

Alford Local Learning Community Partnership online meeting

Minutes 31/05/21

Present: Simone Sinclair (Chair & Minutes) CLD Adult Learning team, Natasha Pawlukiewicz Marr Community Planning Officer, Mairi Graham Active Schools, Jo Munro, Principal Teacher Equity, Excellence & Wellbeing Alford Academy, Kirsty Yau Social Work, Suzy Prosser Employment Support Team, Emma Dobson NHS Grampian, Aimee Maitland Employer School Coordinator DYW, Roisin Daly CLD Community Development Team.

Apologies: Fiona Travis & Isla Gordon Health Visitors, Dawn Tuckwood NHS Public Health Coordinator, Norman Boal Live Life Aberdeenshire, Lisa Lees Alford Academy, Dorothy Anderson Donside Community Council, David Birch HT Craigievar Primary., Bernadette Main Libraries;

Minutes of Last Meeting: Simone apologised for technical/ IT issues and will send out and partners can let her know of omissions or errors.

Welcome & Introductions/ Re- Introductions around the table: Partners welcomed, Aimee Maitland, new member of staff with Developing Young Workforce and Aimee explained her remit. Intros around table.

Alford LLCP Learner and LLCP/CLD plan consultation:

Roisin Daly shared initial feedback and discussion around emerging needs/priorities in the cld plan. Roisin explained this plan will include the learning available from all LLCP partners, and not simply the council's CLD service. It includes the various learning opportunities provided by partners outside school and further education, although these partners are also crucial. All the LLCPs across Aberdeenshire have taken part in this process as providers of cld style learning opportunities. Roisin some of the findings:

Partners previously fed back they were confused about the process and felt they hadn't been involved in designing the survey questions etc. Roisin explained that the Local Authority has responsibility for facilitating the cld plan and involving partners to then start to shape services. Sits alongside all other data and feedback other services and partners are collating- all is combined across the Shire and goes into cld plan. The idea was to get feedback from learners on their needs/ concerns and emerging issues throughout the Covid pandemic, and help steer the direction of the provision accordingly. 200 responses came back across the Shire and some focus groups also took place. This is baseline data and will put together alongside the data on unmet need. Further focus groups will be consulted to check we have correct understanding and picture before we complete the plan. This is evidence of what needs are.

Aberdeenshire level data and emerging issues flagged up by learners and partners:

91 respondents not engaged

117 respondents already engaged

Lack of work placements and impact of this on school leavers

Lack of Social opportunities on school leavers

Digital learning or digital services – many said it increased their access-due to reasons such as flexibility, Mental health issues, easier without travelling; sometimes reported benefits from 'being forced' to get online due to pandemic; Said digital provision helped them continue to socialise and access support; Whereas some missed face to face provision and this was significant barrier; Highlighted CPD need for training providers- in digital learning and presenting skills; Highlights need to continue blended learning; continued need for digital training and access to digital equipment.

Some reported digital learning left them feeling more isolated and less motivated.

Complex needs households

Some people reported that some online groups did not feel welcoming, or they felt excluded;
Sometimes people felt their additional support needs not recognised by facilitators; Possible CPD need for facilitators to help consider exclusion;

Importance of signposting highlighted- lack of local provision and transport issues flagged up.

Roisin will come back to if she requires further info or focus groups. She thanked all partners for their feedback as this has helped inform second phase on cld plan consultation/focus groups.

Local Alford network info:

Simone shared local info from Alford LLCP area- Similar feedback as Shire wide.

8 respondents not engaged- mixed age groups mostly aged 35-44;

People reporting they find it hard to find out what learning and development opportunities area available; Also want to know who to speak to about what- highlights signposting and communication need locally. Better advertising of opportunities; Learner/Learner opportunity newsletter requested; Generally, people want to see more sports and community activities; Access to climbing wall specifically mentioned- want to see that up and running again;

Young people and families have missed their activities, teachers , instructors and friends throughout lockdown; They want to get back out, get active and mixing again;

Want more info on training, learning and access for skills into work for school leavers and older adults facing redundancy;

Family learning needs- for those with younger and older children- families wanting to do activities together;

Personal development needs emerging need in younger and older adults- CLD Adult Learning has suite of online Personal Development workshops Power Tools' online.

