



## **North Locality Local Alliance Group Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**21 September 2022**

**at 10.30am held as a Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

#### **Meeting attendees:**

Chair: Kath Saunders (KS), Head of Locality & Strategy

Attendees: Cllr Pauline Batstone (PB), Elected Member; Jamie Keast (JK), Support Co-ordinator, Home Start North Dorset; Amanda Hewitt (AH), DFM Family Link Worker, Dorset Youth Association; Jo Stuart (JS) Pastoral Support Worker, Shaftesbury School; Julie Plumley (JP), Director at Future Roots, 0-25 Forum representative; Matthew Jenkins (MJ), Service Manager, Social Care; Nikki Blair (NB), Libraries Team Manager Customer Services; Emma Board (EB), SENCO, St Mary the Virgin Primary School; Penny White (PW), Assistant Headteacher, DSL, The Blandford School; Elaine Okopski (EO), DPCC; Kim Rickford (KR), Headteacher, The Forum Centre; Julie Tidbury (JT), Practice Manager, Gillingham Medical Practice; Karen Johnson (KJ), YP Social Prescriber, Gillingham Medical Practice; Vicky Burrows, Home Start West Dorset inc. Sherborne; Amanda Bell, Employer Adviser, Job Centre Plus; Wendy Lax (WL), Early Help Lead Pan Dorset for DCH PHS (on behalf of Mary Rossant); Minutes: Ruth Disbrow (RD), Business Support Team

#### **Apologies:**

Cllr Jane Somper (JS), Elected Member; Cllr Carole Jones (CJ), Elected Member; Karen Wrixon (KW), Headteacher, William Barnes Primary School; Mary Rossant (MR), Health Visitor Clinical Lead; Julia Markus (JM), Business and Outreach Officer, Skills & Learning; Amanda Conolly (AC), Service Manager, Education & Early Help

No.	Actions	
2	Add members to the LAG Teams site.	RD
2.5	Copy of meeting Teams chat to be circulated with minutes in future.	RD
3	Find information about future Realising Rights training to share with LAG members.	RD
3	Share date of next LAGs Together meeting with members.	RD
4	Arrange for Karen Johnson link up with Helen Duncan-Jordan's successor re the mental health in schools team.	KS
7	Circulate current LAG Action Plan with minutes.	RD
8	Discuss and arrange a date for the Partnership Event.	KS/NB
10	Get an update on Family Hubs and circulate to members.	KS/RD

No	Item Minutes
1	<b>Welcome, apologies and introductions</b> KS welcomed all to the meeting and introduced herself for the benefit of new attendees. KS explained that she is currently acting as chair of the LAG, but there has been some work going on behind the scenes to find a new independent chair. Cllr Carole Jones is working with Kim in the Vale Pantry. Kim has a strong background in industry and business may be able to join the group in this role. A meeting to discuss this will be happening soon. Apologies were given as above, and attendees were asked to introduce themselves in the Teams chat.

