

## **Alford Local Learning Community Partnership online meeting**

### **Minutes 18/01/2021**

**Apologies:** Stuart Jones (Police); Kirsty Yau (Social Work), Bernadette Main (Libraries) and Fiona Seaton (Educational Psychology).

**Present:** Simone Sinclair (CLD Adult Learning), Moira Milne (Headteacher Alford Academy), Jo Munro (Alford Academy), Dawn Tuckwood (Public Health Coordinator NHS), Holly Mitchell (Employment Support Team), Natasha Pawlukiewicz (Community Planning Officer), Ashleigh Eaton (Community Leisure Officer)

### **Introductions/ Re- Introductions and Updates around the table**

**Dawn** NHS gave an update on the Covid vaccination scheme; She's been heavily involved in organising the clinics- good progress being made. Everyone was pleased to hear this and shared some vaccination experiences!

**Jo** gave update- she's a teacher at Alford Academy; She has recently been appointed to Principal teacher of Equity, Excellence and Wellbeing-To ensure young people and families have all support they need. 50 pupils currently receive free school meals; 37 families across cluster. This is Jo's first priority to support these families with financial and practical support. Trying to get info on what support pupils feel they need; also sharing info on financial support available with families; e.g have put out Christmas food hampers and Chromebooks though government initiative- to help support their learning in and out of school; Also looking to support pupils who have very slow internet/broadband speeds at home as this is an issue for many rural families;

**Jo** plans to get a survey out to parents next to see what support they need and to target literacy, numeracy and family wellbeing and offering family workshops. Also looking at ways to reduce the cost of the school day for families; Eating well for less; Looking to out sustainable support in place for families not one off; Dawn suggested Jo link up with Aboyne Academy as they've been working on similar projects; She will send info for Depute HT at Aboyne.

**Simone** - welcomed and recognised the importance of Jo's input and said she can see some potential linkages with CLD and the Academy's work with families; CLD Adult Learning team has been offering online health wellbeing and mental health support; STEM family learning online, Family Learning supporting positive family relationships, Adult Learning team also offers numeracy, literacy, IT learning and financial literacy support- another potential offer of support if families have complex needs.

Most of the CLD staff across all 3 teams- Adult learning, Work with Young People and Community Development- all re-deployed for at least part of their working week. We continue to offer CLD services but most staff are also partially redeployed in Call centres, care homes, contact/wellbeing phone calls; We've also been referring many learners to

Citizen's Advice to get advice on complex financial issues and referring people for Advocacy support due to the difficulties they're currently facing;

**Holly** - Employment Support Team could potentially link with the families Jo is targeting- to help them gain employment etc. Holly could promote EST services within the school bulletins; Has been supporting clients with Food Bank vouchers and Links to Benefits Calculator so people can make sure they're not missing out on something they could claim;

**Ashleigh** – Community Leisure officer in charge of facilities and activities management at Alford community campus and ski centre; Explained team is in unique position at moment due to Covid- all facilities are closed and most staff have been redeployed to support the vaccinations centres. (There was to be a vaccination hub at Alford ski centre but this did not happen).

**Natasha** - Marr Community planning officers are focussing on supporting local Resilience groups; They are the very small volunteer groups dotted all over Marr which are helping to support local communities; They also support Community Planning Partnerships involving partners from NHS, Aberdeen Voluntary Action and others; They plan to have a Forum where all partners and voluntary groups can get together (virtually) in geographical areas and discuss local issues' They've also been supporting Food Pantries forums- encouraging them to set up and make use of peer support networks; The peer support/learning has been very successful outcome; Natasha will share the feedback with the Alford LLCP to see if partners can provide any support/links. The **Know who to Turn to** Leaflet which gives many useful resources will be shared again with this grouping.

**\*CONNECTION ISSUES- so we missed a lot of discussion \***

### **Who is missing/ What other partners would you like to invite?**

Simone ran through list of Partners taking part in Alford LLCP- We have fairly broad representation from agencies and some community members: NHS, Police, Social Work, Community Planning, Alford Academy cluster, Employment Support Team, Libraries, Community Learning and Development, Donside community Council/Alford Community, Live Life Aberdeenshire, Educational Psychology,

Dawn suggested local Autism support Group – *Spikin' Autism*- should be invited; Simone will enquire- but are we sure this is correct Forum- perhaps Natasha's Community Forum would perhaps be a better match? Natasha wasn't sure but would have a think if this Forum was appropriate; Simone said she would put Natasha in touch with the group should Natasha feel that is appropriate.

## **What are priorities for Alford LLCP?**

**Simone** recapped suggestions so far and asked partners to agree priorities among them:

- 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? Information Sharing?
- Identifying gaps in services and possible combined solutions
- Wider discussion around learning needs needed - to break it down further

**Jo**- focus on mental health and wellbeing, supporting financial literacy and access to support and resources for families experiencing financial hardship- perhaps for the first time for some; Jo happy to contact Barry Drennan to discuss Financial Resources; And Jo is happy to share these resources/info with Alford LLCP; Jo also creating short videos to assist parents with Financial Resources;

**Simone**- agreed with Jo on all above; All 3 CLD teams across the Shire are seeing similar emerging issues- poor mental health often linked to isolation, Financial difficulties; Simone suggested Information Sharing/Communication between LLCP partners could be a huge part of our effort to support our communities and link learners and families with the correct service at the right time!

**Dawn** to share info GIRFEC Parent Club Money talk team campaign- Simone to share that and other info. Aberdeenshire Conversation Cafes; Dawn will share info. Jo can contact Aboyne GIRFEC chair (Barry Drennan) to get access to Financial support info;

**Ashleigh**- seeing increase in loneliness, isolation, depression across all age groups.

**Natasha** -shared info about Age Scotland Friendship line- Natasha to send info to Simone.

## **Alford LLCP Priorities Agreed as follows:**

- **Supporting Mental health/ wellbeing / able to Signpost learners**
- **Providing Access to Financial Information Sharing/ able to Signpost learners**
- **Information sharing and Networking and being to services will likely be priorities of Alford LLCP. Simone encouraged all partners to share info and we will share info onwards.**

## **Info Sharing**

- Simone shared CLD Adult Learning team online course self-esteem garden online course.
- Library promoting online Bookbug services- singing and stories for Under 5s Simone to share.
- Educational Psychology sent Family Nurture Links- Simone to share onwards.
- Dawn suggested some kind of info newsletter/bulletin for this group- Discussion around methods and sharing info/resources;
- Jo suggested website or Social Media to keep it up to date and fresh;
- Holly said *The Foyer* were still accepting referral for people to get iPad and Laptops at this time.
- Simone suggested Alford LLCP may have its own Facebook Page like the Kemnay LLCP- Simone will look into this on groups behalf;
- Natasha shared the *Parents Come Together* Social Media page and link below:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ParentsComeTogetherinAberdeenshire>

## **Date and Time of next meeting – TBC**

We don't want to lose momentum; Moira suggested every 6 weeks- Dawn agreed; Simone agreed every 6-8 weeks;

We looked in diary- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March- Simone will put out date. Same time on Monday afternoon.

**APOLOGIES - Simone was off sick but will re-arrange meeting with you all very soon.**