

Westhill LLCP – Skype Meeting 21st July 2020 – 2.00 - 3.30 pm

Present

Mike Riley, Caroline Smith, Bronagh Cameron, Ian Ritchie, Ian McCombie, Li Simpson and Caithleen Bell

Apologies

Jill Noble, Caroline Lamb, Gillian Wood, Leslie Murison, Stella Campbell and Keith Anderson

Matters Arising – See last minutes

Partner Updates

Caroline Smith – Going Forward we got a very good response and positive outcome of collaborative work in Westhill. The Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) can be seen and used as a useful document by partners. There was funding for a piece of work to thank people who were shielding and also those socially isolated so we are hoping to organise an afternoon tea and a chat. Hopefully discussing befriending services etc. Those people are being reached by a volunteering team and support services. The SNA will inevitably change due to the virus and lockdown. A Community Impact Assessment will be far reaching and involve various organisations and services as well as the 3rd sector. This Community Impact Assessment will inevitably lead to updates to the Strategic Needs Assessment.

Ian Ritchie – Skills development have been in contact with school leavers who need assistance re employment and apprenticeships. PACE is a helpline for people who have been made redundant we can arrange for contact online, digital and over the phone. Young people in Westhill will undoubtedly be impacted badly. The school leavers are still in holiday mode and the thought of work is not uppermost in people's minds at this time.

Li Simpson – Working with young people – we are doing detached work as from Wednesday 23rd July for the next 3 weeks from 7 – 9 pm, the outreach work is to see how people are doing and if they need any help. We did S1 drop in for 2 weeks prior to the school finishing. We have been engaging with 30 – 40 new S1 pupils. We are going to be meeting P7s who needs support with transition into S1 we will meet around 10 young people for 2 sessions before school opens, all outdoors.

Detached youth work identifies young people randomly through mapping this is just by walking about seeing where the young people hang out and meet. We did one in Portlethen and engaged with a few young people some were back in part-time employment at shops and cafes.

Caithleen Bell - Adult learning Team have moved the entire adult learning offer online. Westhill have had very little access learning on-line so opened it up shire wide. ESOL learners have been taking part in classes with others from across the Shire. Caithleen and her colleague Charlotte have delivered a person centred mood and mindset session for parents of children who are starting academy. We continue to deliver persons centre work online STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) there were about 100 families joined and on average 70 families have joined the closed Facebook group. We have about 60 families participating weekly. Activities include things like making lava lamps and making playdough with supplies in their own kitchen cupboards, there are other family opportunities online. Hopefully in the Autumn we will phase back face to face but no face to face is happening at the moment.

Bronagh Cameron – The Foyer are still really busy Still busy with 267 referrals in the last few months. We have supported people in various ways. We have a £30,000 Covid Fund for wellbeing to help with food parcels, IT, play station games, bikes and training. We have a lot of Volunteers I.e. college and university students helping with our counselling services. We are experiencing a lot more crime, especially among young people therefore we have been liaising with the Police. We have had 63 people on zoom, Mero and Google Classrom helping with the likes of CSCS and CITB training (a passport to get on

construction sites) this will help them to hopefully get work on building sites. We have been doing SIA security training – 3 people successfully completed and training in forklift driving, we are still taking referrals. We still have funding to help under 25 get computers to help with training. If any of the LLCP members have a young person who needs support please contact Bronagh and She will see if the Foyer can assist.

Ian McCombie – The Rotary year runs from June to June therefore there will be some changes, we have a new President, Roy Mitchell. Dave Dent will take over from Ian but was unable to attend this meeting. They meet every 2 weeks and the council decide where to hand out funding. We gave £1,000 to the local food banks and sensational also benefited from a Rotary grant last month. If any group in the Westhill and District are looking for money, please get in touch with Ian or Dave Dent. A lot will kick in once we are in Phase 4 of lockdown and we hope normal Rotary activities can resume.

Mike – A decision was made to have a three-week online Festival of events called 'Three Forums One Voice'. This was due to the fact that the alcohol and drug forums and recovery groups could not meet face to face for their annual get together in June. The festival had two or three activities on offer every day including quizzes, music, yoga, reading, Indian cookery, the Critter Keeper, tour of MacDuff Marine Aquarium, drawing classes, talks on drugs etc. We are evaluating the event now but feedback from participants has been very good. I am currently involved in risk assessment for face to face CLD work resuming across Aberdeenshire. I have been working with a gentleman and supporting him through the Hub. I put his name forward to receive IT equipment as he does not currently have equipment or internet access. He has been assigned an ipad and as he is visually impaired this will be life changing once he gets used to using it and the apps for visual impairment that I have installed.

LLCP Self Evaluation – 4 have replied

How effective has LLCP been - very useful. Helps to get to know other in the team and what they all do. Helpful for others to get in touch if they need anything.

What are the emerging issues – Impact of corona is going to be long lasting maybe up to 3 or 4 years. After furlough there will be a lot of redundancies and unemployment especially in the oil & gas industry and hospitality, this could hit Westhill quite badly in the next couple of months. Universal credit has double over the last year and is now about 6,000. There are concerns as every industry is suffering and in the last downturn in the oil industry a lot of people re-trained, e.g. but it might be more difficult this time round. Challenges are what will the opportunities be - a good website labour market information is my world of work. Ian to send a link to Mike for forwarding to the group. Adult learning team are looking at ways they can work with other employment providers.

The issues the young people are having – 40 P7s to S1 were really worried about returning to school they are quite happy to stay at home and learn using virtual methods. The S4,S5 and S6 are really concerned about exam results and where to turn next as it is very daunting they are anxious and stressed. They are not getting feedback from their teachers due to the virus. Mental health, anxiety and stress among young people is very worrying.

Alcohol & Drugs – people are drinking a lot more at home as working from home means they do not have to drive next day therefore this could be an issue in time to come.

Positive emerging is Westhill Partnership working with Primaries, Academy and police to support young people giving them a self-belief. Family learning is going to be a key area of learning for many.

Positive for Westhill – with the Kings Stadium opening there could be work opportunities and also the excellent projects run by the development trust such as happens in the North with the Peterdeen and Fraserdeen project.

What work needs to be done – Completing Strategic Needs Assessment – we will have to wait and see what the needs maybe but we will respond when the time comes. General feeling that our priorities will be set for us as we progress through the different

Really good to hear the positives at this time and think about the people we have helped so far and will help in the future.

Any other business – No

Next Meeting – Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 14:00 – 15:30