

Notes of LSP Children and Young People Forum
09 June 2009
Gordon Room, Worthing Town Hall



1. Introductions and Apologies

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|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Sue Bull | ✓ | Family Action |
| Adele Grover | ✓ | WBC Leisure Development |
| Amina Chitembo | A | BME Community Services |
| Carole Perry | ✓ | West Sussex PCT |
| Cathy Smerdon | ✓ | WBC Community Safety |
| Chris Kemish | ✓ | WSCC Integrated Services |
| Clare Deacon (for Debra Bardall | ✓ | WSCC Children's Fund |
| Colette Denton | A | WSCC Early Childhood Service |
| Debra Balfour | ✓ | West Sussex PCT |
| Hazel Thorpe (Cllr) | ✓ | Worthing Borough Council |
| Howard Hodges | ✓ | Sussex Police |
| Jon Potter | ✓ | Company Paradiso Arts |
| Joolie Edwards | ✓ | WSCC Youth Services Team Worthing |
| Julia Carrette | ✓ | Worthing Council for Voluntary Service |
| Julian Stevens | ✓ | WBC Leisure Development |
| Keeley White | A | Worthing Women's Aid |
| Leonie Warnick | ✓ | Spurgeons |
| Linda Sirodcar | A | Worthing and Adur Home Start |
| Mark Davies | ✓ | Cura Independent Services |
| Norma Ndoping | ✓ | WBC Community Planning |
| Paul Norman | ✓ | Northbrook College |
| Paul Rigglesford | A | WSCC Community Safety |
| Peter Jackson | ✓ | Cura Independent Services |
| Renira Currid | ✓ | WSCC Early Childhood Service |
| Shirley Robinson-Viney | ✓ | WSCC Youth Service |
| Sue Brown | ✓ | Worthing Homes |
| Sue Couchman | A | WSCC Policy & Performance |
| Tina Favier | A | WBC Community Safety |

2. Notes of the previous meeting (07/04/09)

were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the notes of the previous meeting

a) Feedback on joint working

A preliminary meeting has been held towards the formation of a Joint Sustainable Community Strategy working group for Worthing Together and Adur in Partnership.

b) Organisational structure of WSCC

Chris Kemish had provided this and it had been emailed to members of the CYP Forum.

c) Change of date of next meeting

This needed to be changed. A date was agreed provisional on availability of the Gordon Room. (Secretary's note: Room availability necessitated this date being changed subsequently to 13 October 2009 at 14:30 in the Gordon Room of Worthing Town Hall.)

4. Children & Young People Forum priorities

a) Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Julia Carrette presented the notes (pre-circulated) of the CYP Priorities Working Group meeting of 19 May, which were amended as follows:

page 2, paragraph 1, 'social services teams' was amended to 'Children & Young People Services'

and on the same page, the final 2 lines of paragraph 6 were amended to read:
'... a range of services (e.g. housing, education, police etc) can be brought together through the CAF process to discuss the issues arising.'

The three people who attended the Working Group identified a large amount of unmet need, and it was suggested that this was in part attributable to weaknesses in assessment. (Such weakness was likely to lead to anomalies such as offering parenting classes to improve behaviour of children in a case where the root cause leading to the poor behaviour was impending eviction). It was agreed that most of the priority actions of the CYP Forum would benefit from a more widespread knowledge of and use of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF); asking the right questions would elicit the information needed to make targeted referrals and obtain suitable support. The group proposed using some of the LAA funding to be made available to provide training on CAF. Two days of training would be needed to acquire the principles.

In answer to questions, Chris Kemish said that it was not mandatory for public organisations to use CAF, but it was a scheme being rolled out nationwide. He acknowledged that it was true WSCC had responsibility for driving forward its use, but pointed out there were only limited resources available for the purpose, and as long as broad, non-specific referrals were made to 'Social Care', there was the likelihood of duplication of effort and a pool of 'unmet need' remaining unattended to. The aim would be to improve the quality of referrals made.

Carole Perry said that the process was time-consuming but had produced some excellent results in a pilot conducted in Arun.

A matching of WSCC funding and LAA LNIA funding was proposed.

It was agreed that Sue Bull and Chris Kemish should contact Esther Smyrl of WSCC, who is in charge of the rolling out of CAF to the Voluntary & Community Sector, and suggest she speaks to the Forum.

Action: Sue Bull

Adur in Partnership CYPP was of course welcome to benefit from Esther's talk – and indeed had a standing invitation to the meetings of the Worthing Together Children and Young People Forum.

