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| **Apologies:** |
| **Dorchester Locality**  **Local Alliance Group**  **Minutes**  **Thursday 21 September 2023 – Microsoft Teams Online** |
| **Meeting attendees:** |
| **Chair:** Sian Merriott  **Attendees**: Ali Williams, Sian Merriott, Louisa Swabey-Payne, Naomi Mason, Ann Haigh, Julie Galton, Emma Scott, Stella Jones, Beatrice Brooke, Kate Parkman, David Dinsmore, Lisa Villa, Holly Jenkinson, Vicky Burrows, Samantha Robinson, Katrina Wood, Emma Gould  **Minutes**: Laurel Burn and Katy Laver |
| **Apologies:** Sarah Stockham, Wendy Lax, DPCC, Susan Cocking, Mary Rossant, Wendy Allwood, Karen Weir, Tracey Hindle, Nicola Blair |

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| **No.** | **Actions from previous meeting** | **For:** |
| 2 | Use of the library for family hub – Louisa to follow up on this, and Laurel to invite Rebecca to the next LAG in December | **Rebecca Watson** |

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| **No.** | **Actions from this meeting** | **For:** |
| 3 | Invite Rebecca Watson to the next LAG in December | **Laurel Burn** |
| 3 | Louisa to ask Rebecca to respond regarding the timescale of establishing family hubs in Dorchester Library | **Louisa Swabey-Payne** |
| 5 | Lucy to be invited to next LAG by David Dinsmore to feedback herself on severe absence project. | **David Dinsmore** |
| 5 | Seek feedback on use of local alliance group funding from Studio School and St Osmund’s. | **Louisa Swabey-Payne** |
| 6 | Sian Merriott to be granted access to the partnership site | **Laurel Burn** |
| 6 | Kate, Emma and Naomi to feedback to LAG on exploratory meeting at Thomas Hardye School this afternoon with Rachel Glenny (year 10 assistant head). | **Kate Parkman, Emma Scott, Naomi Mason** |
| 6 | Louisa to speak to Mike Foley (CEO Wessex MAT) about the attendance of mainstream schools at LAG. | **Louisa Swabey-Payne** |
| 6 | ALL OF THE SUB-GROUPS TO GIVE FEEDBACK AT NEXT LOCAL ALLIANCE GROUP. | **All** |
| 7 | Invitation to attend stakeholder meeting on Thursday 28 September 5.45-8pm Lubbecke Way, with dinner provided! Naomi Mason particularly wanted Ali Williams to be there. | **All** |
| 7 | Date of next meeting to be agreed | **Sian Merriott, Louisa Swabey-Payne, David Dinsmore** |
| 7 | Laurel to book out hybrid meeting kit from IT when the date of the next meeting is agreed. | **Laurel Burn** |
| 7 | Laurel to add Lisa’s email address and website address and add Lisa to early years group. | **Lisa Villa, Laurel Burn** |

| **No** | **Item Minutes** |  |
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| **1** | **Welcome, Apologies & Introductions** |  |
| **2** | The minutes from the last meeting were accepted. |  |
| **3** | **Family Hub Update** – Louisa.   * Funding provided by Department for Education to test different approaches to family hubs. Asset-based development: the vision for the children’s centre is that it will be even bigger, with family hubs to 18 (or 25 if there is a SEN need) (following the Sure Start model). * 8-10 family hubs across Dorset. We are trying to identify a family hub site in Dorchester. The top building for negotiation is Dorchester Library. * Rurality is a big problem – basically the hubs will be about clinical services, midwifery, mental health, drug/substance misuse and housing. We are in talks with the Library – may not have a team there 24/7, but we will deliver services from the Library, such as Paediatrician looked after child medicals. * Plan is to decommission the Poundbury children’s centre. * Money in the pot to create rooms, capacity and space. * The Library are willing for us to be part of their team. * Stella asked about timescales – delays – now looking at after Christmas rather than September. * Need feedback in terms of timescales **– invite Rebecca Watson to the next LAG**, as with contracts and finance etc we have lost a bit of the original traction. * Naomi asked if there are kitchen facilities and there are some in one of the training rooms. The feedback from foodbanks is that people would like cookery workshops –– there is some finance in a pot of money for food security – we could buy slow cookers. * **Q&A – ask Rebecca Watson to respond.** | **Action: Laurel Burn**  **Action: Louisa Swabey-Payne** |
| **4** | **Pathfinder** - Sam Robinson   * Dorset is one of the three LAs to lead on Pathfinder, which is looking at family hubs and how they can support with child protection planning. Agreed a month ago that Dorset will be one of the LA’s leading on this. * Outline – four different pillars, including child protection and family hubs. How social workers can be more autonomous in the planning. With our Safeguarding families together project and locality model, we have some processes already in place. It’s about how we can do things differently with what we currently have. There isn’t additional money. * Social work oversight on early help cases – supervision with social worker on their cases. Some of these cases weren’t Child Protection at the time that children died. A system-wide approach. * Safer families together model, running for about 6 months – probation joining soon, REACH, domestic abuse (victims) and looking at bringing in perpetrator work. * Hoping it will roll out to East and North in the next 6 months or so. |  |
