



**Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP) Online Meeting
Thursday 17th September 2020, 2 pm**

Attending

Caithleen Bell, Senior CLD Worker, Adult Learning
Dawn Brown, The Garioch Partnership
Lynsey Coutts, Active Schools
Lorna Forsyth, CLD Worker, Community Development
Marie Glendinning, Kemnay Academy
Jim Hatter, Rotary Club of Kintore, Kemnay & District
Leslie Murison, Live Life Aberdeenshire, Arts & Heritage
Sue Wainman, Greener Kemnay, Kemnay Community Council
Susan Weetman, Admin Support Assistant, Kemnay CLD

Apologies

Margaret Bennett, Early Years
Rachel Lewis, The Bothie
Jeannette Mackay, Community Member
Rob Mackay, Positive Steps Kemnay
Linda Singer, Grampian Opportunities
Alison Sutherland, Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service
Jen Sutherland, Educational Psychology
Nom Wright, Aberdeenshire Council Waste

Welcome

Caithleen welcomed everyone and they introduced themselves. Jim introduced himself as the elected President for the next year as well as the current Youth Officer with the Rotary Club of Kintore, Kemnay & District,

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not already included in the agenda.

Partners' Updates

Dawn said she has just returned to work after over 5 months off and that The Garioch Partnership is continuing to support community groups, within government guidelines. Kintore Community Council and The Bothie are looking to refresh their Local Action Plan in Kintore but this may be delayed until restrictions are eased, as it is difficult to engage with everyone online. The Supporting Communities Fund and the Community Initiative Grant are currently open for applications and details can be found on their website.

Leslie said that the Arts and Heritage adult learning classes are no longer running and they may not be restarted. She is waiting for guidance from senior management, but the tutors have not been offered any more hours. Many of the classes are held in schools and there is concern about the cleaning issues. Upholstery is the main class which is affected.

Lynsey said that Active Schools are in a fortunate position in that they have gained approval to restart some of their programmes, within government guidelines. They have started re-connect activities at Kemnay Academy, 2 days per week after school, focussing on social and health and wellbeing issues. They hope to re-introduce more sports specific activities at a later date.

Lorna is continuing to work with community groups and Fareshare, who deliver surplus food to Port Elphinstone Community House and Flexible Children's Services in Kemnay. The Community Resource Hub in Kemnay is looking for new premises as they would also like to accept and distribute frozen food. They are currently working from Kemnay Village Hall but the hall will need the space back soon. A Community Skills Workshop has been organised to support groups to work together and communicate with each other. A development trust may be set up if the groups decide this is what they want.

The Kemnay Art Project, a subgroup of Greener Kemnay, has had a very successful year and the 'Kemnay Steens' are now all in place. Hopefully they will attract more visitors to the area, which will have a positive economic effect. Over 10,000 people have been reached through Facebook and the name may be changed to 'Kemnay Steens' to enable people to search for the site more easily.

Kemnay Community Council has not been holding its normal monthly meetings but is communicating through email, mainly about planning applications. The Council has access to £5000 economic development money through the Phoenix Fund but they have yet to decide what to do with it.

Marie said that Kemnay Academy has seen many new introductions in routines and that the pupils are coping well with the masks and hand sanitising. Break and lunch times are staggered and there are specific entrances and exits set up. Pupils are outside on the field during breaks and generally there has been very good compliance. The varying levels of engagement with pupils during lockdown was tracked for various reasons and a lot of work has been undertaken to re-connect with the pupils since their return. The focus for Years 1 to 3 is currently on literacy and health and wellbeing whilst attainment is the main focus for the senior phase, particularly as there is uncertainty surrounding next year's exams. Contingency plans have been put in place in the event of a further lockdown.

Jim is planning to introduce new programmes to schools and has been in touch with the primary schools in Kemnay and Kintore about initiatives such as Young Photographer and Young Artist. He is also planning some camps, the shoebox scheme and support for the local foodbank. The Rotary is looking for a greater presence in Kemnay and has recruited someone local to help. Many older people don't want to connect online but planning for activities is still taking place in case the restrictions are eased.

Caithleen said she is still working for home and it is unlikely CLD will get back into Kintore Primary School before the end of the year. The Adult Learning Team is delivering some outdoor activities in the October holidays and these will be publicised next week. There will be sessions in Kintore, Kemnay and Blackburn, with 2 sessions in each community. In terms of the government guidelines CLD comes under Education so they can continue to work with small groups of people and families as long as they are abiding by the rules.

