



Kemnay Local Learning Community Partnership (LLCP) Online Meeting Thursday 11th February 2021, 2 pm

Attending

Caithleen Bell, Senior CLD Worker, Adult Learning
Lynsey Coutts, Active Schools
Di Faithfull, Gypsy / Traveller Liaison Officer
Jim Hatter, Rotary Club of Kintore, Kemnay & District
Rachel Lewis, The Bothie / CLD Working with Young People
Jeannette Mackay, Community Member (links to local churches and ADP)
Rob Mackay, Positive Steps Kemnay
Nicola Stuart, Depute Head, Kemnay Academy
Sue Wainman, Greener Kemnay, Kemnay Community Council
Susan Weetman, Admin Support Assistant, Kemnay CLD

Apologies

Julie Low, Employment Support Team
Leslie Murison, Live Life Aberdeenshire, Arts & Heritage
Linda Singer, Grampian Opportunities
Alison Sutherland, Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service
Jen Sutherland, Educational Psychology
Nom Wright, Aberdeenshire Council Community Waste

Welcome

Caithleen welcomed everyone and they introduced themselves. Nicola Stuart introduced herself as the newly appointed Depute Head at Kemnay Academy and said that Marie Glendinning had passed on some notes on the partnership.

Matters Arising

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

Partners' Updates

Caithleen said that CLD staff are continuing to work online due to the current lockdown. They are hoping to restart face-to-face learning in March but it may be after Easter. Offline Family Learning will start in the next couple of weeks, with short online sessions to keep connected. A Strengthening Families online course and some person-centred learning relating to mental health will also start soon.

Di is busy helping people with food and fuel and getting funding for various courses. She is also keeping in touch with people, including those at the site near Kemnay.

Active Schools has produced an online Stay Home Stay Active programme which offers pre-recorded sessions through YouTube, including boxercise, football and dance. There is also a Run4Fun series for which participants can receive a medal and certificate. This will hopefully encourage families to get outdoors, within the current restrictions. All information is sent via the schools and can be accessed through facebook. Lynsey will send this information and all the links to Susan for distribution.

Jeannette sent information about two Cybersafe events to Susan, who passed it on the mailing list, and to the local schools. Information was also circulated about 3 upcoming webinars on Drugs Trend Awareness, organised by the ADP and hosted by Crew, a Scottish drugs charity. Unfortunately drug use has increased over the lockdown period.

Jeanette is also a member of Lend-a-Hand Kintore and she said they are quiet at the moment. They are now offering volunteers to walk with people to help alleviate isolation. There has not been much uptake but people may be scared to go out in the current snowy conditions. Neil Meyer, minister at Kintore Parish Church, is also offering morning Zoom sessions to help people in isolation.

Jim said that they have had some entries for their young people's competitions, and they are about to appoint Vaila Spencer as a Community Service Manager in Kemnay. The Rotary is still planning for the year ahead and would like to be more involved in the Lend-a-Hand groups.

Rob reported that the walking groups are currently closed but they are keeping in touch with their vulnerable members. The Buggy Group has an active WhatsApp group and are staying in contact, sharing games and keeping themselves entertained. However, for many people the lockdown is having a big impact on their mental health.

A lot of time has been spent of the A96 dualling plans and there is concern that the new road will cut communities off from each other. The consultation period has been extended and the timescale for the project will need to be reviewed.

Rachel is meeting the young people from The Bothie online but they are now fed up with the current restrictions and not engaging as well as before. She is concentrating on sending individuals positive messages but they are struggling and not keen to go outside.

Greener Kemnay has been doing some housekeeping, e.g. updating policies, as they can't get out to work at Birley Bush at the moment due to the ice and snow. There is still money to be spent and the Public Art Project to officially open.

With regards to Lend-a-Hand Kemnay, the Fareshare scheme is taking up a lot of the secretary's time. It still has to be decided whether people would like a Community Larder or just share the free food from the supermarkets.

Nicola said that the Academy pupils have been busy with online learning delivered through Teams. Hopefully some of the pupils will return to do practical tasks week commencing 22nd February but this will be confirmed tomorrow and the pupils will be informed next week. There had been a focus on 'time to talk' the previous week in an effort to improve mental health and this week the focus will be on cyber security. Support has also been offered through 'anytime, anywhere' documents and the school has provided IT equipment to those who need it.

