



## All Our Children Minutes 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Present: Takki Sulaiman TSI, Tanya MacDougall Family Mediation, Kirsten Johnston TSI, Sharon Erskine Lets Grow Kids, Nicola Porciani CHAS, Arlene Colewell Argyll & Bute Befrienders, Kirsty Forsyth Kooth, Mandy Sheridan ABC, Hannah Gillies Home-Start Lorn

Apologies: Fran Previdi, Argyll and Bute Women's Aid

The meeting started with a presentation for Kirsty Forsyth at Kooth. Kooth are an online mental health and wellbeing support service for children and young people formed in 2001. Kooth are widely commissioned across the UK and in about 90% of the areas in England, just over 60% of Wales. Two years ago, June 2021, they started in Scotland and have been commissioned in 13 areas across Scotland with over 52,000 logins from young people that's from over 14,000 individuals.

The service is an online service available 24/7 365 days of the year, 60% of logins are happening out of hours. 94% of our young people in Scotland would recommend to a friend and the top three presenting issues coming through from our young Scots are anxiety, stress, self harm and suicidal thoughts. In Argyll and Bute, Kooth are available for all 10 to 18 year olds. Slides from the presentation will be sent out with the minutes.

### Updates

Sharon Erskine

The Child Protection Committee have been running their Child Protection procedures training one has taken place in Campbeltown and Helensburgh and feedback has been really positive. The rationale is that people will attend the training in their own localities, so the people that you'll be working with, should you ever have to use the child protection procedures, will be in the same room as you. So you can get to know each other a bit better. If you can't make it in your own locality, it's better to do it than not do it. So there's other dates going to be coming up so you'll be able to be able to attend somewhere. Further dates have been shared with the network and the flyer will be sent out with these minutes.

The child Protection have a new lead officer and she's settling in well and are hoping to have a new training coordinator. The child protection conference is usually November time, and Sharon will keep us updated on the date and what the topics will be for this year.

Peri natal and infant mental health, there will be a series of workshops likely to be monthly for staff to improve everyone's knowledge around infant mental health. The specialist nurse is off on leave just now, but hopefully is going to be getting back to full return soon. But in the mean time, if you've got any worries. Contact your midwifery unit Sharon Erskine and she'll put you in touch with someone and that can support you with that. The oversight group for perinatal and infant mental health is next week, Sharon will have a better update after that meeting.

Takki asked if the training was designed for managers and at an operational level or would it be beneficial if the trustee with responsibility for safeguarding attend?

Sharon stated that it is quite operational, but there is the new training module for trustees with child protection responsibility which Sharon is looking to deliver soon.

Mandy Sheridan spoke about violence against women and girls and developing the equally safe funded project which

is transforming responses to services, transforming responses to violence against women and girls, which is focused on rolling out safe and together as a model for child protection and domestic abuse. This is going well with most of the first tranche through the core programme and management modules, so that's 25 children, social workers and 15 managers, which is incredibly useful in all the practice leads. The next tranche is likely to start very soon. This would be a broader scope. So agencies that are likely to be involved primarily in child protection including some third sector agencies, but also education, police and housing. There are about 30 core programmes and with one already trained person who's willing to take on the quite challenging train, the trainers course which is a fantastic. There's been some challenges in terms of people simply getting the time and the space given the staffing issues so people aren't completing as quickly as hoped, but it is happening. It has been said that there will be a third year of funding, the amount of is yet to be determined, but it is going to be there. Furthermore they have developed a link with Highland violence against women partnership looking to have a dedicated coordinator, but this didn't happen. However Highland have been great as they've been running virtual overview sessions, which are two half days offering free places on that, allowing a good number of people to really understand, safe and together.

Also sexual exploitation and harmful traditional practises. Currently talking to Safelives about working with perpetrators, working with men, getting some training there.

The results from a research project have been received but are not yet ready for public circulation.

A development day on UNCRC implementation was recently held with more of a plan in place for raising awareness, engagement and coproduction with children and young people on how to produce child friendly literature, strategies and plans.

The child friendly complaints procedure is also being developed. The UNCRC innovation fund has just been released with incredibly short notice £500,000 for the whole of Scotland the deadline for quite a complicated process of application is 29th of June. Looking to submit a bid around a project to develop with children and young people an awards programme for teams and staff working to embed and implement the UNCRC and the children and Young People's Service plan

Finally the Child poverty report is at its final draft stage and there is the Children's rights report reporting duty this year as well, so we'll be updating that plan.

