



Children, Young People and Families Citywide Forum Steering Group meeting

Agenda Friday 17th November 2017 9.30 to 12.30 – Rosemount, Glasgow

Present: Alison Mason (Rosemount), Julie Dynes (NSPCC), Eddie Kane (Barnardo's), Sharon Colvin (3D Drumchapel), Millie McLachlan (SCMA), Greg Gallagher (Stepdown), Michelle King (Rosemount), Biba Devine (Stepping Stones for Families), Liz Reid (Action for Children), Lee Anthony (OPFS), Vicki Burns (Y People), Maxine Hawthorn (Aberlour), Audrey Anderson (Early Years Scotland), Gillian Leslie (Home Start Glasgow South), Anne Marie Manning (CPC).

In attendance: Suzie Scott (GCVS), Lisa Wright (GCVS).

Apologies: Carla Fyfe (A&M Scotland), Melodie Crumlin (PEEK), Joanne Aitken – (leaving) (Govan HELP), Isabel Dunsmuir (DRC Generations), Julie Richardson (Children 1st).

1. Child Protection Committee – Anne Marie Manning

Anne Marie Manning came along to talk to the group about her experience as lead officer of Glasgow's Child Protection Committee, focussing on the issue of neglect.

a) Feedback from Child Protection development day

Eddie, Michelle and Maxine began by giving feedback from the CP development day, where they had given a presentation on the September SCR event and feedback. They reported that there had been a lot of discussion/interest around the feedback that third sector cases/reports often do not carry the same significance as statutory.

Anne Marie said that she recognised that statutory services rely heavily on the third sector, particularly within the Early Years Joint Support Teams. She recognised how third sector services are often in and out of people's homes more so than statutory services, and therefore have much closer connections with families. There is a growing awareness of this from statutory services but more work needs to be done.

b) Child Protection Forums

This led to a discussion of the local Child Protection Forums (CPF) and how they have recently been revived in locality areas. Anne Marie emphasised the need for the third sector to be a part of the newly revamped forums and also outlined how the Quality

Assurance sub-group will provide a multi-agency self-evaluation of the forums, ensuring there are clear links to the heads of service and each Local CPF.

Anne Marie said that the old forums had been quite fluid in terms of membership, however her understanding is that they may be trying to tighten this – in order to prevent content being repeated from one meeting to the next. There is also a requirement for more focussed forums to fit within the broader CPC action plan and the upcoming transformational change agenda. Suzie suggested that the Citywide Forum (working with Locality reps) should identify 3rd sector reps to attend CP Forum locality meetings

Action: It was agreed that as part of the progress report, the group should identify who attends what CP forum currently and whether more third sector reps are required. This should also involve contacting the three heads of services for clarification re: CP forums/meeting dates etc.

c) Neglect

Anne Marie had a discussion with the group around the issue of neglect in Glasgow. Anne Marie described the early intervention/transformational change agenda, led by Mike Burns, which stemmed from the 2011 inspection which noted that services were not good at identifying and responding to neglect.

Anne Marie discussed the difficulties around identifying child neglect before it reaches a child protection threshold and the importance of creating and maintaining chronologies, and identifying significant events. Anne Marie also outlined the importance of all staff involved with a child to take part in this recording e.g. not just social work but health too. Social work do not have capacity for their workload, and are heavily snowed under.

This led to a discussion around the importance of including a third sector perspective in identifying neglect and how many third sector services are working 'as social work'. Eddie mentioned how difficult it can be for the council to have an accurate picture of what third sector services are working in this area, or the variety of funds that support them. Eddie thought this could be an issue during the transformational change tendering process. The group agreed that ongoing work around mapping third sector services from GCVS/Everyone's Children would help this.

Anne Marie discussed the Neglect Toolkit which was created by the CPC and Action for Children to help practitioners identify neglect. Anne Marie suggested that training/support for third sector to use the Neglect Toolkit would be beneficial.

Action: Eddie/Michelle/Maxine to follow up with Anne Marie re Neglect Toolkit.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of last meeting were quickly looked over. It was agreed that items in the minutes which were also on the agenda could be discussed later.

3. Communications Strategy

Following the meeting with Johanna Spiers (GCVS Communications Team) in October, and subsequent sub-group meeting with Julie Richardson and Biba Devine, Johanna put together a communication's strategy/action plan for the group which was looked over. The group felt it was a well-constructed strategy which addressed various points that must be developed for the Citywide Forum communications to succeed.

As Anne Marie Manning was present at the meeting to discuss CPC, it was agreed that tasks in the communications strategy could be assigned at the December meeting.

a) Children's Services Plan Twitter campaign

The idea to create a focussed campaign for the Citywide Forum looking at raising awareness of the Children's Services Plan (CSP) was discussed. It was agreed that creating briefing papers/easy read resources on the CSP would be really beneficial to the third sector. Again, the issue of capacity to do this was raised.

Suzie said that she had spoken to Gary Dover about the plans to have a communication campaign around the Children's Services Plan. Gary was keen to take this forward and said that he would put her in touch with the Council's communication manager. Biba asked whether there would be scope for the council to give the Citywide Forum more resources or funding. Suzie said that this hadn't been discussed as part of the communication campaign.

Biba noted that recent Children's Services Planning group meetings had been cancelled.

Action: Suzie to get in touch with Gary re date of next CSP meeting.

b) Website tabs

There was a discussion around the previously mentioned idea of creating website tabs for folders with minutes/relevant papers for people to access on the Citywide Forum page. Lee mentioned how useful the Dropbox could be if it was utilised properly, and was positive about the idea of website tabs with folders of minutes and relevant papers. The group agreed how useful a resource website tabs would be.

