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| **West Local Alliance Group Meeting****18 September 2023** |
| **Meeting attendees:** |
| **Chair:**  Louisa Swabey-Payne (LSP) Cllr Sarah Williams (SWi), Margaret Crabb (MC), Nicola Shoemark (NS), Rovarn Wickremasinghe (RW), Samantha Robinson (SR), Sarah Howard (SH), Sharon Mitchell (SM), Vicky Abbott (VA), Minutes: Sue Willcocks (SW)  |
| **Apologies:** |
| Amanda Davis (AD), Dan Watts (DW), Emma Lucas (EL), Holly Jenkinson (HJ), Kate Batorska (KB), Katie Chantler (KC), Keith Hales (KH), Louise Donovan (LD), Paula Golding (PG), Sarah Churchill (SC), Sarah McNulty (SMc), Sheila ODonnell (SO)  |

| **No.** | **Actions** |  |
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| 2.2 | West Locality Partnership Site Joining in Forms to be sent out to those LAG Members not currently signed up.  | **SW** |
| 2.10 | Priority 3 and 4 Leads to send Sarah Middleton the following information for inclusion on Partnership Site: key contact name, email and telephone number; priority aim; specific UN Convention on the Rights of the Child linked to this priority; current projects; developing/potential projects.  | **AS/SMc** |
| 2.11 | Priority Leads to check the information on the Partnership Site about their priorities and provide Sarah Middleton with the following information: names and contact information of anyone involved in the priority; more details around the projects; information about how people can get involved and help; details of how people can link up if they have similar projects.  | **RW/KB/AS/ SMc** |
| 2.13 | RW to send Sarah Middleton and SW flyers and links to be embedded under the section for Priority 1.Flyers/links to be sent out LAG Members with the Minutes.  | **RW** **SW** |
| 2.14 | Meeting to be arranged with HH, LSP and the Priority Leads, in advance of the next LAG, in order to pull together an update on the Priorities. | **SW** |
| 2.17 | LD to liaise with PG about funding for work she is doing around resilience, anxiety and anger management.  | **LD/PG** |
| 2.18 | Issue of toddler groups not accepting children where there is also an older child present, to be raised with KC and Sue Wilson.  | **LSP** |
| 2.19 | SW to forward information about local support groups for families EHE their children, once received.  | **SW** |
| 2.22 | Sarah Middleton to be invited to the next LAG to re-introduce the Partnership Sites.  | **SW** |
| 2.23 | Leads to be identified in Social Work Team and Education and Early Help to work with Sarah Middleton on relevant information to be included on the Partnership Sites. | **SR****LSP** |
| 4.7 | Contact for Maiden Newton pop up larder to be given to VA, so she can then connect this person with Barbara Evans.  | **LSP** |
| 8.3 | A copy of the slide about the West Transition Project to be sent out with the Minutes.  | **SW** |
| 9.6 | NS to ask Lisa Gray to update the figures for PEXs.  | **NS** |
| 9.8 | Sheila ODonnell, Challenge Lead, to be invited to the next LAG, to present education information and provide more background around the work being done.  | **SW** |

| **No** | **Item Minutes** |
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| **1** | **Welcome, Apologies and Introductions** |
| **1.1****1.2** | * Apologies were received from AD, DW, EL, HJ, KB, KC, KH, LD, PG, SC, SMc and SO.
* LSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.
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| **2** | **Agreement of Last Minutes and Matters Arising** |
| **2.1****2.2****2.3****2.4****2.5****2.6****2.7****2.8****2.9****2.10****2.11****2.12****2.13****2.14****2.15****2.16****2.17****2.18****2.19****2.20****2.21****2.22****2.23** | * The minutes were agreed as a fair and accurate record of the meeting.
* SW to send out West Locality Partnership Site Joining in Forms to those LAG Members not currently signed up. **ACTION: SW**
* PG will send KB information around the number of children not accessing pre-school provisions, once the data has been gathered and sorted.
* A project with a focus on primary schools, which started in Chesil, has now been launched in the West.
* Ivan Leadley and Helen Farmer, from St Mary’s Primary School, assisted on SEN support and anxiety within the Transition Project.
* LSP has invited Barbara Evans, Help and Kindness, to attend a LAG meeting, with a view to becoming a LAG Member.