| **5** | **Schools Data, Performance and Planning**   * We looked at the schools’ finance data report compiled by Lisa Gray, Education Challenge Lead. * The report examines is performance of Dorchester schools at KS1 and KS2, with headlines on suspensions and permanent exclusions, and how we are benchmarking and performing against both county and national averages. * David Dinsmore explained that permanent exclusions are not too bad here compared to national and South-West averages. * Suspensions are rising, with schools trying to hold onto students as much as they can. Exclusions are low because suspensions are high. * There is a rise in mental health issues. Mainstream schools are struggling to engage all children, keep discipline and keep standards high. * SATs tests for writing, reading and maths, with data for each area. Data for each school. Red means below national average, green means we are above national average. * Naomi asked if the data is correlating with areas of deprivation and levels of SEN. * We discussed the data. Damers – Poundbury is an area of deprivation, increases across the board, above averages with reading and writing, and a high SEN cohort. Look at schools such as Charminster, where maths is going to be a priority going forward. Lisa is involved with this. * Frome Valley School, situated in Crossways, an area of deprivation, where there are high numbers of asylum seekers – English reading & writing scores are low. * Small cohorts in Winterbourne Valley (14 students) and Cheselbourne (14 students). With Winterbourne Abbas School we are working with the Head. * Data will be discussed at Dorset Education Board. * Broadmayne concerns Naomi. KS1 has been relatively strong in the last two years. 5% below local average and 4% below national average. (Dorset average 35% and National 24%) Broadmayne is a drop off zone, with pupils coming from Crossways and Weymouth. * What are Cheselbourne doing right? On site pre-school. * Manor Park has had difficulties, but is now green in all areas, which is a massive achievement. * Puddletown and Winterbourne Abbas also green in all areas. * Girls in Dorchester are not performing as well as they should – below Dorset average.   Suspensions   * 5.5% suspension rate – third lowest in localities. 352 suspensions between September 2022-May 2023. * Highest is DLC, not surprising, skews data. David – suspensions are way down on year before, but not there now. DLC are keeping kids safe in small environment who can be aggressive towards each other, which is quite difficult. We separate them and keep them safe. There is a need for more staff. Louisa thanked David for his dedication and his team’s work with young people. * 1 permanent exclusion from Thomas Hardye School, but David doubts this is accurate. Louisa suggests it is a data dashboard blip, with the figure more like 5-6. * Some of local alliance group funding has gone to schools.   + Charminster – funding for sensory room and ELSA. High level of SEN need for second year running.   + Dorchester Hospital School – equipment   + Dorchester Learning Centre – severe absence project – quite a few kids who are severely absent over 50% missing from school (hides that some are zero). School has to do everything they can and then this team comes in. They are two weeks in, but two pupils on the pilot are now regularly attending DLC. Very positive start. Lucy will feedback to the schools.   + **Lucy to be invited to next LAG by David Dinsmore to feedback herself on severe absence project.**   + Other thoughts around the data were David’s concern that schools are holding pupils and will be letting them go at GCSE stage.   + **Seek feedback from Studio School and St Osmund’s** | **Action: David Dinsmore**  **Action: Louisa Swabey-Payne** |
| **6** | **LAG Sub-Group feedback and Progress (including any feedback from summer provisions)**   * GRT Project (Gypsy Romana Traveller Young People) – Kate Parkman. A continuation of a project that was started last year with Covid recovery funding. Huge increase in attendance. Piddle Valley, DMS, SwARC, DLC – looking for pathways for those who need alternative provision. For example, support involves helping them to get on the school bus, settling in when they first arrive, and making sure they have breakfast, have a snack and the right equipment. Not just going, but learning: for example, were not reading at all, now confident readers. * Beatrice said that a similar project in Weymouth has been transformational (summer schools). * Transitions for young people out of term time – in Dorchester they have more transitions (first, middle, upper school) * Connected minds – Dorset Mind - 6-8 week programme. * Partnership Site Louisa encouraged use of the partnership site. She will place a quiz on site and whoever gets the most questions right wins a box of chocolates. What we put in is what we get out of it.   **Sian Merriott can’t access the partnership site.**   * Mike Foley – Wessex MAT signposted to DYCC, but Kate confirmed Mike Foley has not yet been in touch with her. * Kate confirmed she, Naomi and Emma have an exploratory meeting at Thomas Hardye School this afternoon with Rachel Glenny (year 10 assistant head) to look at young people and mental health and low level readers. Partnership working. **Will bring back to LAG.** * **Connected Minds to be added to partnership site** * Paradise Club – Kate has restarted all groups since start of new school year. Paradise Club numbers are low – a group for those with siblings with SEND. Holly asked if time was an issue, maybe too late? Kate explained that those in the group were older and chose a later time but there is a timetabling issue: the group can’t be earlier – there are not enough evenings in the week! * David observed that the mainstream schools are not at LAG. **Louisa to speak to Mike Foley CEO Wessex MAT.** To ask Learning first federation – who is your rep for LAG? * LAG Sub-Group Feedback   + Kate Parkman (Young People) – meeting this afternoon – aim of sub-group is to not make new projects for YP, but how we get the word out there about what is already happening.   + Sian’s steering group (Safer Communities) – met in June, set out concerns in Dorchester and another meeting next week to look at how we deal with them.   + Apologies from Sue Wilson (Best Start in Life) and Louisa is looking for an update from Tracey Hindle on inclusivity.   **ALL OF THE SUB-GROUPS TO GIVE FEEDBACK AT NEXT LOCAL ALLIANCE GROUP.** | **Action: Laurel Burn**  **Action: Kate Parkman, Emma Scott, Naomi Mason**  **Action: Louisa Swabey-Payne**  **Action: All** |
| **7** | **Any Other Business**   * Naomi – Stakeholder meeting next Thursday 28 September 5.45-8pm Lubbecke Way, with dinner provided! **invite to go in the minutes** * Lots of stakeholders and partners across mid-Dorset to look at childhood obesity (40% of year 6 obese or overweight) * Looking at Five Ways to Wellbeing * Thomas Hardye School stripped out two pages of diary and gave them to Naomi’s group in 2019. * Restarting. * There are a number of mental health issues in Dorset County Hospital and many beds are being used for mental health – David feels there is a role for LAG – emergency department reimagined… community ambulances. Education having a role. Louisa asked which priority group? * David gave thanks to sub-committee, groups that come out and look at what we do here. * Louisa asked if we could have LAG out in community, potentially at Dorchester Learning Centre in December. **Laurel to book out hybrid meeting kit from IT when the date of this meeting is agreed.** * Mental health team in schools now in Thomas Hardye School – discussions with staff teams, seeing students, meetings, assemblies, staff training. Peer support for mental health/ peer mentoring. Don’t like to bother sixth form mentors with mental health as it is deemed too much for them. Ali has people with lived experience going into school.   Agency updates   * Lisa Villa – DorPiP – Clinical Lead Dorset Infant Partnership.   + Founded 6-7 years ago, focussed on first 1001 days: safeguarding and perinatal mental health and early intervention with families.   + Coming in far too late when we can work with family to do preventative measures. Work with pregnant mums up to 20 weeks. Tonight launching Peapods course online via teams covering Dorset for pregnant mums and babies. Mental health, risks, what can cause it, strategies. Dads group as well, infant massage – therapeutic class 90 mins face-to-face. Poole/Bournemouth, Wareham, Christchurch. Trying to get classes in Dorchester - 1:1 psychotherapy. Funded and charity run so has a threshold.   + Louisa asked what the threshold is: there are 28 risk factors bonding/attachment/behaviour of newborn, mental health, social services, traumatic birth, NICU, mums with autism, postnatal depression, PTSD.   + Self-referral – mum or dad can self-refer. But most referrals from midwives and health visitors.   + 6 therapists on board, mostly from CAMHS. Can be referred young children to CAMHS if family struggling.   + **Laurel to add Lisa’s email address and website address and add to early years group.**   + Katrina asked if anything would preclude people from the programme. Lisa responded to say they were not an emergency crisis unit * LAG beginning of December: date to be agreed and invitation emailed out. | **Action: Laurel Burn**  **Action: Laurel Burn**  **Action: Laurel Burn**  **Action: Sian Merriott, Louisa Swabey-Payne, David Dinsmore, Laurel Burn** |
| **8** | **LAG Inclusion Funding Requests** were not discussed, as Paula Golding was not present at the meeting. |  |