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2	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting and Actions</b></p> <p>Minutes had been circulated and are also stored on the LAG Team site. ACTION - add members to the Teams site - RD</p> <p>KS sent members a letter at the beginning of September, which was essentially a call to arms. There is a lot of good interest and commitment, but it is important to move into an action phase.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.</p>
2.1	<p>Sam Lawrence, Targeted Youth Worker and Sally Upshall, Youth Support Worker are to be invited to a future meeting to talk about their work.</p> <p>KS explained that Sam and Sally are not available today as they are delivering a group activity, but they will attend the December meeting.</p>
2.2	<p>Find new date for Poverty Working Group</p> <p>Cllr Carole Jones (CJ) is keen to be involved in this, but KS has been struggling to get members and to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet. JK and Chris Spackman asked to join this group. Any others who are interested, please let RD know. This is the only working group that we have not been able to get going.</p> <p>MJ suggested that food banks in our main towns could be the best contacts for this group (as with Sturminster through CJ). Gillingham, Blandford, Shaftesbury (Father's House), Sherborne. KS will ask colleagues to reach out to them. JT – food bank collection points are being added in both practice reception areas.</p>
2.3	Parent representation – KS is still to have a conversation with EO about this.
2.4	Provide update with Ukraine Refugee and support needed for them. Pick this up with Kate Pryce, Service Manager of the Refugee Resettlement programme and Cllr Carole Jones and share information when received. If members would like more information, please let us know.
2.5	Circulate a copy of the Teams meeting chat with the minutes – circulated. ACTION - KS asked for this to be done for future meetings. RD
2.6	Invite Thomas Fowler to the planned Partnership event re: Family Hubs and the Digital Family Offer. Remember this when planning the event.
2.7	New chair and vice-chair needed – agenda item later in the meeting.
2.8	Volunteers needed to plan the Partnership event – agenda item later in the meeting.
3	<p><b>Chair and Vice Chair updates</b></p> <p>Cllr Pauline Batstone is still vice chair and is willing to continue but would like someone who is able to be more active in the role to come forward. KS invited others to come forward for the role of chair. The point of the Local Alliance Groups is that they are a partnership. They are not really designed to be local authority led.</p> <p>JP attended the recent LAGs together meeting on 6 September, which was positive. It is important to hear about what is happening in other groups, both successes and challenges. Realising Rights training was part of the event. JP found this very refreshing and strengthening and recommended it to others. ACTION Get details of future training to share with LAG members – KS/RD.</p> <p>JS was also at the LAGs together meeting. With some of what was talked about, Primary schools can do more in terms of engaging parents. Conversations are needed with Secondary Schools about ways to promote engagement as they do not have that same 'school gate' link with parents.</p> <p>ACTION - Find out date of next meeting and publicise to LAG.</p>
4	<b>Mental Health working group update (Amanda Conolly)</b>

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	<p>AC in training today. JT provided the update to the meeting.</p> <p>JT not able to be involved as much as she had wanted to. Had a background in children's mental health in Sussex. Wanted to bring that to North Dorset. Gillingham Medical Practice has now recruited its first social prescriber for children and young people, Karen Johnson. At Gillingham, they are trying to change the culture of how they work with YP that come for appointments. They want to work more closely with early help and will be encouraging peers in other practices to do the same. They are also interested in piloting pieces of work if needed. JP said that there is an Early Help Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) group already set up, looking at young people's mental health and it would be good to work together.</p> <p>KS – suggested it will be good for KJ to link in with mental health support teams in schools.</p> <p>ACTION – Arrange link up with Helen Duncan-Jordan's successor – KS/RD</p> <p>JT – KJ is to champion social prescribing and raise awareness in schools.</p>
5	<p><b>Poverty working group update (Kath Saunders)</b></p> <p>KS has actions to follow up to get this group moving as already mentioned under matters arising above.</p> <p>In addition, Sam Wilton and Sam Craig who work in the locality team are going to act as champions in this area.</p>
6	<p><b>Teenagers at risk of Exploitation working group update (Matt Jenkins)</b></p> <p>MJ – there was a good start to this group, but as the follow up meetings happened, some dropped out. The last meeting was focused on Shaftesbury School as there was not representation from other areas.</p> <p>Shaftesbury School arranged a day to focus on this. The idea was to try and target some parents to raise awareness of the local offer and how to recognise if their child is being exploited. There were sessions for the children during the school day, run by Escape Line. Followed by one for teachers and one for parents. Disappointingly, only 3 parents attended the session. Kim Campbell, CE Champion was involved, as well as Sam Lawrence, Targeted Youth Lead. The Safer Schools team were also there.</p> <p>JS – the event itself was really good, but there is an issue with engagement of secondary school parents. As far as the children were concerned, they were completely engaged with the work done by Escape Line, it was tailored to the age group of the children. It is just frustrating to have reached so few parents.</p> <p>JP – would like to be involved in this group. Parents sometimes engage better with things held by voluntary sector organisations rather than schools. Offered to hold something at Rylands Farm if needed in future.</p> <p>JS – the event was recorded but needs to be edited. Once completed it can be sent out to parents.</p> <p>JP – mentioned the 'Sam – In Too Deep' video, which is very powerful for young people, particularly because it happened to a young person in Dorset. (Please note this video contains subject matter which some people may find distressing: <a href="#">Sam - In Too Deep - YouTube</a>)</p> <p>MJ will send out invitations directly for the next few meetings. Extra members would be very welcome.</p>
7	<p><b>Review of Priorities – what else should we consider?</b></p> <p>KS – asked if there are any other areas members feel we should be focusing on in addition to the ones already identified? ACTION – circulate current action plan - RD</p> <p>MJ – asked, are we bringing children's voices into the group enough? What do children, parents and families want to see within the local area? Some organisations, like schools, may</p>

