

WESTHILL LLCP MEETING – 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021  
+ COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PRESENT: Mike Riley, Leslie Murison, Jill Noble, Stella Campbell, Caroline Smith and Eveline Crossan

APOLOGIES: Freda Nicolson, Caithleen Bell and Alison Reid

No Matters Arising

Community Profiles have been very useful Mike sent a link to Westhill Statistical Summary – interesting reading for information. Breakdown of information is very useful. From the Library perspective it is very useful. It shows high income in Westhill (2019 figures) but will probably look a lot different now. The information has been updated with 2021 stats. Westhill has a high mental health issue at the moment but prior to the pandemic figures were low. Some Managers are speaking about an increase in people discussing suicide. SAMH has a course running in April re: North-east Suicide Prevention. Mike looks after 3 Drugs & Alcohol Forums and someone had expressed concerns online re suicide this must be handled very carefully.

WEA courses for information.

CLD Plan running from September 2021 until August 2024– not about our service but part of education.

Education Scotland has identified that there is not enough evidence that learners have been involved in shaping the Plan therefore they have asked across Scotland that learners be more involved in the next 3 years. They have asked to have conversations with learners before the end of April, also try to reach people who are not currently learners. Mike is looking for feedback on which people to reach out to. Community Learning as a service engage with learners perhaps they could print out forms so they are available in the Libraries. Jill Noble will send out forms with the click & collect service they provide at the library. Citizens Advice are only seeing face to face clients in an emergency. Stella will send out the link to their members. Leslie has not been in touch with learners for over a year so would find it difficult to hand out forms.

Partners Updates

Leslie – Adult classes will not continue in the Community, Leslie at present is working in the HACK.

Caroline – Just recently published the interim Community plan for Garioch in February. 3 main priorities are areas in connection with community planning, stronger empowered communities, healthier communities and connected communities. It gives an overview of what we have identified over the last year – the plan is very much focused on recovery and support our communities going forward. Developed through the community impact assessments carried out last August and September and community engagements. Live plan with flexibility and adaptability to change and will be reviewed on a yearly basis. There will be a joint meeting coming up re: Mental Health and speakers have been invited along to overview about what we are seeing again and the impact of the last year Nationally, in the Shire and local levels.

Workshops for discussion re action to take forward and work together over the next 8 months. We are developing Community action plans for Echt, Kirkton of Skene and will meet with the Westhill Community Council to discuss local ground plans developed by Community and looking to apply for funding.

Jill – The Library has not developed as they are connected to the Primary School so restrictions are in place but as from 5<sup>th</sup> April Click & Collect will start up again. It is only a period of time before they open again for the public.

Stella – The church had good news from the Government to open up again but it is limited with strict guidelines. A Project they have been involved with is the Westhill Resilient Support Group. The church sent a card in February to all who was on the list (around 400 – 450) impacted by the Project to let people know they were thinking of them. They have also been involved in patient transport around 20 volunteers organised by David Ritchie to provide transport to get people to and from hospital out-patient appointments and to attend the centres for their covid injections. 400 easter eggs will be distributed next week with easter cards.

They are planning one more phase later on in the year – doorstep visits and getting people back to meeting others.

The Chaplin for each of the schools are also discussing mental health and looking at memorials for the schools and the wider community.

Eveline – They have achieved a lot by the end of 2019 but core funding was stopped but full cost recovery funding was used for 2 units in the Westhill Shopping Centre to be refurbished. There are 3 teams working well and 6 new volunteers in training at the moment online and face to face. Last year they went up by 800 clients (up 50%). There is a Volunteer Adviser in every day for emergencies and 3 – 5 volunteers working from home. They are dealing with 50% of enquiries re benefits - a lot on universal credits for the first time. With the roll out of legacy benefits on average clients are £300 - £400 worse off every month. Up to 25% of everything we do is advise on debt. They are seeing an increase in legal and housing issues.

The area they cover is 700square miles – Aberdeenshire North & South there are 22 food banks in the area. Since the pandemic started, they got funding from Scottish & Southern Energy Network for a Project very successful. They got money from Gamble aware to provide a support service covering from Dundee to Elgin. Renewed contracts help to claim for money talk team budgeting. EU settlement scheme contract renewed until the end of September. They have employed a Pension wise Co-ordinator (Derek Gammie) who has reported a number of young people looking for advice on accessing their pensions to cover debts has increased. People reaching pension age in 10 years will have a huge implication for state retirement pension. Debit worker started a brief pilot on Scottish Government Covid money – will complete debit pack and support on debit journey.

They have seen an increase number in domestic abuse. At the moment they see clients re website but plan to get back face to face soon. A new Deputy Manager is in post and will handover with Eveline prior to her retirement at the end of the year. Stella will meet with Eveline re: some people in the community would like to donate money to help out in the local area.

Mike – Continuing support in South forum trying to build relationships and fair share week. This is a food bank but you do not need to be referred.

He is still involved with ipads and laptops, they have distributed at least 300 devices. Mike has done training to help clients on how to be able to use these devices.

Mike got funding and has started working with the Westhill Youth Resilience Project (Live Life Sports hub) trying to get youths in re sport helping with mental health and resilience. If the group needs a speaker to come along and talk about debt Eveline will help with that.

AOB

Date of Next Meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 at 2pm.