



Minutes of Parenting Network Meeting
26th of September 2017
St Andrews and St Georges Church



Who was there?

Bev	Read	Firsthand Lothian
Catriona	Kilpatrick	Engender
Dominic	Jarret	NHS Ayrshire and Arran
Jan	Holder	Firsthand Lothian
Jane	Lewis	People First (Scotland)
Karen	Laing	NHS Tayside
Katherine	Gerrard	People First (Scotland)
Murial	Cairns	People First (Scotland)
Pamela	MacLure	Aberlour Family Service (Aberdeen)
Salena	Begley	Family Fund
Sandy	Cruickshank	People First (Scotland)
Shellie	Connor	NHS Tayside
Andy	Miller	Scottish Commission for Learning Disability
Oonagh	Brown	Scottish Commission for Learning Disability
Catriona	Rowley	Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (Minutes)

1) Welcome and Introductions

On behalf of Gillian Macintyre, Andy welcomed the Network members and members introduced themselves.

2) Review of Minutes of Meeting of May 2017

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

3) Actions from Meeting of May 2017

- Send the easy read information regarding Child's Plan meetings to the Network members (**Completed**. Templates are available [here](#) under the heading *Child Protection Resources for Parents*).

4) Updates from Network members

Sandy Cruikshank- People First (Scotland) Parents Group

- People First (Scotland) Parents Group have provided training to Health Visitors, including those studying at University of The West of Scotland
- On the 1st of November the Parents Group will provide training to family support workers in Falkirk
- On the 9th of November the Parents Group will train the Midwifery Education Group
- Develop Easy read letters for schools – to be piloted (**Parents Group**)
 - Pamela to share Easy Read templates with her School contact (**Action: Pamela**)
 - Dominic to share Easy Read Templates with Ayrshire child and adolescent workers (**Action: Dominic**)
 - Oonagh said that at a recent event on Parental Engagement schools expressed an interest in providing accessible information to parents
 - Oonagh suggested that recommendations made in the [Review of the impact of the Scottish Schools \(Parental Involvement \) act 2006](#) would support the argument for easy read letters to be used by schools

- Pamela suggested partnering with a university to research the impact of accessible information for parents from schools
- Dominic highlighted the work of Ayrshire and Arran with Glasgow School of Art as a good practice example
- Child protection letters and agendas to roll out
 - Vicky will share in her area (**Action: Vicky**)
 - Andy will share with chair of north lanarkshire child protection committee (**Action: Andy**)
 - Dominic suggested this was an area for the Parenting Task Group to pick up. Andy agreed
- New members are joining the Parents Group
- Sally- Ann Kelly (Chief Executive of Aberlour) will come to the October Parents Group meeting to talk about the child protection review.

Dominic Jarrett – North Ayrshire Partnership

Dominic updated the group on ongoing work pulling together an accessible document about the Snakes and Ladders conference. This should be completed by the end of 2017.

Andy Miller – Scottish Commission for Learning Disability

Andy gave an update of the Parenting Task Group's work.

Following the updates, it was agreed that for this meeting and all future meetings, updates from Network members are to be emailed to Christine as soon as possible after the meeting if the update is to be included in the minute of the meeting. If the update is not emailed to Christine, it will not be noted in the minute.

5) Esme Fairbairn work plan update

Oonagh gave Network members the following update on the Esme Fairbairn work plan work:

Children and Young People Scotland Act (2014) Part 12 Implementation event in Falkirk

The final Part 12 Implementation Event took place in Falkirk on the 23rd of June. 12 Social Workers attended this event.

You can read the full evaluation and action plans [here](#) under the heading reports.

We have been invited back to Falkirk to assess how the tasks set out in the action plans have been taken forward. This event will take place on 7th of December. The surveys for the two other areas are still to be developed and distributed (**Action: Oonagh**).

Two Supported Parenting Guideline Events (Stirling and Glasgow)

In August 2017, the Network held two events about The Supported Parenting Good Practice Guidance. These events were held in Glasgow and Stirling. Across the two events, 43 practitioners attended.

Guideline Event Evaluation

An evaluation of the two Guideline events held in Glasgow has been produced. You can read the full evaluation of the guideline events [here](#).

Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector – Everyone’s Children’s Morning Briefing

On the 8th of December 2017 Andy Miller and Oonagh Brown will give a presentation on the supported parenting guidelines on the Amanda Muir (Equal Say Advocacy) will discuss the work of Equal Say Parenting project and give examples of how this relates to the guidelines. For more about the event see [here](#).

Success Stories

- Two success story interviews have been conducted. Another has been planned. The write-ups are to be confirmed and submitted to Bristol University (**Action: Oonagh**).

Scoping of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenting Education

- SCLD conducted a survey of schools which provide education to children and young people who can be defined as having additional support needs.