Although Linda from Grampian Opportunities could not attend she said that they are gradually scaling up their services but keeping numbers low to maintain social distancing and give them time to induct people to the hygiene and safety procedures put in place.

Network Area Updates: Discussion on understanding the developing needs in Kemnay, Kintore & Blackburn

Sue said that older people are being very cautious and that although the walking groups are allowed to meet, people are worried about going out. Kemnay Village Hall is open for one let per day for organised activities, such as exercise classes and Kemnay Youth Forum is about to start meeting there too, but there are no social opportunities yet. People can meet at Birley Bush which is fine in the good weather but will be more difficult going into the Winter months. Greener Kemnay were going to hold an open day but this has been cancelled due to the new restrictions as volunteers don't want to have to police outdoor spaces.

The libraries in Kemnay and Kintore are closed although there is a click and collect service available. Community lets have started again in some schools from 14th September.

Dawn said that many community members are still confused about which guidelines apply to them. She said that Kintore Scouts are planning a renovation so that a bigger group can meet indoors. She added that there are groups that could restart but that volunteers are not yet ready to return and that people are still very nervous about going out, particularly since the Aberdeen lockdown. Additionally, clear guidance is missing for some groups so they cannot restart. Dawn mentioned that Rachel has been doing great work at The Bothie, continuing to engage with the young people in a safe way. She has held some outdoor sessions and has undertaken a risk assessment for returning indoors with small groups.

Lorna said there is a lot of frustration as there are many guidelines and some seem to almost contradict each other such as pupils mixing in school but not in their own homes. Small community groups may be able to meet for organised activities but people are anxious about making that decision.

Groups have also lost their normal fundraising opportunities and may be required to pay additional costs for their accommodation and cleaning which they can't afford.

One positive aspect is that families are now being paid directly for free school meals and they also have access to food parcels through Lend A Hand Kemnay. A lot of additional support is available to families and the Council are looking at how best to offer this.

Caithleen asked that she be forwarded information about anything happening within the community as she lives elsewhere.

Action Points

Caithleen to be informed about community activity

Cost of the School Day

Caithleen and Lorna have been discussing the fact that families are not always accessing the support available to them. Many families have been affected by furloughing and redundancies and Caithleen will be attending an online course on the cost of lockdown by the Child Poverty Group. Sue said that the issue had been discussed at a meeting of Kemnay Academy's Parent Council and they had discussed how to help families with school uniforms. Only 30 pupils receive free school meals at Kemnay Academy but there are potentially many more who could be eligible. Other support is available, such as free music lessons, but many people are not aware this support exists. Caithleen and Lorna said that they would like to facilitate a discussion with the schools to raise awareness of the available help. There is work being done in the North to improve access to free school meals and Lorna thought it would be useful to see if that work could be replicated within the Kemnay Network. It was decided that the next LLCP meeting would focus solely on this issue and that Caithleen and Lorna could initiate discussions with the schools. Dawn thought it would be good to widen the scope and include support to families who may be facing difficulties due to the end of the job retention scheme and redundancies. Lorna suggested starting with

those who receive free lunches and then perhaps widening the scope later. Caithleen and Lorna will meet to draft a plan.

Action Points

Caithleen and Lorna to draft a plan for raising awareness of support available to families in need

AOB

Jotters Available

Jeanette Mackay could not attend the meeting but wanted to pass on that Lend a Hand Kintore have a pack of jotters that they purchased during lockdown. After the school handed out jotters these were no longer required. If anyone would like them please let Susan know.

Cybersafe Scotland Event

A recent teenager's suicide video has been circulated quite widely amongst young people in the area. Cybersafe Scotland has organised a facebook live event to specifically address this and support parents in how to help their children. To learn more, join the Facebook Live Event with Cath Knibbs, Child Trauma Psychotherapist and researcher and expert in Online Trauma and Annabel Turner, Director of Cybersafe Scotland on Thursday 24th September 2020 from 7 – 7.45 pm. Susan will send this information to the mailing list.

Action Points

Susan to distribute information on Cybersafe Scotland Event

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 12th November, 2 pm, Google Meet