Lack of work placements and impact of this on school leavers

Lack of Social opportunities for school leavers

14 respondents already engaged;

Most said they found it easy to find help-

Said skills and confidence improved- said they taking part in more due to our help

Most had connectivity

Most said pandemic negatively affected ability and motivation to learn;

Parents with under 5 s said they felt more isolated and missing u5s groups; Parents with older children – both parents and children missing activities and socialising;

Five U18s said they were looking for more qualifications/skills for work;

Emerging Needs/Trends

Communication/promotional need: People want to know what opportunities are available and who to turn to for different needs-

Access to learning opportunities: People wanting more access to learning/support to improve skills for life and work;

Activities and Socialisation: People feeling isolated and want to get back to activities;

Partner Info Sharing:

- Suzie Prosser informed us that the Employment Support Team launching a new employability electronic newsletter soon -it will contain info on job vacancies and available services- details to come.

- Partner Info sharing on Social Media; Partners want to continue our LLCP Facebook Page as it can share info and can link to other partners' and community Facebook pages.
- Info sharing/ signposting- Roisin mentioned that LLCP partners flagged this up as a need. Simone also flagged up the request from partners to share info on Social Media as opposed to lots of attachments in emails.
- Aimee also looking at adverting opportunities for all opportunities for school leavers- part of this will be job opportunities.
- Simone shared that Adult Learners are requesting a newsletter- learning opportunities; Simone also said we are looking provided more Streamed and online blended learning and some 'live stream' learning with some participants there in person and some virtual participants;
- Simone also looking to start an Adult Learner Forum;
- CLD Adult Learning Team providing suite of online personal development training called 'Power Tools' – very well subscribed and offered across the Shire. Will be marketed again in Alford area – Alford learners given first choice but open to Shire learners.
- **Natasha and team completed community impact assessment** in Aug 2020- survey and focussed assessments- reps from community groups highlighted impact of Pandemic; Community Forums- Alford Forum reflected that the second lockdown during winter has been much harder on people- feeling isolation; Huge impact on young people- schooling at home; Impact of what they'd missed sat school only became apparent at Easter and by then people felt it was too late to catch up on work; Young people in University also anxious due to uncertainty about future; People reflecting on difficulties planning family funerals; Not being able to plan trips abroad; People are at a loss as they've never experienced anything like this in our lifetime so don't know how to respond; General feeling is that we are coping but that we all need to adapt to a different way of living- as things will not be the same most likely with new Covid variants appearing; People angry and frustrated around lockdown rules etc changing at Xmas 2020; People are confused by guidance and find it contradictory and confusing; Covid Covid Covid everywhere!
People being vaccinated but still very uncertain and worried about going out and accessing things again! Divide between those happy to get out more again and those who're not happy to get out; Worries that older people will never really get out and about again and will become more withdrawn; Digital access has increased access and participation opportunities but that Digital Provision should not be our default- still need outdoor and face to face provision;
Increased opportunities for those academically challenged.
People using local facilities more and getting to know local area better during pandemic- this is an opportunity for these wee towns to revitalise;
- Emma shared info about Newsletter recently launched by South NHS Public Health colleagues and Facebook page to share info and contact people; Reflecting evolving situation!
- Partners want to link and share all Facebook pages and like each others' pages;
- There is also an Aberdeenshire Wordpress Aberdeenshire Local Learning Partnerships to share information. Send to Simone to get on Social Media and Wordpress site.

Alford LLCP priorities- what next?

Could we develop some kind of 'Talking Forum' to help support people through this? Natasha Suggested - organised groups- walk and talk together for example?

Simone mentioned Adult Learner Forum; Roisin mentioned Focus groups- having learners help design solutions; Simone and Roisin will report back on this and then in Autumn/Winter perhaps

have a LLCP event then; Simone highlighted event colleagues in South LLCP help around digital learning needs –Tea and Technology event – digital online surgeries where young people and LLCP staff supported people with their tech issues- positive experience overall; Would need to be done in partnership together to make it happen.

Could Alford LLCP have occasional or periodic ‘surgeries’ like this? Different themes each time?

All of this fits in with the LLCP priorities we discussed prior to the cld plan survey; We said we wanted to prioritise:

- Info sharing - Promoting and sharing all opportunities and services- using Social media as much as possible. Possible LLCP event in Autumn/Winter.
- Supporting mental health and resilience
- Supporting learners/communities to access services
- Identifying gaps in services/Possible solution
- Ensuring equity of services and provision in local areas- accessible to all

AOB:

Funding bid in for Alford in to develop an Alford App which will contain info on all businesses, services, attractions; in one place; Could help with Towns regeneration; Promoting local services and shops- buy local/support local etc; Encouraging local business development and entrepreneurs; Jobs/business creation etc;

Date and Time of next meeting: Monday 30th August 2021 2.30-4pm