* A copy of the Early Years’ presentation and a list of acronyms were sent out with the Minutes.
* VA has provided KC with contacts/links, with a view to having a breastfeeding representative attend the Best Start in Life Meetings.
* A copy of the Oxford Brookes Research Project presentation was sent out with the Minutes.
* Priority 3 and 4 Leads to send Sarah Middleton the following information for inclusion on the Partnership Site: key contact name, email and telephone number; priority aim; specific UN Convention on the Rights of the Child linked to this priority; current projects; developing/potential projects. **ACTION: AS/SMc**
* Priority Leads to check the information on the Partnership Site about their priorities and provide Sarah Middleton with the following information: names and contact information of anyone involved in the priority; more details around the projects; information about how people can get involved and help; details of how people can link up if they have similar projects. **ACTION: RW/KB/AS/SMc**
* Once information has been added for all 4 priorities, HH and PG will meet and look at how we present a consistent and uniform approach and feedback to Sarah Middleton.
* RW to send Sarah Middleton and SW flyers and links to be embedded under the section for Priority 1. SW to also send these out to LAG Members with the Minutes. **ACTION: RW/SW**
* Meeting to be arranged with HH, LSP and the Priority Leads, in advance of the next LAG, to pull together an update on the Priorities. **ACTION: SW**
* A copy of the form to complete when applying for a LAG Funding grant was sent out with the minutes.
* Meeting dates for the LAG Funding Panel have been set up.
* LD to liaise with PG about funding for work she is doing around resilience, anxiety and anger management. **ACTION: LD/PG**
* Issue of toddler groups not accepting children where there is also an older child present, to be raised with KC and Sue Wilson. **ACTION: LSP**
* There are 48 families in the West who EHE. Some of these families EHE more than 1 child. SW is waiting for information about local support groups and will forward once received. **ACTION: SW**
* SM has not spoken to Sarah Middleton about putting library information on the Partnership Site, as the team have been updating their Sharepoint pages. There are posters with QR codes on, providing information about the libraries and information has been sent to LAGs.
* SW has updated EL’s email on the mailing list.
* Sarah Middleton to be invited to the next LAG to re-introduce the Partnership Sites. **ACTION: SW**
* Leads to be identified in Social Work Team and Education and Early Help to work with Sarah Middleton on relevant information to be included on the Partnership Sites. **ACTION: SR/LSP**
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| **3** |  **LAG Funding Update – Louisa Swabey-Payne** |
| **3.1****3.2****3.3****3.4****3.5****3.6** | * 11 funding applications have been received.
* 6 have been approved (St Mary’s Forest School Summer and Autumn Transition Project; Mountjoy Belonging Breakfast Club; Teens Time to Glow collaboration with Glow Collective and Social Prescribing; Woodroffe Forest School Summer and Autumn Transition; Beaminster Young Parents Integrational Initiative – Ripple Workshop; Mixed Martial Arts for Young People’s Wellbeing).
* 1 has been deferred (Big Hopes, Big Futures – Ready to Thrive and be School Ready – Home Start).
* 1 has been asked to provide additional information (Transition Project, Beaminster Secondary/Primary Consortium).
* 1 has been declined (West Consortium Project – CoRE Creative Education Bespoke Outreach Project), as it was offering a form of alternative provision which could be provided through existing Council funding streams such as DFM.
* 2 applications have not yet been considered by the Panel. (DorPIP Dads and PeaPods, Keeping Young People Safe Around Alcohol).
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| **4** | **Priority 1 Update – Supporting Good Financial Wellbeing – Rovarn Wickremasinghe** |
| **4.1****4.2****4.3****4.4****4.5****4.6** | * CAB are mainly working with foodbanks, providing advice, setting up hardship funds and managing the HSF Fund. It is hoped to widen the referral scheme to include different partners, e.g. schools.
* The main difficulty for this priority was getting more partners engaged. RW hoped this engagement would come through access to the Partnership Site.
* CAB have met with Barbara Evans, Help and Kindness, to look at providing a CAB presence at the popup food larder in Broadwindsor.