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	<p>already have done surveys about what children and YP want to see in the area. Do we have the right community representation in this group to get these voices heard?</p> <p>KS – agreed this should be a thread that runs through all our work. Each working group should be considering how they are actively seeking the voice and views of young people. They need to be actively involved in the early stages of any plans we make.</p> <p>EO – a big issue for YP in North Dorset is physically getting around. How much involvement have they had in the Bus Back Better scheme? There is a challenge around making sure that YP who find it hard to contribute get the opportunity to do so.</p> <p>KS – we need to make sure we are getting the views of more marginalised YP. E.g., SEND, but also those out of school. Quite a large cohort of Electively Home Educated children. Small pockets of groups with other backgrounds. Not saying we need them to be in the LAG meeting, but how we are making the links. Perhaps through the working groups?</p> <p>Youth Participation people at Dorset Council can help with identifying groups, e.g., children in care.</p> <p>EO – need to check in with YP to find out if the engagement we have already had is making a difference. Give schools better tools to equip them to get feedback from YP. How do you collate it and where do you feed it in to.</p> <p>JT met with KJ to discuss measuring effectiveness of their service in Gillingham. Agreed that impact measurement is so important.</p> <p>EO – ICS/ICB have a youth rep group with lots of organisations involved. We should be ensuring when we are asking for that voice, that we coordinate results and share them in the right places. So that other organisations can also learn from what we have found out from YP.</p> <p>JP – we need to be aware that there are still a lot of families that do not read or write.</p> <p>EO – cannot rely on online/digital surveys only. Some families will need an in-person approach, or printed materials. We need to go where families naturally meet.</p>
8	<p><b>Partnership Event</b></p> <p>KS – partnership has talked a couple of times about getting together for an event to spotlight what all are doing and to share resources.</p> <p>NB – has suggested using Gillingham Library for the next event. In libraries they are keen to work with as many people as possible. Partly to share what libraries offer. In terms of impact data, they have anecdotal information fed through to them all the time. There is a current home-schooling group meeting in Gillingham Library, which started out quite small, but has now grown.</p> <p>They are slightly limited with available times for meeting, but open for discussion. Monday afternoons after 1pm are free, or any time on a Wednesday when the library is closed.</p> <p>KS – need to be clear about the purpose of the event. Either for us as a closed event to properly meet in person, to showcase what everyone does and to invite other organisations that aren't already part of the group. Or as an open event for YP and families to show what we do. Or should there be two events – one closed and one open.</p> <p>JP – EO runs a very good event at Kingston Maurward and a lot of families attend. Wondered if the library would be big enough for something on this scale.</p> <p>NB – Gillingham library is a big site with its own car park. The stock is on mobile units, so the space can be opened up. Could accommodate 100 to 150 people.</p> <p>KS – we should probably start with a closed event. If it we were opening it up to families, we would need to consider delivering it in the other market towns in the North, as well as making the information available to families in outlying areas. We will need to decide what is manageable.</p>

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	ACTION - KS and NB to discuss dates. KS would like the event to be before Christmas. Either at the end November, or the beginning of December. To be confirmed.
9	<p><b>Dates of future meetings</b>          Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 10.00am-12.00pm; Wed 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 10.00-12.00; Wed 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 10.00-12.00)</p> <p>KS raised possibility of meeting in person. Suggested alternating online and in-person meetings. There was general agreement with this suggestion.</p>
10	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>JK – Homestart is extremely busy. Seems to be busier every year. Homestart work is primarily with under 5's, so JK does less work with young people. The service is looking to expand into South Somerset. With reference to the earlier conversation about poverty, JK wants all of the Homestart volunteers to have the same information to give to families about what support is available. Believes there are going to be big problems in January and they want to be ready for that.</p> <p>JP – in North Dorset believes that some organisations will be in crisis that support families and children. Charities and not for profit organisations are going to be struggling too. They do not have the funding to cover big rises in energy costs.</p> <p>EO – Asked if it would be possible for this LAG to have an update on the family hubs work, including plans for North Dorset. Perhaps a standing agenda item would be helpful. ACTION – to get update to circulate to members – KS.</p>