A presentation by Esther Smyrl could lead on to a mapping out of which organisations would benefit from CAF training. Schools, and Mick's Garage were already using CAF.

b) Looked after children

Debra Balfour put forward a strong case, which met with approval, for a second CYP Forum proposal for use of LNIA funding: provision for looked after children. It was agreed that most of the priority actions of the CYP Forum would benefit from provision for this group.

It was agreed that some degree of flexibility needed to be built in so that children in homes outside LNIAs benefited equally with those in LNIAs.

Peter Jackson expressed the importance to children's homes of having readily available information about arts, leisure and sports facilities. Chris Kemish said that it was planned that such information should be made available through the ICIS database, and Debra Balfour said that once Adur and Worthing have Healthy Living Centres, as is envisaged, these too will be sources of information.

Adele Grover advocated use of email addresses that were linked to posts rather than to individuals, in order to improve continuity in information sharing.

Adele explained that her role entailed identifying and filling gaps in the provision of physical activities and other positive activities for children and young people and wondered how CAF would fit in with that. Carole Perry said that use of CAF would assist Adele by feeding her with information as to children's needs.

It was agreed to set up a working group to look into the question of looked after children. The following volunteered to join it: Debra Balfour, Joolie Edwards, Peter Cura and Leonie Warnick.

Action: Debra Balfour

5. Working with Adur in Partnership

Debra Balfour gave an outline of the progress towards a Joint Working Group being formed by the Local Strategic Partnerships of Worthing and Adur; the purpose of this group was to work towards a joint Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

Debra also said that the Health and Wellbeing Partnerships of the two LSPs had already started to meet jointly.

Norma agreed to brief Ruth Goldstone of Adur District Council on the plans to invite Esther Smyrl to speak to the CYP Forum on CAF, and to ensure Ruth is aware that AiP's CYPP has a standing invitation to send representatives to the WT CYP Forum.

Action: Norma Ndoping

6. Round the table updates

a) Children's Parade (Julian Stevens)

Julian announced that Worthing Children's Parade, with a Myths and Legends theme, was to be held on 13 June, taking off at 10 am from the seafront and leading to Steyne Gardens, where the Olympic egg would be hatched at 11:15.

b) Youth activities (Adele Grover)

Adele announced that the next day was the deadline for contributions to a leaflet she was preparing on Youth Centre activities during the summer holidays.

She also referred those present to www.worthing.gov.uk/youth

c) D-side Project closing (Leonie Warnick)

Leonie announced that from 19 June the project is to disband owing to funding difficulties. There would be redundancies.

d) Presentations (Peter Jackson)

Cura Independent Services is inviting providers to give presentations.

e) Police Merger (Ch Insp Howard Hodges)

Worthing and Adur police are to merge.

f) Availability of services in Children's Centres (Carole Perry)

The services of the Worthing Health Visitors and School Nurses team are to be made available in Children's Centres.

g) Northbrook College (Paul Norman)

Paul briefed the meeting on some of the provision available at the College.

h) Company Paradiso Arts (Jon Potter)

Jon outlined how his company is aiming to enable young people to tell their stories. The company has BBC outlets. Currently there is focus on mental health issues.

i) Activity vouchers (Clare Deacon)

Clare said the vouchers were well used in Worthing; Worthing use accounts for approximately a quarter of that for the whole of West Sussex.

In answer to a question, she explained that a school can acquire vouchers to the value of up to £175 for each of 16 students.

j) WCVS e-bulletin (Julia Carrette)

Julia alerted members to an e-bulletin they could expect to receive the following week. It would include information about Children in Need funding.

k) Youth Services (Shirley Robinson-Viney & Joolie Edwards)

Shirley and Joolie provided a briefing on the Youth Centres, with Shirley making reference to the fact that The Place has something on every night from Tuesday to Saturday. Stray Cats is closing.

l) Activities organised by Worthing Homes

Sue Brown briefed the meeting on success in acquiring £420,000 Lottery funding, and spoke about ten community grants of up to a thousand pounds each.

She gave advance notice of a Fun Day to be held on 10 October and invited members to have stands at it.

Future activities include participation in the carnival on 31 August, and in a football tournament to be held in early September.

m) Other business

Some apologies (included in list at page 1) were passed on.

7. Forthcoming Meeting (as Norma's email of 11 June):

**Tuesday 13 October 2009 at 14:30 in the
Gordon Room of Worthing Town Hall**