

Huntly Local Learning Partnership

Meeting 20th January 2022 (draft)

Present: Lada Copic (CLD), Fiona Alderson (Networks of Wellbeing), Jason Allan (Employment Partnership, Moray), Gary MacBeath (LLA), Natasha Pawlukiewicz (Community Planning), Laura McNeill (Gordon Rural Action), Dawn Tuckwood (NHS), Jenny Wood (A Place in Childhood), Jess Carnegie (Deveron Projects), Debbie Rennie (Aberdeenshire North Foodbank), Katie Fairweather (Librarian Gordon Schools), Ed Garrett (CLD – chair and notes)

Apologies: Kate James, Fiona Lovie, Alan Melrose, Tony Hadley, Chris Holmes, Jane Munro, Linda Gordon, Aimi Blueman, Jacqueline Hood, Phil Gaiter, Hilary English

1. Notes from last meeting

School holiday activities programme – for future programmes input from LLCP would be useful. Once programmes for rest of year confirmed then discussion can take place. Look at for next meeting

2. Teenagers and public space research – Jenny Wood

Part of nationwide Sustrans project looking at spaces for young people/teenagers. One of 3 case studies across Scotland – also Edinburgh and Falkirk

Working with HDDT looking to find out from local teenagers what it's like to be teenager in Huntly and give them a chance to say what could change and then mediate conversation between them and other members of the community. Also looking at nature of anti social behaviour in Huntly.

Session with students from Gordon Schools 28th/29th Jan – walking round Huntly and creating experiential maps. Then looking to hold local strategy workshop bringing people together to discuss ways forward. Final part will be convening of national workshop bringing together all 3 case studies and learning.

Jenny to keep us in touch with details of local strategy workshop

Comments and suggestions:

- Lada Copic - suggested Jenny get in touch with Kate James from CLD WWYP team
- Dawn Tuckwood – Sustainability is key as any project develops. Great to be looking at young people
- Laura McNeill – how to engage with young people disconnected from school process. Jenny said that any insights here would be good. Also looking to engage with young people who might just be out and about when researchers visit.
- Debbie Rennie – Links with Huntly Town Teams strategy and making sure it is all joined up. Jenny said that it would be good for someone on Towns Team to be part of local strategy workshop.
- Fiona Alderson – could make links with cycling worker from NoW.
- Natasha Pawlukiewicz – good to inform parent council or at least to make them aware. Contact through Phil Gaiter at Academy. Other academies in Marr would also be interested in being involved as they are in similar communities. Possibility that research

could be presented to them afterwards and then look at doing something similar elsewhere.

- Jess Carnegie – previous projects could provide inspiration - Drive in cinema (2006) democracy and having a voice for young people (2019)

3. Partner Updates

LLA – LLA in process of restructure – Gary MacBeath’s post changing to venue and asset manager and more area wide. Still have Huntly in remit but there will be a more local Huntly contact. Information will come out soon. He will continue to attend meetings for the next little while. Programming will be done at Aberdeenshire wide level.

Community Planning – talk about resilience planning after Storm Arwen. MAP put out a survey before Christmas and again in the New Year. Probably looking at ward forum on community resilience in near future.

Aberdeenshire North Foodbank – stats being pulled together – 1010 parcels out in 2021 up from 593 in 2020 in Huntly area. Foodbank trying to finalise lease on new premises to create Huntly food hub space. Funding for FT project worker doing outreach work. Looking to provide pathway out of food insecurity using holistic approach. Also take on community kitchen in Linden Centre for classes which would also give base in Huntly.

Public Health – delivering more masks and also putting together small leaflet where people can go for information regarding local clinics/vaccinations/. Also made people aware that lateral flow tests can be ordered for communities online. Anyone interested in any of these contact Dawn. Also reported that:

- AVA will be providing social support through volunteers in care homes/sheltered housing.
- Link worker programme attached to GP practice. Being employed – 17 FTE across shire. Linking to activities/groups in the community.

Deveron Projects – regular events continuing. Costume making workshop coming up using skills sharing approach – details soon Jess also said that lateral flow tests have been going in honesty cart – masks could go in as well.

