

Minutes of the Children, Young People and Families Thematic Meeting

Held via Teams on Wed 15th July, 2020 at 10am

Attendees: Sammy Marshall (Argyll TSI); Arlene Colewell (North Argyll Young Carers); Cathi Bertin (Befrienders); Kyle Wilson (Dunoon Gateway); Mags Todd (Cowal & Bute Young Carers); Karen M (Parental Support Fund Engagement); Sam Stubbs (TSI); Sharon Erskine (Homestart Magick); Aileen Binnie (Homestart Lorn); Mandy Robertson (Kintyre Young Carers)

Apologies: Annmarie Carson (Sense Scotland); Elaine Morrison (SDS); Rachael Turnbull (Soroba Young Families); Nicola (AB Rape Crisis); Sam Somers (AB Council); Tanya (Family Mediation); Kirsteen Murray (TSI); Kirsty McLuckie (Oban); Fiona McBride (Children 1st); Elaine Haggarty (CHAS); Ruth Cairns (AB Council); Scott Douglas (AB Council); Susan Whyte (eXp Youth Work); Kerry (Islay & Jura Youth Action)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The group introduced themselves and stated their aims for the meeting. Most of the group assembled were unsure what they expected to get from the meeting and it became clear that there was some confusion as to the role of TSI and the role of All Our Children (AOC).

Later in the meeting, Sammy was asked to explain the difference.

Sammy confirmed that TSI have undertaken to run 2 meetings a year in the Children, Young People and Families sector. We hope that in 6 months time we are able to meet face to face, however, only time will tell.

2. Question

Vicky Wan and Katherine Anderson have posed a question for third sector organisation...

Those organisations in a school setting, have you been asked to leave your rooms to give the school space?

Those organisations in a public building, have you been asked to leave your premises due to Covid?

These questions will be put out in the mailing for wider participation and the results of those questions will be fed back to National Government via both Vicky and Katherine.

3. National Third Sector GIRFEC Project Update

Sammy checked that the group had knowledge of the GIRFEC (Get It Right For Every Child) and they did. She then gave an overview of what's been happening

since April, including consultations on digital inclusion, outside spaces and equality and rights.

These consultations can be located in the Children, Young People and Families section on the Argyll TSI website.

<https://www.argylltsi.org/engageempower1-145922.html>

GIRFEC sent a letter on 24th June to the First Minister, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Early Learning and Children asking for a meeting to discuss 5 key themes:-

- Extend funding into summer holidays
- Enable school based hubs to remain open for third sector organisations
- Prioritise support to schools for full time education once a new term starts
- Confirm support for Family support services
- Open public spaces for children to play

Sammy has not heard that this meeting has been convened but will update you as soon as she can.

4. Working with Community Learning and Development (CLD) in Youth Participation and Employability

Brian Smith and Rhona Grant lead on these for Argyll & Bute Council and TSI have had conversation about partnership to amplify the voice of young people. This relationship is key for this sector to ensure that all voices are heard. There will be several opportunities to engage with CLD in the coming year.

5. Third Sector Engagement

Sammy is new to the role, starting on 1st May, 2020. Sammy wants to know what third sector organisations require to help them move forward

Aileen Binner – How does Sammy see the role of All Our Children differing from TSI Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) group?

Sammy is responsible for representing the voice of third sector organisations at a local authority and national government in a strategic way. She will work with AOC to hear that voice

AOC are the bridge between the practitioners on the ground and the CPP management team who are bringing objectives to the table.

TSI CYPF meetings will take place twice a year. These meetings are an opportunity to network with others that you don't see very often. They will provide presentations for development and to give knowledge of what's on the horizon. .

Website: www.argylltsi.org

The website has been refreshed and contains a lot of information on funding as well as news and views for the sector. It has been constructed in such a way as to make navigation simple.

News is updated on a daily basis. Surveys and consultations are updated as TSI is notified meaning that the website is constantly being refreshed with relevant and up to date information.

Sandy McLeod and Margaret Wallace are the Third Sector Support Officers, available for help and support. <https://www.argylltsi.org/thirdsectorsupport.html>

A monthly mailing will be distributed on the 20th of the month which will give you a link to the website and allow you to surf at your leisure. The mailing will have topical news and may have a link to last chance funding or last chance consultations.

6. How All Our Children group and Third sector rep are representing you.

Sharon gave an overview of how she sees AOC and TSI linking and agreed with Sammy's view.

A piece of work that comes from Scottish Government can sometimes seem really difficult to understand why it has been requested. The link through Vicky Wan (Children in Scotland) is critical to ensure that the message from the practitioners at grass roots level is referred back through TSI to Scottish Government in a way that it can be understood and acted upon.

On a local level, All Our Children sit on several meeting panels up to a Senior Office Level and can influence locally but do need to have a link through to Chief Officer level and beyond and that's where TSI fit.

Sharon clarified that AOC is about practical application of strategic Scottish Government policies and consultation. Some things decided at Holyrood level simply do not work in Argyll and it is important to be able to feed that back through the TSI.

AOC wants to develop work, rather than just inform it. Having an interface in place to exchange information and to work closely will ensure that decision making is informed and can positively impact the third sector organisation from the ground up to the very top of Scottish Government.

Sammy thanked the group for attending and reminded the group that the next meeting will be 6 months

Meeting Closed 1105am