



Children, Young People and Families Citywide Forum Steering Group meeting

Agenda Friday 21st April 2017 9.30 to 12.30 – The Albany Centre

Present: Audrey Anderson (Early Years Scotland), Colette Boyle (Home Start Glasgow South), Sharon Colvin (3D Drumchapel), Isabel Dunsmuir (DRC Generations), Greg Gallagher (Stepdown), Michelle King (Rosemount), Mandy Morrison (Quarriers), Jacqueline Spence (SCMA).

In attendance: Suzie Scott (Everyone's Children/GCVS), Lisa Wright (Everyone's Children/GCVS).

Apologies: Joanne Aitken (Govan HELP), Julie Dynes (NSPCC), Louise Hamilton (Quarriers), Eddie Kane (Barnardo's), Linda Pople (OPFS), Liz Reid (Action for Children), Julie Richardson (Children 1ST), Colin Simpson (Quarriers), Vicky Burns (Y People), Maxine Hawthorne (Aberlour);

1. Note of previous meeting

Due to Eddie's absence and his usual position as chair, Suzie asked for volunteers to chair the meeting. As there were no volunteers, Suzie took over as chair for this meeting.

As looking over the draft Children's Services Plan was the main priority for the meeting, we moved straight to this item to give the group more time to comment.

2. Draft Children's Services Plan - comments

a) Change in timescale

Suzie explained to the group that the Forum were now under a much tighter timescale for giving feedback on the draft Children's Services Plan than was originally planned. GCHSCP had hoped for some more time to include improvement measures from the recent Care Inspectorate inspection of Children Services. However, the Scottish Government informed GCHSCP that they need a copy of the Plan no later than 30th April 2017. This meant Everyone's Children/GCVS were sent the draft 10th April and asked to return with tracked changes by 21st April, giving us very little time to have a proper consultation process.

b) Overall lack of third sector examples

The draft Plan was looked over by the group. It was agreed that in terms of the strategic direction of the Plan with the direction of early intervention and prevention, there are no issues. Where there were gaps was the consistent lack of mention of the third sector and of naming/giving credit to third sector organisations that deliver services/projects/schemes to children, young people and families in the city. The group suggested amendments throughout the document to rectify this.

c) Other comments

Greg discussed how there is generally a lack of engagement with the third sector. It was agreed that it would make a real difference to see progress made in the way the statutory services engage and communicate with the third sector.

Colette brought forward the point that the draft Plan very much focussed on children from nursery and school age upwards, and ignored pre-birth/birth/early years, which are vital years in terms of children's safety, nurture and development.

Suzie and Lisa compiled the group's comments and returned to Liz Fournas GCHSCP. The document was then circulated with the steering group and can be found below. **Action: Suzie/Lisa will circulate GCHSCP's revised plan when received.**

3. Finalise Action Plan 2017/18

a) Assign events sub-group and date of meeting

Suzie began a discussion around the Forum event on Early Learning and Childcare to be held in June, as decided at last month's meeting. She explained that Everyone's Children could support Forum events with staff time, but would need to make a minimum charge for room hire/refreshments to cover costs. There could still be some free events, such as consultations and the AGM.

There was discussion of what the event would look like, who the audience would be and what time/length it would be. It was decided that the event could tie in to the current expansion of childcare hours and the scope of third sector expanding to meet that provision. This would sit alongside current research that Laura Dover, Everyone's Children Research Worker, is currently carrying out.

In discussing potential speakers for the event, Mandy suggested Heather Douglas - the GCC ELC lead. Audrey also suggested Gerard McKernan (Quality Improvement). Mandy and Audrey also suggested contacting the Audrey Edmonds, the chair of the Glasgow Childcare Forums in order to find appropriate people for the event.

Jacqueline and Audrey discussed other relevant and important changes in ELC currently that the event could focus on. There is a massive play agenda currently with outdoor nurseries seen as the way to progress. Jacqueline talked about significant changes towards a blended model of nursery and ELC childminders, which has so far been working well.

Jacqueline Spence, Mandy Morrison and Audrey Anderson agreed that to join the sub-group to develop the event. Other steering group members who may be interested are Biba Devine and Debbie Hamilton. Suzie suggested that planning could be carried out virtually (by email), as June is relatively soon.

4. Representatives on Children's Services Groups

The list drawn up from last month's meeting of representatives on Children's Services Groups was looked at. The group were unsure if the GIRFEC Service Managers meeting still goes ahead, which can be followed up.

There was a discussion of how many people are keen to be involved in the groups but are unaware of the dates and times of when they meet. Eddie may be able to provide this information to people.

There were some representatives on groups who had been missed out and were noted.
Action: Lisa will update the document and circulate for any further additions.

5. Confirm Terms of Reference and Code of Practice

a) Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference was agreed by the steering group and is now finalised.

b) Code of Practice

Suzie talked about attendance and how there has been some instability in the membership of the steering group. As the group progresses, it will be necessary to ensure that there can be stability and continuity in the steering group with regular attendance from a smaller group of people. Suzie explained that there are currently around 35 people on the steering group list, but only around 10-15 attend regularly. Some people had never attended. It was agreed that the optimum size is around 20 regular attenders. **Action: Suzie will check to see if those who have never attended want to stay involved.**

6. Communications

a) Information disseminated out by locality

Lisa brought forward a request from Liz Reid to discuss whether Everyone's Children should disseminate info to the steering group by the locality which individuals work in. It was agreed that all members should receive all information, and individuals themselves can decide whether it is of interest to them. There was agreement that it is useful to find out e.g. about how other locality meetings work, as they can be very different to each other.

b) Video by film-maker

Suzie explained that Everyone's Children had met with film-maker Kathleen Little from Thirteen Squared to discuss the idea of creating a professional video for the Citywide Forum that shows the depth and breadth of third sector organisations in Glasgow that provide services to children, young people and families.

The proposal given by Kathleen would have around 10 third sector organisations featured, with footage of activities at each project/organisation as well as interviews with children and young people using the services and staff. The video would follow organisations that provide services from early years up to young people.

Suzie explained that the video could be made so that each organisation involved could get the shorter clip of footage of their organisation only, as well as high quality stills to use for their own purposes. There was some interest from the group. **Action: Suzie/Lisa will update the group about the next steps once it has been agreed by managers/comms team at GCVS.**

c) Sub-group meeting

It was agreed that the Comms sub-group should have a meeting soon to discuss/arrange external communications with the new local councillors. **Action: Lisa will organise finding a date that suits sub group members.**

7. Feedback from Child Protection Committee and CSEG

No feedback could be given as Eddie and Maxine were not present.

8. Inspection Report

Eddie sent apologies for the meeting so no update could be given. It is understood that the inspectorate report has not yet been published.

9. Feedback from GCC meetings

There was no feedback from GCC meetings to be given.

10. AOCB

a) Steering group meeting day/time

There was a brief discussion of whether the day and time of steering group meetings should change. People agreed that it is impossible to find a day that suits everyone, and that in the past changing the day had not increased numbers. However, it was agreed that the next 2 meetings could go ahead, and we could revisit the idea of changing the time for the meeting in August (assuming no meeting in July).

11. Date of next meeting:

Friday 19th May

Friday 23rd June