Nom could not attend but provided the following update –

'This frosty, wintry weather is playing havoc with the collections. Vehicles are running, but due to the low temperatures the hydraulics and the electronics are frozen solid so bin lifts not working.

Waste update

- We are still concentrating on waste and recycling collections as the main priority, with other parts of service suspended.
- Where missed due to weather they will not return before the next scheduled collection.
- Where collections have been disrupted due to weather households are permitted to put out extra on the next scheduled collection.
- Bulky uplifts - suspended and no idea when they will restart. Householders can arrange to take to Household Waste Recycling centre - just make booking online.
- Household Waste Recycling centres continue to operate a booking system, and have had some issues re weather that have led to closures.
- Fly tipping has continued to increase in some localities during the lockdown periods. Reminder to all that if using 'man with a van' to take things away, make sure that you know where he is taking them to. Ask for his Waste Carrier Licence and a waste transfer note.

Litter - although still on our agenda for all Academy towns, nothing being done meantime as many of the areas have had barrowmen redeployed to other areas of waste collection. This will be picked up again in the spring when weather improves.

As always, we encourage the public to keep us informed of the waste related issues in their area by reporting things via the Wasteline or online forms.'

Action Points

Lynsey to send programme links to Susan for distribution

Literacies Strategy

Caithleen provided some background information about the Aberdeenshire Literacies Strategy. The strategy is a year behind due to Covid 19 but is now in the final stages of consultation. Caithleen asked what people see as the emerging needs and issues with regards to literacies in the area – this includes emotional, health, financial, digital & functional:

- Young people struggling, lacking skills to help themselves, finding online work difficult, finding it hard to speak about how they're feeling. Fed up with online interaction.
- Pupils scared to speak in front of their peers, don't have the opportunity to speak to school staff privately. Also missing the social side as teacher always present so can't talk freely. Cameras are off so can't judge what people think as can't see their body language.
- Difficult to interact with people with masks on.
- Challenging this time in lockdown as weather poor and shorter days.
- Arts and crafts and music helping with mental health – if do something creative have something to show for the effort.
- Elderly more isolated as less likely to be online and less likely to come forward. Find some things difficult due to not being online e.g. banking. Particularly difficult if not connected to a group before lockdown. Also less likely to have smart phones.

- Kemnay walking groups staying in touch and some walking in pairs. Using facebook and emails to stay connected and to provide information. Buggy group younger so staying in touch regularly.
- Jim is the chair of a computers and integration group who show people the basics so they can communicate. There is also Scottish Government funding through Connecting Scotland to provide people with ipads or chrome books and over 200 have been distributed through the Shire. Equipment has also been requested for sheltered housing within the Shire. However, there will still be people without access to a digital device.
- Sheltered housing and home occupants are struggling as common rooms closed and not allowed visitors so limited face-to-face contact, usually just with staff.
- Lend-a-Hand Kintore have offered walking companions for elderly people and have advertised it in the Kintore Konnects newsletter so hoping to reach those people in need.
- Lend-a-Hand Kemnay will continue for as long as it is needed. Currently offering buddy phone calls and the demand has increased over the past 6 months. Fareshare service is well used and will continue to operate. There are food parcels for the vulnerable as well as food which is available to everyone. Some people are embarrassed about receiving free food but it's made easier if it's available to all. The number of people accessing this food has increased, probably due to increased redundancies and furloughing.

Parental / Family Support Leaflet

Caithleen and Lorna Forsyth will produce a leaflet providing information on benefits available to families. If anyone has any information that could be included just pass it on to Caithleen. Sue said that Cfine has produced some useful videos on access to support and benefits.

Action Points

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

Guest Speaker / Input for future meetings

It was agreed that it would be a good idea to invite external speakers to future meetings. Caithleen suggested that Jackie Coroon, Adult Services Reader Development Librarian, could be asked along to provide input on what's available through the Library Service. Other suggestions were someone from a mental health organisation such as CAMHS, The Spark and My Life Dynamic, a representative from SRN (Scottish Recovery Network), Leslie Murison from Arts and Heritage and Davie Donaldson to speak about the Gypsy Traveller community. As the meetings will still be online, guest speakers can attend from anywhere in the country.

Action Points

Caithleen will organise a guest speaker

AOB

The Working with Young People Team are looking to engage with young people who are struggling with social isolation and loneliness, to try to get them to re-engage. Caithleen will provide a contact if anyone has someone they would like to refer.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 29th April, 2 pm, Teams