

## Clackmannanshire Children and Families' Forum 9/3/17

Attendees: Anthea Coulter, Liz Rowlett (CTSI) - Chair, Maggie Brown (Action for Children – Tullibody), Dave Crozier (Church of Scotland), Kaye Hills (Clackmannanshire Council) Lorna Holmes (Home-Start, Clackmannanshire), Marion Levett (Women4Women), Lesley Ann Livesey (PLUS Forth Valley)

Liz (LR) asks if there are any changes to the minutes. Maria asked for her surname to be changed.

The latest statement from the Scottish Government regarding the **named person** was circulated.

Anthea Coulter (AC) gave an update from CTSI regarding the current budget situation. CTSI brought third sector organisations together to work together to absorb budget cuts. A 2.4% saving across the groups was put to the Council.

AC feeling positive about the Attainment Challenge Fund.

Maggie (MB) from Action for Children talked about work they do with families identified by the school. The family is supported to cook a meal together and have family time. They work in partnership with the youth team.

The pilot was carried out in St Bernadette's, with three families from the primary school at a time.

Maria Malcolm (MM) asked if we can send out the structure within education. Kaye Hills may be able to answer.

Kaye Hills said Ann Pearson is keen on seconding members of staff. But the Senior management structure will be set.

There will be three Quality Improvement Managers, Jane Rough, GIRFEC, Lorraine Sander and Cathy Quinn. The team only been in place for 7 months.

## **Attainment Challenge**

Kaye Hills from Clacks Council Education Services talked through the [Attainment Challenge](#), the Scottish Government initiative aimed at reducing the attainment gap.

The focus is on three core areas - literacy and numeracy, leadership and flourishing communities. Activity is intended to be impactful and accountable to the public purse.

A key driver is parental and carer engagement; children's mental, emotional and social wellbeing; and physical well-being. It will necessitate a cultural shift away from silo working. Third sector understands client base better than local authority and is more responsive to its client base. Local authority which has a more rigid structure and the Attainment Challenge is letting people step out of this.

Nine schools have been identified because of their profiles – attendance, exclusion and health and well-being. Focus will be where the greatest need lies.

There is an Innovation Hub, that schools can bid into if they have ideas that they want to take forward.

An example was given of a barrier to children participating in after school sport. Taking part involved filling in a complicated form, which was inaccessible to some parents. Now they use text instead to get parental permission.

There is also an issue with upskilling staff to teach parts of the curriculum differently. Teaching styles have changed. Anne Pearson, Chief Education Officer, is promoting leadership so that we can all move forward together.

In terms of flourishing communities, Clackmannanshire has some challenging statistics and a culture and cycle of depreciation here that we need to look at closely. There is an issue of resilience and aspiration. People are unwilling to travel outwith the County: If people don't have the skill set to read a timetable they don't feel confident about travelling

Core issues are mental, emotional, social wellbeing, sexual health and substance misuse.

Local authority has talked to partners about tests of change. There will be work around strategic thinking so that schools understand why they need to support **health and well-being and** work to the single outcome agreement (shortly to be replaced by Local Area Improvement Plans). Pupils' well-being peaks at S2/S3 and is gendered.

PEPAS – Physical Activity in School Sport – is currently being evaluated. Initial observations point to improved attainment in active children. There is also NME (Neurosequential Model in Education) training, which looks at brain development helps understand how the brain works and will help teach children how to manage anger and stress.

There are some mental health issues that prevent children from learning. Local authority approached third sector organisations last October and they came up with pilot approaches such as the café with Action for Children. Families are brought together after school couple of hours once a week and make a meal. Youth services come in and find out what support they need support. Social isolation was identified as an issue and over time it anxiety and self-harm emerged as issues.

Therapeutic listening was also touched upon. In Clacks schools have CAHMS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), educational psychologists and pastoral/guidance in schools. However, there hasn't been a service that looks at other needs, for example, bereavement or divorce.

There is a service called the Spark in Glasgow, which has been inundated.

Well-being workers for have been working since January 2017  
Young people can self-refer, go to health spot, class teacher, guidance teacher. Local authority wants partners to come on board as they have resources to staff, funding that the council don't have access to. They support the health spot, to promote themselves and have included rape crisis and youth services.

Kaye will have regular meetings with partners (3 times a year) to give them the chance to give feedback and identify issues. We can't all be experts in everything. It would give us the chance to pull things together and focus on a few issues.

## **Pupil Equity Fund**

Constraints and framework are similar.

Our schools are used to setting out their project plans and deliverables. before they even engage in anything. Over the past month, Kay has had 15 cold calls from organisations wanting to sell an approach to the schools. There is no indication whether these organisations or their programmes are quality assured.

The local authority is aiming to engage its partners more effectively and is taking an assets-based approach. As funding declines, young people and communities will need to take ownership.

It's not clear yet how the PEP will be managed. There needs to be a fair and equitable consent process.

Marion Levett's group has been a self-reliant group since 2010.

AC noted that this gives us (third sector) clarity in terms of how we can work with the schools. The county is small and the community of interest much more flexible.

There's plenty of data available regarding health behaviours in school age children, for example SALSIS survey (Scottish Adolescent Lifestyle) and Realigning Children Services survey.

Forum would also like to hear more from the **early years** team and would like more effective communication. provided.

## **Forum round up**

Lorna Holmes from Home-Start talked about challenges with funding.

Women4Women are looking to see if they can help young mums. There is a huge demand.

Play Alloa has huge waiting list and would like to run a youth club on Saturdays. They should be running 2 youth clubs in clacks but they have had to stop one, they will also need to stop the kids from the schools coming in on a Friday at the end of the year if they cannot secure funding. Play Alloa has incredible staff and support over 150 families in Clackmannanshire.

Dave Crozier from the Church of Scotland is trying to figure out what their projects will be. No funding issues. Doesn't want to cross over.

Plus is Stirling based and is similar to Play Alloa. It also works in Clacks and Falkirk. Mention was made of the proposal for a new third sector hub in Stirling.

Volunteering Matters have volunteers in schools. There is a reading in schools programme in the rest of the UK but not in Scotland. Additionally, VM are trying to develop young person's befriender.

For next time LR will try and get the early year's worker.