

Alford Local Learning Community Partnership (Re-convene) meeting 12/11/2020

Agenda

Welcome, Apologies and Introductions/ Re- Introductions around the table

- **Who is missing/ What other partners would you like to invite?**
- **The 'Big' question: What learning (and other) needs are emerging during the Covid Pandemic?**
- **Information Sharing**
- **AOB**
- **Date and Time of next meeting**

Minutes of Alford LLCP 12/11/2020

Welcome and Apologies

Present: Simone Sinclair (Chair) CLD Adult Learning Team Education & Childrens' Service; Kerry Barlow Active Schools Co-ordinator (Kerry going on Mat leave but will ask colleague to join LLCP); Kirsty Yau Manager Children and Families Social Work Team Huntly/Alford; Fiona Seaton Educational Psychology; Natasha Pawlukiewicz Community Planning Officer Marr Area;

Accepted but unable to access meeting (tech issues): Bernadette Main Alford Network Librarian; Dorothy Anderson Donside Community Council; Emma Dobson Community Health Improvement Officer NHS;

Apologies: Moira Milne Alford Academy Head Teacher, Dawn Tuckwood Public Health Coordinator, Fiona Travis Health Visitor, Suzy Prosser Employment Support Team Aberdeenshire Council;

Introductions around table and brief explanation of remit:

Simone explained that a few additional partners had accepted meeting but were unable to attend likely due to 'tech' issues. Other partners also gave apologies today, but wish to be involved in future, or have a colleague attend.

Intro - Aberdeenshire Learning Community Partnership (ALCP) Priorities

Simone highlighted the Aberdeenshire Wide LLCP priorities:

A1 Positive Transitions and Building Resilience

A2 Community Engagement to Empowerment

A3 Workforce Development

A4 Using Data more Effectively

More info available at:

<https://learningcommunitypartnershipsaberdeenshire.wordpress.com/>

Simone highlighted the previous 5 local priorities identified by Alford LLCP in 2019 and the Combined Partnership event held in March 2019. This was an attempt to reduce the burden on partners' diaries. Alford LLCP (2019) Priorities were identified as Community Resilience; Vulnerability; Autism Awareness; Older People; Mental Health.

Simone asked partners to consider if this was still the case in 2020?

The Big Question – What Learning (and other) needs are emerging during Covid Crisis?

Simone started discussion and clarified that she meant Learning in the widest sense i.e. in and out of school, in families, in groups, in communities etc.

Simone CLD perspective: Families struggling with isolation missing family and friends; Poor Mental health; Resilience; Lack of ICT equipment/skills; Struggling with Home schooling; Reduced Finances in some cases. In response to demand through lockdown CLD is providing: Free IT equipment through Connecting Scotland initiative; ICT learning/support to help families access education for themselves and children, shopping, banking, job search and interviews etc; Supported Food Banks to increase access to free food; Online Adult Learning in Personal Development/Building Confidence/supporting mental health and wellbeing, e.g. Steps Programme very effective for those at transition points in life; Online Family Learning with STEM agenda- supporting children and families learning together; Outdoor Learning with Families; More recently began meeting most vulnerable learners face to face again with all COVID arrangements in place; Our Literacy, Numeracy, ESOL, Employability and Accreditation work has also continued online and over the phone throughout. Some learners may prefer online learning as would not access CLD support otherwise- so this has been a positive!

Natasha Community Planning Perspective: Reporting similar issues; 'Volunteer fatigue' - community groups concerned about support and continuation of these important groups; Concerns around Older People esp. those in care homes- reporting that Wartime trauma memories etc being triggered by COVID current restrictions etc.; Impact on schoolchildren

and families is starting to hit home- impact of parents losing jobs, missing out on all activities etc; How can we all support children and families to work through these difficult times so it doesn't impact their futures?

Kirsty Social Work Perspective: Similar issues coming up. Families struggling with mental health of Parents and children; ESOL families struggling to access information online and elsewhere as English not their first language- Simone asked Kirsty to contact Lada Copic (CLD ESOL lead) to see what support could be offered to these families; Seeing a worrying trend in some younger people starting to abuse substances due to their poor mental health/difficult circumstances; Families struggling with isolation and lack of face to face community groups/support currently; Increasing Financial pressure on families as people lose jobs; SW increasingly having to apply for funding for families and help them access Food banks etc.

