2020 at 10.00

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