

Banchory Learning Community Partnership meeting held on Monday 7th September 2020

Online Skype meeting

Present: Natasha Pawlukiewicz – Community Planning, Nick Jamison - Scolty Centre, Kate Redpath - Marr Area Partnership, Sandra McGuigan – AVA, Carol Doig - Libraries, Pam Jamieson – Leisure, Suzy Prosser – Employment Support Team, Nicola Kenyon - CLD.

Apologies: Mark Borzoni - Active Schools, Dawn Tuckwood –N HS Health Improvement, Vicki Robertson – Social Work, Stuart Clark – Careers, Fiona Anderson – Health, Michelle Skellern – Academy.

Partner catch up and updates:

Nicola, CLD – Staff were in deployed roles during lockdown including childcare hubs and care homes. Digital Youth Work, Detached Youth Work as lockdown began easing young people were out meeting friends in the street, opportunity for us to check in with the young people around how they were doing/health and wellbeing. We will continue detached work until end of October as has been really useful and good to meet with young people. Youth Work in schools has started again using mostly outdoor spaces. Change in how we work needs to be constantly in mind around covid hygiene. Working with young people and their anxieties, supporting and suggesting coping strategies.

Pam, Leisure – Most staff were deployed during lockdown in various roles, childcare hubs, care homes, care in the community. Sports Village now beginning to open with the dry side opening last week and swimming pool opening tomorrow. Some provision for children is less i.e. under 8's but family groups and individual provision is easier and going well. New way of working and getting open is great. Great sense of community/community spirit has grown over lockdown and keen to keep this going. Worries now over next lockdown concerns!

Nick, Scolty Centre – working throughout pandemic Scolty service remains closed whilst continuing to provide service to most vulnerable 1-1 at home. Staff redeployed into Edenholme, home care support and Dalvenie Care Home. Staff team continue to support vulnerable at home. With only a max of 3 people able to meet at one time, Scolty remains closed for foreseeable future, social distancing within building not possible. Craft Works in Aboyne open with a booking in system for track and trace. ASDAN and promoting independence still focus using public transport. Being building based and clients travelling from early in morning to meet at the centre may not be what the service goes back to, working at home at times that suit clients has been positive. Deployed roles will continue for the foreseeable future.

Natasha, CP - busy supporting resilience groups and distributing PPE for groups. Community impact assessment in Aboyne – not many people were aware of the hub as needs being met within communities/groups/ organisations i.e. mid Deeside community trust, number one etc. Currently writing a revised Community Plan for next 2 years incorporating things that have come about as a result of covid...knit and crotchet items to hand out to people in the winter – due to reduced activities and concerns around going out, people will be around at home more and heating costs may be an issue. Talking Supporting Men – positive health and wellbeing ...filming on what men are doing to look after themselves and put on CP web page. Also looking at primary schools and leaving food packages.

Kate, MAP – working with CP and around food in our communities - food poverty, waste etc. Aberdeenshire Food Strategy worth a look at – strategy for education element supporting pupils to grow their own food. Lack of knowledge on how to cook and prepare food – high on peoples agenda. Interest in pantries and larders. Need for workshops for staff/workers to understand what these are before educating community. Number One working well, using waste food to make meals for people. Impact Assessment involvement too – final report from public survey will be interesting.

Carol, Libraries - Banchory Library team been deployed for 3-4 months on phone helplines – it was great to see individuals and community group offers of help was great but also showed health and social care partnerships strain/workload. Team ran with things which worked well. Library click and collect service started in mid-July satisfaction rate in 90's which is great – no timeline for library reopening. Academy library now positioned in what was old pool along with learning plaza. Wearing of face mask and social distancing, quarantine of items means more difficult and frustrating at times. Not much uptake on delivery of books, online push but missing a section of the community, need to look at how best to promote that.

Sandra, AVA – busy over this period, work changed over lockdown feel like now returning to normal type work. Doing a lot of sourcing funding with people, including supporting community fund (MAP) which will run to end of Sept (one third funding has already been distributed). Long term and core funding for groups waiting to see what happens here. Funding Guide (COVID) update biweekly more of these funds are closing with not so many new ones opening up. Organisations worrying about sustainability for next year. Community Spirit Award – acknowledging volunteers who worked over period. Reinvigorate volunteering for primary school children safely in their community and in schools. Volunteer roles were suspended keen to get them back into AVA platform which feed into Volunteer Scotland, particularly around young people. Keep the goodwill community volunteering alive – this has kept volunteers mental health buoyant during this time.

Suzy, EST – returned from maternity leave week before lockdown and still working from home supporting people of all ages into Employment, Training or Education – Suzy's remit is to support anyone looking to leave school up to retirement age. Working with recent school leavers who are a bit lost because things have shut down – apprenticeships and trades are starting to advertise; admin and childcare opportunities are a bit slower to pick up. Massive increase in amount of redundancies and of claims being registered through the job centre. Banchory high on the list with the impact of oil/gas, workshop/physical side of employment. Lockdown has restricted opportunities in looking at exam results and conversations with potential employers. Waiting to see what opportunities open when businesses start to get back to normal hopefully vacancies will open up again.

Emerging Issues – potential LCP priorities for coming year:

Anxiety in some children – a lot more anxiety in 10-11 year olds, taking it all in and seeing it black and white, older young people perhaps have the opportunity and maturity to process info and see it for what it is/put in context.

Need for more volunteer roles to be available for young people to safely access in their communities and school. 12-25 year olds can access the Saltire Volunteering platform which has been updated, manual log of hours can continue and upload info onto the site – view to being paperless. Aileen and Isobel main contacts for saltire. Pop up in the school as a stall would be good way forward but restricted for now. Last year's subgroup from LCP focussed on celebrating, recruiting and training volunteers, volunteer celebration event was ran including CLD, Active Schools, Academy and Library with a view to widening this in future years.

Internet safety for older people. Lack of knowledge and need for company can more easily lead to fraud – upskilling all ages on internet safety – online and on phone...don't talk to strangers for ages 7-80 campaign.

Youth Employment will continue to be a challenge for some time.

AOCB:

New place plans – data analysts are currently pulling together data to produce a community plan using more data behind it. This will come in the form of a statistical needs assessment, gathering info from a range of sources – geographic, health, school attendance, results etc and will pull out main issues that are

coming up. Quantity and quality info - once first stage is complete council services, third sector and community interest groups will have an opportunity to go through it and add in local knowledge/context (sense checking). The document will include comparisons with other areas across Scotland and will include a Scottish wide comparison.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 2nd November 11.00am