Kerry Active Schools Perspective: Groups have only restarted this term due to COVID restrictions, pressures on schools and very strict PE guidelines that schools wish to follow- initially no indoor PE and mixed guidance for each sport. Very complex!; Massive reduction in groups recently; Impact on children and families missing out discussed- activities could be one of few positives in life; Cluster Tennis club recently re-started and is at capacity and has waiting list- this is positive! Kerry seeing an increase in appetite for activities from families. Hope extra-curricular activities can increase inside again now that PE guidelines have eased a bit for indoor activities.

Fiona Educational Psychology Perspective: Team has had phonline in place throughout lockdown and feel they've had more discussions with parents than would usually. Key questions emerged and partners shared knowledge on Facebook- good interaction/engagement with parents that way. Example queries – I've seen changes in my child what can I do? How can I support my child's wellbeing etc? Concerns about the transition back to school. More direct parental requests from parents during this time, as opposed to more usual engagement through referrals from partners and schools. Parental engagement is positive and helpful. Themes emerging – impact on Health and wellbeing, secondary trauma, coping with isolation, resilience of children, families and professionals – focus on self-care strategies, Recovery curriculum/focus in schools looking at safety first then ensuring feelings of belonging when back at school, prioritising social and emotional needs then learning will come. Not seeing all impacts lately. Some non-attenders in Alford area have made progress and are coming back to school more positively in terms of Ed Psych perspective; Changes in sensory surroundings with all Covid restrictions in place- smaller classes, fewer children, different exits, staggered class times, more Outdoor Learning etc, have been positive for some children on Autism spectrum and other additional needs. Seeing more collaboration from NHS colleagues – easier for partners to participate through virtual working without having to travel to meetings- another positive.

All Partners acknowledged benefits of these face to face activities for children and young people- exercise/wellbeing and social contact. All recognised benefits of face to face contact for all ages. Online support is great but face to face best! Lots of shared emerging themes/issues recognised among partners. Partners acknowledged benefits of the information sharing and networking provided by this LLCP meeting and feel further needs

will emerge in coming months. Simone will share these perspectives with CLD colleagues too.

What are priorities for Alford LLCP?

Suggestions:

- Supporting Mental Health – all partners can contribute. We need to narrow this huge field down. How can we link with other partnerships/agencies to narrow down and focus on possible solutions.?
- Supporting learners/ communities to Access Services. How can we help learners/communities find and access what they need?
- Identifying gaps in services and possible combined solutions
- Wider discussion around learning needs needed - to break it down further

Discussion around how to develop Alford LLCP. Partners can take this LLCP in the direction that best fits needs- could be info sharing and networking, or we can have shared CPD, awareness raising, events as has taken place in other LLCPs. We have scope to develop LLCP in a way that best meets our combined needs.

Person Centred Planning- Fiona suggested we use this framework for the LLCP planning. Fiona has said we could use it collaboratively on Teams to help us break down our goals and visualise aims further. Fiona happy to share this with us in future.

Should we 'piggy back' onto GIRFEC meetings?

Present partners have no real preference but easier to have both meetings on same day. Simone will discuss with Lisa Lees Alford GIRFEC chair.

Who is missing? What further partners to invite?

Input from NHS Library, Schools and Community Council is to come- already invited.

Partners to invite:

Cluster Primaries contact- Cluster Chair- David Birch is Cluster Chair. Simone to invite

Police. At least keep them in touch with issues

Community Leisure officer in charge of Alford Community Campus- Simone to invite

The Alford LLCP focusses on Alford network but Kirsty has Huntly remit too- queried whether we should share info with Huntly GIRFEC Chair Alan Johnstone (Gordon Schools Academy). Kirsty can share with Alan at GIRFEC meetings. Alan is very welcome to more info if required. Possible linkages between the areas.

Info Sharing

Items from Dawn Tuckwood- Full info will be forwarded on to partners.

- Webinar on Hidden Harm on 1st Dec- Grampian wide Child Protection seminar/webinar being run on 'Hidden Harm' - it is a free Multi-Agency online event for frontline practitioners and managers in both adult and children services, working in all statutory and third sector agencies, services and organisations in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray.
- Scottish Child Payment info and factsheet
- Marr area *Know where to Turn* info leaflet- agency support for communities
- GCAH Info below

**The Grampian Assistance
Hub phonenumber and website
is still here for you.**

**Use it to reach out for help or to
report that someone else needs help.**

**freephone
Monday to Friday
9.00am - 5.00pm**

0808 196 3384

www.gcah.org.uk

AOB

Simone thanked all partners for their time and contribution and for starting the Alford LLCP discussion again. Everyone wished Kerry well for her Maternity Leave and impending arrival!

Date/Time/Format next meeting TBC

Simone to check when next GIFREC meeting is and come back to partners