

## Minutes of All Our Children Meeting Held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 by Zoom

### Present:

Tanya MacDougall, Family Mediation Argyll & Bute  
Sharon Erskine, Homestart Majik  
Aileen Binner, Homestart Lorn  
Cathi Bertin, Befrienders  
Sharon Richardson, Helensburgh & Lomond Carers Centre  
Sue Croft, Family Mediation Argyll & Bute (Minute Taker)

### Apologies

Arlene Colewell, North Argyll Young Carers  
Mags Todd, Crossroads Young Carers

### Minutes of Previous Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup>

SE would like some alterations to the wording of the Neglect Toolkit and will discuss this with SC.

### Covid 19 Updates

Risk Assessment templates were sent to the group for their information with regards to returning to work after restrictions ease. SR offered to share her risk assessment for home workers/lone workers. A discussion took place with regards to returning to work, which for some services may have difficulties as they have Staff and Volunteers over 70 years, who may have to self-isolate longer. Some services have investigated purchasing PPE and the practicalities of this was discussed.

Furloughed Staff – SE would like an update on what services have had to furlough staff to report back to the CPC. It was important for everyone to know that all our services are still running and available for referrals, which they are. Between the services, it was highlighted that there are very few furloughed staff and the majority continue to offer their services using home-based workers. The Statutory Sector was discussed and access to them in the current situation. This was not a problem for most of our areas.

The Child Protection Register was discussed, and figures shared, which were lower than expected. This was clarified as they only had the figures for under 5 years old and not all the age ranges. SE had access to the correct figures which were shared at the end of the meeting.

Food boxes were discussed and access to these which is through your local hub. Vouchers were discussed for our families and information shared. An issue had occurred for some of our families, as children who get free school meals would automatically be allocated to receive a food box, however this created an issue for the age P1 to P3 category who were all given free school meals – the families with children in these age groups now have to register for the food box. SE to raise this concern via Louise. Shielding families are also eligible for a food box.

### Funding

Many Services stated that they were applying for any grants or funding available to them. Suggestions include 'Cash for Kids, which has a quick turnaround, but a lot of paperwork involved and the "Scottish Government Well-Being Fund" which also has a quick turn round and would need to be spent by July 2020. Children in Need 'Big Night In' currently have

application invites specifically related to Covid 19. The issue of staffing was raised and discussed, as it is hard to predict and plan for what will happen when we return to normal service and the demands on Staff.

CB shared information on a shared funding bid by Mid Argyll Community Transport which was successful. Please speak to CB for further information.

### Meetings

SE attended the A& B Children's Meeting and shared updates with partner agencies, as well as an update on the Children's Services Plan that was written three years ago.

SE shared information on a new document 'Child Protection Policy for Community Groups', which she is happy to send to anyone interested.

Early Years Funding – outcome supposed to be known by the 18<sup>th</sup> May (today). AB was due to have a meeting today which has now been rescheduled. No budget details were available on the Argyll & Bute website.

### Any other business

Domestic Violence increase in reports was discussed and the implications on our services and families. Eyes and Ears Open Covid 19 Campaign was discussed and all were encouraged to look at the website, as well as familiarising ourselves with the Caring for Our People Helpline which looks at Food, Emotional Support and Utilities – all of which may be relevant to our families.

Family Courts are not presently running in Argyll & Bute. Cases are currently been heard in Kilmarnock and Paisley Courts.

### Date and Time of Next Meeting

**MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020 at 12.00 pm by Zoom. TMD to send invites.**