



Ellon LLCP Meeting 28th October 2020

Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Maja Grigorjeva (SAMH), Claire Kaczmarek (Ellon Academy), Bryan Mackay (Foyer), Calvin Little (NHS), Sally Sheehan (Rainbow Rogues), Maureen Rennie (Flexible Childcare Services), Katrena Wilkie (WEA), Nicola Twine (CLD)

Accepted: Pauline Buchan, Lorna Sandison, Annette Holland, Vikki Carpenter, Camille Russell, Sam Rawlins, Leslie Murison, Sarah-Jane Bennison, Joy Aiken, Jan Murdoch.

Apologies: Susan Ritchie, Brenda Thorley, Fraser McLachlan, Kathleen Stewart, Pauline Robertson, Lena North, Joy Aiken, Carolyn Lamb, Emma Dobson, Rosie Crighton, Peter Ridout.

TECHNICAL ISSUES: Unfortunately our chosen platform Google Meet came up with it's own policy for who it would admit to the meeting, and several participants who had accepted the meeting invite were unable to gain proper access to take part.

AGENDA

- Community Needs
 - Approaches & Delivery during the pandemic
 - Opportunities to promote and publicise
 - Discussion point: "What impact has Coronavirus had on literacies in Aberdeenshire?"
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Summary of points raised by partners during discussions

COMMUNITY NEEDS

- Increased isolation over winter due to lack of opportunities and loss of access to community facilities and places.
- Concerns about access to and maintenance of community buildings.
- Families struggling, with food poverty, mental health and finance due to losing jobs.
- Mental Health of both families and staff.
- Huge increase in families using foodbanks.
- Fuel and food poverty needs
- Losing jobs, financial worries, relationship breakdowns. Resilience now being stretched. A lot of people presenting with suicidal thoughts – more so than past, concerning.
- Large numbers of young people adversely affected by lockdown with mental health and anxiety a big issue. Getting back to school after the summer was a big positive as isolation during lock down was huge issue.
- Poverty impacts and financial issues for people and families who haven't experienced this before and they don't know where to go for help.
- Digital access for some learners has been hard. Key issue.
- Food poverty, mental health issues and loneliness.
- Family Resilience – trying to provide learning and support to meet this need – but how to get people in need to engage?

- Support for Staff Wellbeing – looking after people delivering and operating in challenging situations and circumstances. Staff are our most important resource.

APPROACHES / DELIVERY

Rainbow Rogues

- Online and telephone support to families. Trying to get back into community space to deliver.

Flexible Childcare Services.

- Increase in home child-care when service suspended for 3 months.
- Increased cleaning programmes and cost of materials – shortening delivery times.
- Staff have had to learn to use computers and digital technology.
- Eligible 2s work provision has had to adapt with Education.

Foyer

- Transitioned to a digital service within one week. Great benefit to most vulnerable.
- Other services have ended/been suspended and staff placed on furlough.

SAMH

- Working from home since March.
- Phone engagement has been really positive for engagement. Video and phone technology – fine for engagement, not so much for learning.
- Referrals are picking up. Huge increase in self-referrals and from GPs recently. People starting to seek support again.
- Cultivate Project back face to face since August. Struggling with where to go with this over the winter period.
- Living Life to the full, 8 week CBT course online. Have delivered twice over the lockdown. Really positive .

Ellon Academy

- Google Classroom and online delivery of learning during lockdown.
- Laptops loaned to pupils to help with this.

WEA

- Tutors trained in Zoom and Canvas, got ESOL classes up and running again in May.
- Al Amal community group got devices for all New Scot learners.
- Young adults from families did video to show how Zoom worked.
- Young mums managing to come to class better due to online platforms – so improved access.
- Digital skills of tutors improved.

Grampian Covid Assistance Hub / Health

- Supporting people to become more involved and supported online.
- Virtual Wellbeing Festival for Mental Health Week – positive partnership approach.

CLD

- Upskilling and CPD of staff to be able to deliver opportunities competently online.
- ESOL classes being delivered on Google Classroom.
- Employability learning – one-to-ones and online.
- Wellbeing Walks – to engage with community members about learning and employment needs.
- Family learning programme – delivering information and learning on a range of topics online to support parents with current family needs.

- Reflective learning for personal growth. Power Tools workshops – supporting emotional wellbeing and personal effectiveness.
- Youth work – online and face-to-face delivery and support.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Princes Trust starting online soon (Foyer).
- Young Family Employability Programme 16 weeks in new year (Foyer).
- Financial Literacies Course. Asking the question: what do you need help with? Whatever help people need will be delivered during these sessions. (WEA)
- Training for digital champions – care home focused (WEA)
- Steps Personal Development programme – starting online and will be delivered weekly from now until February (CLD).

CORONAVIRUS IMPACT ON LITERACIES

- Positive impact on staff literacies – with time and necessity to train and upskill in especially digital literacies.
- Increased need in population to develop resilience and emotional literacy.
- Emotional literacies and mental health with families.
- Digital Literacy skills shortage / gaps.
- Literacies – working remotely with learners can be really challenging and loss of face to face.
- Surprising, young people glued to phones and tech but can't adapt to online learning platforms.
- Loss of residential and group work face-to-face elements of programmes and benefits of this.
- Employability Literacy needs emerging more and more.
- Most vulnerable affected the most with challenges to access opportunities and information and services.

A more in-depth discussion took place on current literacy needs, taking into account the following definitions:

- Emotional - '...the ability to understand the express feelings'
- Health - '...having knowledge, understanding skills and confidence to use health information...'
- Financial - '....the ability to make informed judgement and take effective decisions regarding the use & management of money...'
- Digital - ...'the skills to use technology to engage in learning...'
- Functional (Including ESOL) - '...the ability to understand written information and use it as a way to communicate...'

Partners identified that while **Emotional Literacies** and **Digital Literacies** were the predominant needs being presented by communities that services were working hard to respond to, that other key literacy areas requiring support in the current climate are **Health Literacies** and **Financial Literacies**.