Takki was at the Community planning partnership management committee development recently which was literally the first time or second time, that most of us had had got together. The main purpose of it was to consider the results of the mass consultation that the Community development team had held on what should be the areas next 10 year local outcome improvement plan. This will basically drive a lot of the spending and policy decisions of the local authority and its partners. It's a voluntary code, but is pretty much used to drive decisions. For instance for organisations like TSI, we will align our activities with those 3 outcomes which were housing, transport and community wellbeing. So the next stage for the Community planning team is to host a series of workshops to drill down further on the outcomes and more deeply into what should be the precise look and feel of a plan likely to be finalised following further consultation and possibly towards the end of this this calendar year. If anyone wants to find out more Takki can put them in touch with the relevant team who can give some more feedback.

Takki gave a brief overview of Community wealth building which is a process with 5 pillars. It is about having a more just local economy, having fair employment, access to land and resources.

It is about establishing more social enterprises so that profits are not extracted from Argyll and Bute. For example, if you were interested in, you know, plugging workforce shortages in the third sector in no matter what field you might consider setting up a social enterprise rather than buying in an expensive agency, who will charge you a fortune for care workers or social workers or that kind of thing. There's a lot of potential for looking differently about how our local economy is organised and it's looking at the economy in its widest sense and about how we live in our locality.

Takki shared the corporate parenting board plan for the next few years it is a statutory obligation for a range of statutory partners as well as some non statutory partners who have to treat young people who are care experienced as if they were their own children. The idea is to provide a bit more support and focus the minds of statutory agencies, in particular on how we can improve outcomes. And at the heart of the Corporate Parenting Board, it is the voice of young people. So The Who cares, trust are represented there, there are some care experienced older people

of which two are my Co chairs. There is a champions board which is important and there's a whole range of partnership and participation groups . Takki shared the tracker of the Corporate Parenting Board in terms of the If people would like to find out more please get in touch with Takki and he will send out the tracker. If there are any questions for the Corporate parenting Board again please contact Takki.

Sharon Erskine stated that there is now Kinship support being established , there is one in Oban facilitated by Family mediation and it would be great to see more even online across Argyll and Bute.

Tanya stated that Family mediation do the young homeless mediation and they receive very few referrals from external organisations to support the young homeless people, there has not been one referral to the homelessness mediation service for the last two years.

Tanya now has the figures for last year, many people were asked to leave the family home, however there has not been 1 referral, even though family mediation have a contract with our Argyll and Bute Council for housing mediation. Tanya to keep the network updated on any developments.

Takki informed the network of one other aspect from the Corporate Parenting Board is the virtual head teacher Louise Chisolm has been appointed on a permanent basis to advocate for care, experienced young people and their needs in school environments.

### **Other updates**

Nicola Porciani is working with the Scottish Government on the National Care Service, particularly looking at the Children's social care aspect and partly because Chas work with children who have very complex medical needs and have quite a lot of social care. Scottish Government are hosting summer of events, the Argyll and Bute one will be in the Corran Halls Oban on the 26<sup>th</sup> July where professionals and families or people that have social care can attend and find out more. Link to register: [National Care Service - Social care - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/national-care-service-social-care)

Kirsten stated that there seems to be a concern with the National Care Service that it is missing the children and family aspect and it's adult health and social care orientated.

Takki mentioned he will be attending the Argyll and Bute Children's Strategic Group which is trying to relaunch as it has not met frequently. This will be where Takki looks for a bit more transparency in funding. Takki will update group at next network meeting.

Tanya mentioned the whole family wellbeing fund, which was not spent last year is a 3 year fund but there has been no engagement with the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector. This could be a fund the sector could benefit from for organisations that work across whole families. It would be good to have clarification from the local authority on what is happening with the fund.

Takki has suggested he write to the key individuals to open up discussion on the fund. How it is going to be structured, how it's going to be implemented and consultation with our sector.

Kirsten shared a link in chat to a survey on how the CSPP works with the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector.

Takki along with other TSI CEO's and SCVO drafted a manifesto on fairer funding and what that fairer funding means is things like 3 year funding.

### **AOCB**

Kirsten mentioned the possibility of having a the child protection workshop day at the October All our children meeting. Sharon had already talked about the child protection training and would like to promote this to the sector, get feedback possibly tweak the training if it is not meeting everyone's needs or expectations.

**Date of next meeting Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2pm - 4pm Hybrid at Inveraray Hub**