Action: The group agreed that creating folders on the webpage could be taken forward by the communications sub-group.

c) Everyone's Children resources

Suzie reminded the group that having such a large quantity of papers/minutes, although

useful, would make it very hard work for people to work their way through. This is dependent on Suzie/Lisa as a resource – Suzie highlighted how Everyone’s Children are already very stretched budget wise, and suggested that part of the next meeting/January meeting should look at identifying what resources the Citywide Forum would like to prioritise.

This led to a discussion around the kind of resources that the Citywide Forum could benefit from e.g. employing a part-time member of staff and a budget for meetings/events. It was agreed that the steering group should consider applying to funding to support the Forum, in order for it to function effectively.

Action: resources and funding to be looked at in Dec meeting re: progress report and ‘next steps’ for Forum.

iii) Feedback to group

This led to a discussion around the need for steering group members to report back and provide the rest of the group with feedback summaries from meetings. Eddie mentioned how it’s often hard to report back, when everyone has such heavy workloads. Maxine also highlighted how it can be difficult when certain papers cannot be circulated/take a while to receive permission for circulation e.g. CPC.

Liz emphasised how providing 3 short points from each meeting doesn’t need to take long, and it’s more about getting into the habit of doing so. It was agreed that feeding back is important for the Citywide forum to achieve its purpose. Eddie suggested that part of finalising the progress report could look at identifying /finalising who is on what groups, in order to achieve good feedback processes.

Action: for Dec meeting - progress report, finalise who is on what groups and feedback processes.

4. Third Sector Summit

Suzie explained to the group that Everyone’s Children were asked to identify third sector representatives involved in GCHSCP central and locality structures. Initially, Suzie was asked for 5 names, but managed to negotiate eight nominations. Other Citywide Forum members were invited as reps of other organisations.

There was discussion around invitations and who had managed to secure a place. Eddie told the group he had not managed to book a place before it sold out. Maxine and Michelle hadn’t received their e-mail. Biba expressed disappointment that Everyone’s Children had not included Stepping Stones for Families in their invitation list to the Third Sector Summit; however Biba explained that following on from this, Stepping Stones for Families had received and accepted an invitation from Glasgow City Council.

Action: Suzie/Lisa to follow up with individuals who didn't get a place and pass info on to Kathleen Caskie at the Third Sector Forum.

5. January Briefing Session – Transformational Change (TC)

Suzie told the group that, following the discussion at the last Forum meeting, she had spoken to Mike Burns about doing a session with the Citywide Forum on the TC agenda, with **Friday 19th January 2018** confirmed as the date.

Eddie discussed how Mike's paper on the TC agenda had gone to the IJB, and noted that more detail regarding how TC is going to be carried out would be helpful. Suzie had circulated the paper with the steering group, however some people had missed this.

Action: Lisa to re-circulate paper with group before next meeting.

The group discussed that it would be important the Citywide Forum are able to have a detailed discussion with Mike around how the third sector can be fully and meaningfully involved in the TC agenda and tendering process. After some discussion it was agreed that Eddie/Michelle/Greg would request to meet with Mike Burns for a pre-meeting before the session on the 19th January, to explain that we hoped for more detail about TC, and its impact on the third sector.

Biba recommended that the City-Wide Forum Steering Group consider using the forum's e-bulletin at the earliest opportunity to raise awareness amongst the wider membership of the City-Wide Forum of the steering group's intention to explore the process of commissioning of Family Support services; and reminded the group of the steering group's responsibility to consult with the wider membership to ensure transparency and to ensure the steering group had a mandate to progress this specific area of work.

6. Children's Services Governance and meeting structure

Eddie and Michelle will present on this at the next meeting.

7. Feedback from meetings

a) ELC sub-group 30th Oct

Suzie briefly informed the group on the ELC sub-group meeting that took place on 30th October, where staff from Development and Regeneration Services (DRS) were present to talk about their current childcare pilots. DRS are currently working with local authority, private sector and third sector nurseries/out of school care providers to develop new models of provision and partnership working, in three pilot areas: Jordanhill, Garrowhill and Pollok as part of the planned expansion of childcare in the city. **Action: Lisa to circulate the minutes from this meeting with steering group, for more detailed information.**

b) Corporate Parenting 9th Nov

Eddie and Greg updated the group on the Corporate Parenting event which took place on 9th November. The event allowed corporate parents to fill in a questionnaire that had been created by young people themselves. It is understood this information will be collated and circulated. **Action: Eddie/Greg to update the group re results.**

8. AOCB

a) Attendance and frequency of meetings

It was agreed that attendance and frequency of meetings could be looked at during the progress report at December meeting.

b) CPC meetings

Maxine let the group know that the CPC is looking to host at different venues and suggested that third sector organisations could offer to host, and do a presentation on their services in return. Suzie also suggested that if an organisation didn't have capacity GCVS could host for them. **Action: Suzie/Lisa to compile names of organisations who would be interested in hosting CPC.**

c) Education Skills and Early Years Committee

Eddie said that he had been approached by Maureen McKenna for the Citywide Forum to nominate a rep to fill a co-opted place on the Council's Education, Skills and Early Years Committee. Suzie said that she thought that the Labour group had proposed that this place be filled by some-one from the Trade Union and it had been remitted back to Maureen McKenna for a further report. There was a discussion around the committee and who is represented on it. **Action: Suzie to chase this up to clarify re Education Skills and Early Years Committee.**

9. Date of next meeting:

15th Dec – Albany Centre