Update from England (University of Bristol)

- They have drafted 4 legal case studies relevant to parents with learning disabilities, for the national training sessions to be delivered to adult and children's social workers
- They have delivered a draft chapter on assessments of parents with learning disabilities for inclusion in a national textbook for social workers
- They are setting up dates for filming DVD featuring parents with Learning Disability and one adult child of parents with LD, talking about their experiences. Based on the 5 key principles of the Good Practice Guidance
- Their work with an advocacy organisation on a practical legal resources toolbox was postponed. The advocacy organisation is hoping to launch now in October 2017 at a national Advocates conference
- Several new Easy Read resources have been/are being put on their website
- They are contributing to a local authority's new Learning Disability strategy
- They have established contact with a national lead on NHS Learning Disability Projects – maternity support for Parents with Learning Disability, who will be highlighting the work of WTPN as she goes around the country implementing the NHS project.

Update from Wales (Learning Disability Wales)

- They attended a workshop on the 12 June 2017 run the Welsh Government to look at how the proposed public service principles could be used to improve support for parents with a learning disability
- South Wales network continues to meet regularly, providing parents and professionals with the opportunity to discuss issues, share ideas and suggest ways to improve support across Wales

- They are continuing to look at ways to promote the network better in North Wales and have decided to hold a series of informal 'coffee morning' style events in November 2017
- They are continuing to approach relevant professionals to increase membership of the Strategy Group to influence policy and practice both locally and nationally
- They have attended 3 meetings of Welsh Government's Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Expert Panel
- Vale Flying Start and Vale People First have developed the first stage of a pilot peer mentoring project to enable parents with a learning disability to access peer support from other parents
- Continuing to request and collate examples of useful resources for supporting and training parents with a learning disability (or those planning to become parents) to include in a toolkit.
- Welsh Government has confirmed that they will be commissioning a piece of research into looked after children including those whose parents have a learning disability.

Year 2 Work Plan (For Scotland)

- Manchester meeting between co-ordinators across the UK to agree on outcomes for year 2. For Scotland this work will include, Supported Parenting events, Scoping Relationship Sexual Health and Parenting Education, the Parenting Task Group and ongoing network meetings and development of the network among other keys areas
- For our supported parenting events, Oonagh proposed Theatre Company: Mind the Gap give a one hour play MIA- Daughters of Fortune. Oonagh suggested also having a supported parenting presentation and input from network members
- Oonagh played a short video about Mind the Gap and MIA- Daughters of Fortune. You can find out more about mind the gap

[here](#). You can watch a video about MIA- Daughters of Fortune [here](#)

- Those in attendance supported involving Mind the Gap in larger scale guideline events.

6) Presentation Salena Begley (Family Fund)

Salena gave a presentation on the work of The Family Fund. This included information on the work of The Family Fund; what they can help with, who they can help and how often they can help. A short video about The Family Fund was played and Salena discussed how to apply to The Family Fund. You can find out more about The Family Fund [here](#).

Following the supported parenting guideline event in Glasgow, Salena had fed back to her colleagues about improving the accessibility of the feedback forms. Members of the Network offered support to The Family Fund in improving the accessibility of information.

7) Presentation from Catriona Kilpatrick (Engender)

Catriona spoke about upcoming consultations with women with disabilities about their reproductive journeys. Two consultations are to be held in Glasgow (28th of September 2017) and Edinburgh (4th of October). You can find out more about these consultations [here](#).

Any other business

Andy highlighted that Sandy had made suggestions about improving work with parents across the country. Sandy had suggested a National Parent's Network. Andy asked the network members what they thought of this idea, what the Parents Network would look like and what it would be for. In the past a discussion around better-involving parents had taken place in the past with discussion about a national conference for parents. Andy then opened this topic up for discussion.

Pamela suggested that this question should be opened up to parents and suggested that we do this through our networks. Jane said that this suggestion had been made at the People First (Scotland) Parent's Group 10th anniversary and the suggestion had come from parents.

Sandy suggested all agencies could feed into the National Parent's Network and that it could meet once to twice a year. Salena suggested it could look like the UK Government' funded Parent and Carer Forms.

Vicky suggested a template would be useful to have and to send out to invite parents to existing network meetings. Oonagh said she could produce a template for the group to invite parents along to network meetings **(Action: Oonagh)**.

Sandy highlighted that he wanted the Network to be participatory and not just a list of parents.

Andy said that funding from The Esme Fund is for three years and does not include funding for a parents network. This would require separate funding. Andy said he was meeting with Pauline Macdonald (Scottish Government) and would talk to her about the idea of a Parent's Network.

Andy said a national parent's network should be a recurring item on the agenda **(Action: Oonagh)**.

Dates of future meetings

- Wednesday 6 December 2017 in Glasgow
- Wednesday 7 March 2018 in Dunfermline
- Wednesday 6 June 2018 in Ayrshire (Kilmarnock)

The times and venues of all meetings will be confirmed and sent to Network members nearer to the time of each meeting.

Actions from this meeting

- Share Easy Read Resources with contacts in Schools **(Pamela)**
- Share Easy Read Templates to Children and Adolescent Workers in Ayrshire **(Dominic)**
- Sharing Child Protection Easy Read resources **(Vicky)**
- Share Child Protection Easy Read Resources with the chair of North Lanarkshire Child Protection **(Andy)**
- Add discussion about National Parents Network to agenda **(Oonagh)**
- Develop Easy Read Letters for Schools **(People First (Scotland) Parents Group)**

- Ongoing Success stories work (**Oonagh**)
- Template to invite parents to network meetings (**Oonagh**).