

Westhill LLCP Meeting – 2pm 21st January 2021

Present: Mike Riley, Caithleen Bell, David Dent, Ian Ritchie, Jill Noble, Leslie Murison

No Matters Arising

Caithleen – Literacies Strategy was ready to promote last year but due to Covid had to be put on hold. At the tail end of last year they were looking at the impact Covid has had and how it has affected the service. Literacies in the Community such as Reading, Writing, Numbers, Health, Financial ie internet banking, Digital and Emotional. Mike spoke about Digital Literacies for some people with no broadband or PCs. There was a grant of £100 for tablets and dongle packages, it does not have to be expensive to get people sorted, let Mike know if anyone is still in need of help.

Financial impact on families is great and they are more aware of digital and emotional worries. Some teenagers do not have digital skills and need help, it is not high numbers but they do exist. Library does provide computer access and help with printing there are 21 computers at Westhill School Library and they find pupils use them to email their school work then print them off. The branch library can be used by the public but at the moment the library is closed. Mike spoke about a printing package for £3 a month and the company supplies the ink and you are allowed 100 copies per month. Jill mentioned there is a photocopier in the library for public use.

Library service – live life at home digital sources Aberdeenshire website – people can access that service and listen to audio books and book bug story sessions, download papers. You need to be digitally connected to access the service. The click and collect service was popular but is not available at the present.

Leslie said she was speaking to a lady in her 80's whose ipad had broken down and she cannot contact her family who live abroad. Mike said people can get help as there are ongoing programs which includes ipads or Pcs it is generally for low income or vulnerable families. Leslie said she also spoke to 2 youths in their twenties who were dyslexic and they can play on their phones but struggle with computers. Some youths need help with learning how to pass the driving theory test.

CLD service involved with connecting Scotland Scheme phases 2.2 has just closed, there will probably be a phase 3.

Phase 1 was for people shielding with health problems or the vulnerable.

Phase 2 was for older adults with disability or ongoing health problems and care experienced young people.

CLD alone had 300 pieces of IT kit going out and LEAD and Foyer also received funding for equipment as well – part of the Government roll out is for everybody in Scotland to be connected.

People who get the kit are contacted by admin staff who complete a baseline survey to see if they need help, there are 15% of people need ongoing additional support. If anyone needs help with this contact Caithleen Bell. The good thing about tablets is that they can just be used for basic things like emails, photos and contacting family.

Community impact assessment produced by council was published in October and it has been flagged up that Westhill is under Health vulnerabilities. This could be due to covid or the age of population maybe. A survey was done about 15 years ago and it was clear there was high mental health issues. Funding was put in place for a worker to set up a group about 3 years ago and it is still running today.

David asked if someone wants to donate a laptop can it be assured that it will be wiped completely – Caithleen said Somebody Cares the charity takes old computers and wipes them clean but did state that second hand computers after 3 years are almost obsolete and ipads out of date in 5 years.

Partner updates

Leslie – Adult learning classes cancelled – people getting refunds. Leslie is working full-time at the covid telephone line as supervisor working from home. The Hub gets phone calls about anything ie dog walking, shopping, medication etc.

Ian – My World of Work website is a lot of help with helpline numbers. Ian is working closely with Eileen Buchan trying to get engaged with school leavers at an early stage all online. There is not a lot of employment opportunities at the moment but they are trying to promote Modern Apprenticeships. Pathway Apprenticeships are beginning at the end of March for 6 months and this is an opportunity for under 18's to fill a gap with remote learning there is a limited framework qualification but it is £100 per week and they can train on IT (hardware and software), Engineering, Child care and Social care.

There are opportunities for looking at the Labour market info and see which sectors will be in demand in the future and search job role and how many people in that job.

Jill – Library click and collect was very successful at Westhill and staff were delighted seeing their customers but with this lockdown it has stopped. Staff are redeployed again. The Cosy Bosie project was very popular and people who like knitting did so and donated items such as blankets etc and they were passed on to folk. Libraries are waiting to hear Government guidelines re libraries reopening.

David – Over winter they have been having virtual meetings, they postponed litter picks but are now doing ad hoc picks around the schools. They are continuing to support the resilience group. The xmas party was postponed but they handed out afternoon teas to OAPs in Westhill and Pitcairn and Blackhills Court. Leslie asked if she could put forward some names of elderly people for David's list to be included next time.

They planted 4,000 crocus around Westhill and are still focusing on the Westhill Food bank.

Mike – There is new Drug money from the Government - £50 million a year over the next 5 years over Scotland to help with drug related deaths.

Community Learning Development completed a redeployment sheet and are hoping to cover admin in the Vaccination centres. Mike does voluntary work for the Blood Bikers delivering essential things for the NHS. He has just completed his Controller Training and hopes to start work alongside the helplines.

No AOB

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 25th March 2021 at 2pm