HHDT No 30– Ed gave update from Carolyn Powell. Construction has begun and the programme runs until December 2022 for completion of the build. There will be a period of fitting out, so it’s probable that the building will open around March 2023.

There are three core uses – Café, Cinema and Co-working and these three require specialist fitting out within the building. The other spaces are all quite substantial and are ‘space’ which can be used for multiple purposes from training and retail to exhibitions, health, leisure and office space (the cinema has retractable seating so also multi-purpose)

Currently there is a group of active, local volunteers working on the uses and the implementation of Expressions of Interest/Tenders to go out for the uses and also working on the overall business plan and financial sustainability of the facility. This building will be accessible across all 2.5 floors, with a full passenger lift. It will encourage intergenerational use and spaces could be hired/rented on regular or an occasional basis. Every aspect/use of the building aims to incorporate opportunities for training, volunteering and employment.

We have an 'Expert Panel' set up with the help of Aberdeenshire Council which comprises Lived Experience families/people who are willing to provide feedback on various aspects of the uses to enable this project to meet as many of the needs of local people as possible, whilst simultaneously driving footfall to the town and provide a draw for visitors, all of which will benefit other businesses and groups in the town.

Further volunteers are welcomed, though it should be clear that these volunteers are actively involved, offering capacity to get fully involved (in clearer terms, the volunteers are not 'passive', they need to be willing to do research, meet, help develop plans, meet partners, develop relationships with others, offer skills, with an interest in the project etc.)

CL&D – Adult learning – limited opportunities in Huntly at moment with staff vacancies. Hopefully post covering Huntly part time will be advertised soon

Ed reported on shire wide HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) engagement. Link to project and survey on Engage Aberdeenshire

<https://engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/heal>

Libraries/Schools – mental health fair in school last week highlighting all things in school. Katie to put out leaflet that people can take part in – if anyone has anything to add get back to Katie.

Networks of Wellbeing – any contacts with veterans to signpost to NoW to project there.

4. Poverty/Cost of Living discussion

Debbie sits on Financial Inclusion Partnership (FIP) and on training subgroup. Working with IFAN (Independent Food Aid Network) to develop a 'Worrying about Money' leaflet which is a shire wide leaflet. Leaflet will be accompanied by training (levels 1, 2 and 3) to support talking through what leaflet covers. Level 1 training details should be out in next couple of weeks. There will be a link to leaflet for download and printing. Training subgroup also looking at training trauma informed practice and stigma of poverty

Lada said that adult learning team is developing online sessions for family budgeting/planning and checking all benefits are getting received. These will be shire wide sessions and have come out of work initially run for Syrian refugees. It was agreed that there was a need for conversation through FIP about avoiding possible duplication. Martin Robertson was CLD representative on FIP but has since got a new job. Debbie to discuss with Annette Johnston and who's new for CLD.

Laura said that Gordon Rural Action have a financial inclusion officer working with schools and are also running 'Make your money work for you in 22' sessions on 18th Jan, 1st Feb, 8th Feb – open to all so referrals welcome. Get in touch with Laura. Also doing work on digital inclusion.

There was discussion on broader cost of living of rise. GRA seeing massive uplift in crisis grants. People already running out of fuel. Can't do much about cost of fuel so looking at overall living costs which can also help – baby bank, uniform exchange, budgeting. Anyone who accesses GRA services will receive follow up calls around financial support. Also looking to start Suited and Booted to help with costs of interviews, funerals. There is help with child payment getting doubled but otherwise very little support for people.

Debbie talked about a slow cooker piloted in Peterhead. Could look at doing in Huntly if enough people interested. Anyone interested to get in touch with Debbie.

Fiona said we also need to consider poverty amongst older people. What work is taking place here?. There is £3 million Govt. money towards paying off fuel debts across all age groups. Ed to contact Alan Melrose Age Scotland to see what support there may be. There is the broader difficulty of engaging with older people at the moment and lack of face to face contact with GPs. Debbie to take back to hospital homecoming group as part of the picture.

Ed to organise meeting of Alleviating Poverty subgroup to discuss above.

5. CPD event

Postponed from |December and looking at holding in last week of March – details to be put out when confirmed

6. Next meetings

Agreed to move meetings about so most people can make some meetings. Tuesdays and Thursdays best days.