

Westhill LLCP Meeting Wednesday 13th May 2020 – 14:00 – Skype Meeting

1 Welcome and Introductions

Mike welcomed everyone to this the first online meeting of Westhill LLCP

2 Present

Freda Nicolson – Active Schools Co-ordinator LLA

Ian McCombie – Westhill Rotary

Bronagh Cameron – Aberdeen Foyer

Jill Noble – Network Librarian

Li Simpson – Senior CLD Worker – Work with Young People

Leslie Murison – Creative Development Officer LLA

Keith Anderson – AVA

Iain Ritchie – Skills Development Scotland

Gillian Wood – Community Leisure Officer LLA

Caroline Smith – Garioch Community Planning Officer

Mike Riley – Senior CLD Worker – Community Development

3 Apologies

Eileen Buchan - Skills Development Scotland

Alison Reid – Westhill Academy

4 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minutes were agreed and matters arising will be covered as we go through the agenda

5 Partner Updates

Leslie Murison - During lockdown she has been helping on the Covid helpline for 3 days a week. Her tutors are keeping in contact with their classes i.e. creative writing and stain glass classes online is meeting through zoom. As part of the virtual wellbeing festival Leslie has a tutor offering three drawing sessions. All other tutors are furloughed.

Keith Anderson - Due to the Coronavirus it is challenging keeping up with volunteering and the concerns with catching up so everything was running safely. They have written up an abbreviated guidance into one sheet. There are popup groups running smoothly, details are available online. The Grampian Hub consists of three TSIs, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen city and Moray and over 4,000 volunteer names have been submitted. There are anchor funds of 4 small Grant Schemes and AVA are one of them. Applicants are welcome but there are criteria as follows:

1. Support for volunteering i.e. PPE, expenses.
2. Supporting Popup groups with utility costs etc.
3. Sustainability as early grant funding begins to dry up.
4. Small hardship fund. Can assist if someone is struggling e.g. to top up mobile phones or other emergency situations.
5. Supporting access cost to allow people in vulnerable sign into online classes for vulnerable groups.

Leslie added that everything offered by Live Life at home is free.

Ian Ritchie – All face to face has stopped therefore they have been contacting school leavers to assist where they can. National resources include My World of Work. Today sees the launch of a new National helpline. This includes online as well as telephone support. SDS is a main partner in the PACE scheme and will be providing significant support as redundancies begin to kick in. TV advertising starts today as well.

Jill Noble – Aberdeen staff have been redeployed to the helpline as call handlers and resource allocators, trying to find the right type of assistance for

callers and getting volunteers to get in touch with the person to help. Some queries have been complex and have gone on for weeks.

Hub staff have been in Care Homes and providing childcare for key workers in the hubs.

They are now looking at branch libraries and school libraries on how to go forward assisting pupils to access materials either through GLOW or Digital Library. Jill has been working in Alford delivering prescriptions to the elderly and vulnerable. The response to volunteer requests has been amazing. Volunteers need to be PVG checked but they are finding groups very organised and many examples of people helping neighbours and the community.

Gill Wood – Live Life Aberdeenshire staff Leisure Facilities doing the same as Library staff and the Managers are visiting sites checking they are safe. Some pool staff have been working in Care homes. Discussion followed about staff redeployment into care homes and some of the challenges this has presented including staff becoming unwell.

Caroline Smith - Garioch Area Team provide help and support through the Community Councils. They have provided help and support including a community resilience fund which was Government funding of £200,000 across the six areas of Aberdeenshire. Each area was allocated £20,000 leaving a balance of £80,000. Groups could apply for up to £2000, response has been great and there is still some money left. Groups if not a registered charity should be affiliated to a group. Criteria is to fund community resilience and volunteering support within the community. Removing red tape has allowed easier access to this funding. Mike to invite LLCP members to contact Caroline if they wish to receive a covid-19 focus bulletin.

They have also developed an interactive map for Garioch of all settlements with up to date information of all groups and volunteering happening in each area. Hubs have been using these as call handlers are not always familiar with geography of the area. Local Community Planning group is looking set up a community resilience sub-group on how to support and sustain new resilience

groups going once lockdown eases. This will also look at where any gaps in service provision are.

Each area is sending out a bulletin and signpost a link to AVA community information, Mike will ask each member for permission to opt in and they will set up distribution list to members.

Freda Nicolson – Active Schools have been redeployed into hubs but have also created Project Teams and Volunteer Training Workshops, across the teams and lesson plans within that. Looking at how to operate as lockdown eases social distancing and using equipment in the future. They have organised weekly activity challenges online. Keith mentioned that AVA have a lot of training resources for use across the shire.

