



**Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP) Online Meeting
Thursday 12th November 2020, 2 pm**

Attending

Caithleen Bell, Senior CLD Worker, Adult Learning
Di Faithfull, Gypsy / Traveller Liaison Officer
Pam Farquhar, Head Teacher, Kinellar Primary School
Lorna Forsyth, CLD Worker, Community Development
Jim Hatter, Rotary Club of Kintore, Kemnay & District
Susan Weetman, Admin Support Assistant, Kemnay CLD

Apologies

Dawn Brown, The Garioch Partnership
Lynsey Coutts, Active Schools
Rob Mackay, Positive Steps Kemnay
Leslie Murison, Live Life Aberdeenshire, Arts & Heritage
Alison Sutherland, Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service
Jen Sutherland, Educational Psychology
Sue Wainman, Greener Kemnay, Kemnay Community Council

Welcome

Caithleen welcomed everyone and they introduced themselves. Unfortunately, Lynsey and Leslie had technical issues and were unable to join the meeting. Di introduced herself as the Gypsy / Traveller Liaison Officer with Aberdeenshire Council.

Matters Arising

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

Partners' Updates

Caithleen said that CLD staff are mostly working from home, with the occasional use of offices and buildings for the delivery of activities which consist of some group work and some one-to-one work, all risk assessed. The Adult Learning Team delivered some outdoor learning activities in Kemnay, Kintore and Blackburn in the October holidays, which were well attended, particularly in Kintore. Additionally, a 4-week programme of outdoor family learning sessions is currently being delivered at Birley Bush community garden in Kemnay. The sessions were offered to families at the primary schools in Kemnay and 4 (5 as of 24/11) families are taking part. Further sessions may be offered in Kintore and Blackburn in the new year.

Jim said he is in contact with Chris Dunhill at Kemnay Academy and will be meeting her on 23rd November to discuss the Rotary's youth programmes. He said that communications about their programmes have improved and thanked Susan for helping to distribute the information. They are

continuing to develop the programmes, so they are ready for next year, when the restrictions are eased.

Lorna said that the FareShare project is continuing and they are applying to the Coop for funding to support people over the festive period. This funding will be applied for through the Community Council and the Church. There will also be a meeting next week to look at potential new premises.

Kemnay Steens has been a very positive project which has generated a lot of discussion. An orienteering course, using the stones as points, is in the pipeline and Kemnay Youth Forum are working on developing their own app to tell the story of the stones. Once restrictions are lifted, there will be a celebration event, which the artist will also attend, and his costs will be covered by Greener Kemnay. There will also be a virtual tour of the stones as well as a leaflet and activity pack. Lorna said that it has really pulled people in the community together and provided an opportunity to engage with other members. There are still ongoing discussions about a Kemnay Development Trust but Lorna said she is unsure what form this would take.

Di said that she has been working mainly in the North so is looking to gain information about the Central and South areas too. Work is currently being undertaken with the 12 – 15 years age group supported by Lyndsay Aspey (GT Teacher) This is the age that young people in the travelling community normally leave school– the boys go to work with their fathers and the girls stay at home. Lyndsay is working with 2 to 3 of the young people as part of a pilot project. Di mentioned that some GT families have been able to access Chromebooks through the Connecting Scotland Phase 2 distribution. Lorna said that anyone needing food can get it from the FareShare Hub in Kemnay, which is based at the Flexible Childcare Services' premises.

Pam reported that Kinellar School has been open since August and everything is going well. There are plenty of activities within the school community, however she is keen to encourage extra engagement with the 8 – 12 year-olds, as there has been some difficulty with that age group. She is hoping to link up with The Bothie in Kintore as she has heard positive feedback about their work. Susan will ask Rachel to contact Pam. Caithleen also offered to provide some information on family learning. Pam added that communications with the Parent Council and the local Rotary Club have been re-established which will be very helpful.

Although they could not join the meeting Leslie, Lynsey and Rob passed on the following information:

The Arts and Heritage adult learning classes are no longer running. Upholstery is the main class which is affected in the Kemnay Network Area and refunds are being given to those who had paid for classes earlier in the year.

Lynsey reported that Active Schools has had some progress with schools in getting some of the extra-curricular programmes and activities back up and running throughout the network. This has been well received by Head Teachers and also parents. They are still working on an individual school basis and their openness to Active Schools programmes returning within their buildings. The PE guidance for schools officially changed in the last couple of weeks, now allowing indoor contact and non-contact sports for children, so they are hoping that going into the new year they can continue to progress with getting more activities back up and running again, working within the new tiered/level system that's in place. Lynsey also provided a link to the newly updated Kemnay Network page via the LLA website which details exactly what is running at the moment - <http://bit.ly/ASKemnay>

Kemnay Buggy Walks are taking place every Thursday from 10 a.m. with 20 parents/grand-parents on the WhatsApp group. There are 3 Health Walk groups meeting at the Pleasure Park every Friday from 9.30 am, which are going well, with very enthusiastic support both from the volunteer walk

leaders and the walkers. These activities are permitted under Government guidelines as Positive Steps Kemnay is classed as an 'Outdoor Sports' group, advised by Paths for All.

Action Points

Susan to ask Rachel Lewis to get in touch with Pam
Caithleen to email family learning information to Pam

Impact of COVID 19 on Cost of the School Day

At the last meeting, Lorna and Caithleen said they would draft a plan to raise awareness of this issue, but this has been delayed due to Lorna's recent absence. The aim is to try and maximise the income available for parents at this difficult time. Caithleen shared a presentation which showed that, even before Covid, 24% of children were living in poverty. Families are now more worse off than before due to job losses, leading to financial and mental health concerns. However, many families are not accessing the benefits they are entitled to, such as free school meals, uniform and music tuition. There may be various reasons for this such as letters not reaching the parents, low literacy levels so they can't read the information, stigma, cultural issues etc. Lorna said that discussions with families in the North had elicited a lot of changes in the way benefits were accessed. Pam suggested a newsletter providing information on the support available which could be distributed through all the schools. It was agreed that this would be a good time to do this as Christmas places additional financial burdens on families. Pam said that they had been approached by local churches about the provision of second-hand uniforms and that she was promoting this as an environmental initiative to try and reduce the stigma for families. Jim suggested Pam get in touch with Dawn Lynch at Inverurie Academy as she has links to the recycling uniforms scheme.

Action Points

Caithleen and Pam to create a newsletter to promote benefits available to families

Impact of COVID 19 on Literacies

Caithleen said that the CLD service is currently looking at how Covid has impacted on literacies which includes reading, writing, communication and digital access. She will be sending out some questions via email and would appreciate responses by the end of the year. The information gathered will be used to help develop the new Aberdeenshire Strategy. The first draft was produced at the start of the pandemic however it will have to be amended to reflect the current situation.

Action Points

Questions to be considered & responses emailed back to Caithleen
(caithleen.bell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

In relation to literacies what are the emerging issues/needs in your location?

How do you think the emerging issues/needs should be addressed?

NB – Our definition of literacies includes the following; Emotional, Health, Financial, Digital & Functional.

AOB

Financial First Aid Course

Di attended a financial first aid course and is now able to refer people to SCARF. A home energy advisor will then be in contact and can help people reduce their energy costs.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 21st January, 2 pm, Google Meet