* A new project is being developed, providing financial information for young people in schools and benefits/advice for their parents. Beaminster School have agreed that the CAB can come into the school and talk to the pupils. They have also included information about the projects CAB are running around energy, foodbanks and specialist benefit work, in their newsletter.
* RW hopes to be able to send information to Sarah Middleton for the Partnership Site, this week.
* LSP to provide VA with a contact name for Maiden Newton pop-up larder, so VA can connect this person with Barbara Evans. **ACTION: LSP**
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| **5** | **Priority 2 Update – Supporting Children, Young People and Families to be Resilient – Kate Batorska** |
| **5.1** | * There was no update as KB was unable to attend the meeting.
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| **6** | **Priority 3 Update – Support Learning – Adam Shelley** |
| **6.1** | * There was no update at AS was unable to attend the meeting.
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| **7** | **Priority 4 Update – Linking in with Young People - Sarah McNulty/Emma Lucas** |
| **7.1** | * There was no update as SMc was unable to attend the meeting.
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| **8** | **West Transition Project - LSP** |
| **8.1****8.2****8.3** | * LSP shared a slide detailing information about support being provided by Education Challenge Leads to schools in the West around Transition Projects. Some LAG funding bids have been submitted as a result of this work.
* The key points were:
* Meetings have taken place with primary and secondary schools, to look at how we can provide earlier and better support around transition for students with EHCPs, Anxiety and SEMH.
* There have been 2 meetings so far and various ideas identified. Additional meetings are being set up for the Autumn. It is crucial there is sign-up from both secondary and primary schools, to ensure a cohesive approach.
* A copy of the slide to be sent out with the Minutes. **ACTION: SW**
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| **9** | **Education Update – Louisa Swabey-Payne** |
| **9.1****9.2****9.3****9.4****9.5****9.6****9.7****9.8****9.9** | * LSP shared a slide showing Education Performance Data for the West. The key points were:
* **Key Stage 1**
* Boys are under achieving across the board. The West remains below Dorset and National averages in reading, writing and maths.
* Disadvantaged children are making positive progress compared to their peers.
* The West has the lowest pass rate in phonics both in Dorset and Nationally. The Education Challenge Leads will explore this further with schools.
* The slide showed data for individual schools in the West. St Michael’s results were a school showing additional support may be needed and it was felt this was linked to there being no pre-school. It was hoped results would improve once they become an Academy. Thorners’ results were average; the school haven’t appeared keen to engage with some the locality offers. St Mary’s Bridport’s results were good, given the level of need within the school.
* **Key Stage 2**
* Most groups in the West were underperforming in maths compared to Dorset and National averages.
* Reading performance for the West was more positive.
* **Attendance**
* Attendance in the West is at 92.4%, compared to 92% across Dorset. Colfox have the lowest attendance at 90.2%.
* 5 schools have 95% attendance or more. These are schools that really engage with the attendance process.
* **Suspension**
* There were 296 suspensions in the West between September 2022 and May 2023, which is 6.3% of the cohort. Woodroffe had the highest number of suspensions (13.2%).
* **PEX**
* As at the end of the academic year, there were 3 in Colfox, 6 in Woodroffe, 1 in St Mary’s and 0 in Beaminster. These figures have tripled from the previous year.
* NS to ask Lisa Gray to update the information on the sheet.  **ACTION: NS**
* There is no common theme around why individuals are excluded. Some are due to persistent disruptive behaviour, but the majority are as a result of one-off serious incidents.
* The West try to get a young person back into mainstream school where possible, rather than a learning centre, as believe this is best for the young person.
* NS suggested people might like to watch a BBC1 Documentary called Helping our Teams, which looks at struggling young people in secondary schools.
* **Data Warning**
* Please be advised that the data report re school attainment discussed at the LAG was a discussion point and had not been verified or checked for its accuracy. Please do not use or circulate outside of the LAG. Please be aware that there may be data anomalies and context for those schools that may change meaning and understanding of the data presented.
* Sheila ODonnell, Challenge Lead, to be invited to the next LAG, to present the education information and provide more background around the work being done. **ACTION: SW**
* A lot of schools identified a high level of need amongst Reception staff. As a result, a flyer has been sent out offering training on different approaches and support for Reception teachers.
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| **10** |  **Any Other Business – Helen Horsley** |
| **10.1** | * There were no items raised.
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