Li Simpson – Working with the work young people team have been doing quite a lot for Mental Health Awareness Week - working with young people collecting information and sharing on Twitter their points of view. In Westhill Susan and Evelyn meet every Wednesday online with the young people who are missing social interaction. They are also keeping in touch with the Academy. Children struggling during this time thinking about changes – good news is that they know how to change just need support in moving forward. It will be very hard trying to integrate them again especially ages S1 – S2. They spoke to pupils on placements but there is nothing happening at the moment we are trying to advise for the future. Leslie to send Mental Health Week programme to Li.

Ian McCombie – Most Rotary activities have stopped but behind the scenes they have donated funds to the Skene Medical Practice and local food banks. The courses – Adventure in Tourism that they are funding has been cancelled but the courses will run them next year and all those with places can attend if they are unable to attend and there are any spare spaces they will let us know.

Bronagh Cameron - They have spent time trying to help people with electric, top up phones and baby food etc, they have funding to help Young People through SVQ training online and are managing very well. There is training in employment, mindfulness, photography, craft and cooking. They deliver getting started packs to people's doors like seedlings, craft packs, cooking packs then organise a time to go online and show how to cook things. Keith enquired about accessing wifi through a dongle. Bronagh advised that if anyone needs help with IT equipment e.g. dongles etc they can register on the Foyer courses they can be provided with equipment to help them access courses. Caroline stated that a lot of internet providers are providing assistance for those without access. The Scottish Government has recently announced a £5 million fund to get connected but check with support worker.

Mike was redeployed in Easter Hub which was very busy, He has also been providing telephone support to a vulnerable couple which was arranged through the hub. The alcohol and drug recovery groups have been moved online. Tanya put forward application for a grant to help people recovering from alcohol or drugs and received a £2,500 grant from the Aberdeenshire resilience fund. With the money they bought 20 tablets, sim cards and dongles with 3 months unlimited time this was done through Amazon and Giff Gaff. Each piece of equipment and the wifi dongle worked out at around £100. People have been involved in a range of activities including Mindfulness courses to help them but they have to be in recovery or social isolated.

As the three forums annual event at Curl Aberdeen has been cancelled from 8th – 26th June a digital festival called 3 Forums Digital is being planned. It will include music evenings, quizzes, cooking, yoga, Naloxone training, the Critter Keeper and MacDuff Marine Aquarium. The event has a budget if anyone has any ideas for online activities please let Michael know. Workshops may be restricted to 10 people but are free.

6. Westhill Strategic Needs Assessment

Westhill Strategic needs assessment – Presentation outlines Recommendations - Local Community Planning Meeting, the group has accepted the document

with the proviso that there is a light touch review in 6 months time due to the fast changing response to Covid-19.

3rd sector not listed as an asset particularly What it provides in Westhill, Keith from AVA will assist in lifting the profile of the 3rd sector in the area.

The Westhill is a pilot SNA and others will follow in the other sixteen areas of Aberdeenshire. Hopefully the SNA will assist people in ow to go forward for funding. The SNA looks at current and future needs for service provision. Analysts collected hard data, we have aso engaged with a number of organisations including Schools, Community Council, sensational, Westhill Men's Shed, libraries, CAB and toddler groups and have also presented info to Garioch councillors. We also held a series of community engagement events around Westhill. Using all the recommendations we will create a Westhill community place plan. Caroline shared the key strategic recommendations from the SNA. Themes are: Infrastructure and Housing, Inclusive and sustainable economic growth and empowering our communities. There will be a sub group formed to look at creating the Westhill community place action plan. The sub group will a wide range of partners. Timelines have been affected due to Covid-19. Action plan should be available towards the end of the year. There will be a download link to the full document on the Community Planning website.

Westhill is a town full of commuters with many people travelling into Aberdeen therefore people often access services e.g. shops, gyms and other services in town, a balance of local needs has to be looked at. We are also waiting to see what Kingsford would offer in terms of community sports facilities. Some concern was expressed at existing facilities e.g. gyms, some of which may not be able to reopen in the future. SNA to be added to future agendas for updates.

7. LLCP Evaluation

Mike advised that LLCPs are being evaluated across Aberdeenshire. The questions we are looking at are:

- 1.How effective has LLCP been
2. What Partners feel are emerging issues

3. Identify areas the Partnership wants.

These will be discussed at the next meeting but if anyone has any comments if they could please forward to Mike that would be much appreciated.

8. Aberdeenshire Well Being Festival

everyone is aware of what is going on – it is all free – NHS & Public Health Co-ordinators are behind this. Leslie mentioned the three drawing classes She has arranged as part of the festival. Mike interested in attending to see if this would be suitable for the 3 Forums Digital.

9. AOCB

No other AOCB

10. Date of next meeting

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 21 July 14:00 – 16:00