



**Minutes of Parenting Network Meeting  
Renfield St Stephens  
260 Bath Street  
Glasgow G2 4JP  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
10am – 1.15pm**



**Who was there:**

Gillian	MacIntyre	Chair (University of Strathclyde)
Sharon	Swan	Aberlour Family Service (South Ayrshire)
Katie	Wanless	City of Edinburgh Council
Lorraine	Milne	City of Edinburgh Council
Nicole	Logie	The Furnishing Service
Karen	Strang	EARS Advocacy
Dominic	Jarrett	NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Bianca	Wood	People First (Scotland)
Jane	Lewis	People First (Scotland)
Mary-Kate	O'Reilly	Student on placement with People First (Scotland)
Cassie	Polites	Student on placement with People First (Scotland)
Paul	McConnachie	Parent
Elizabeth	Findlay	Central Advocacy Partners
Oonagh	Brown	Scottish Commission for Learning Disability
Christine	McBain	Minute taker from Scottish Commission for Learning Disability

**1) Welcome and Introductions**

Gillian welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

**2) Review of Minutes of Meeting of 26 September 2017**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

### **3) Network Update**

#### **Dominic Jarrett – NHS Ayrshire & Arran**

Dominic spoke about a report he had been working on, that Aberlour and NHS Fife had been leading on. The report is about a conference that had taken place in March. It is going to describe the conversations and ideas that happened at the conference. Dominic is hopeful that the report will be finished before the end of the year.

#### **Sharon Swan – Service Update - Aberlour Family Service South Ayrshire**

- Funding secured for 2018 with confirmation of secured funding for 2019 to be expected in April 2018. Funders: Big Lottery, Scottish Government, South Ayrshire Charitable Trust, Gordon Higgs and South Ayrshire Council
- Parents engaging well in the group work with 5-10 parents attending sessions
- Social Work Student to conduct research for Masters Dissertation on Parents with Learning Disabilities' experience of Social Work Services
- Parents Stand Together – Funding bid due to be submitted for funding to launch a parent led project, where parents will provide training to Social Work students and practitioners. Parents will develop the training resources and build a network for parents to support each other
- Possible growth opportunity through funding from RS McDonald to replicate the model from South Ayrshire to develop a new service in North Ayrshire.

A copy of a lived experience from a parent as discussed at the meeting is available [here](#).

#### **Bianca Wood - People First (Scotland) Parents Group**

Bianca gave a presentation to the Midwifery Education Group. The Parents' Group offered to do a training session at each of the universities running midwifery courses. They are keen to work with the Parents' Group. The Robert Gordon University offered to help film some of the training to use as an online resource.

The Parents' Group met with Sally-Ann Kelly from Aberlour who sits on the Scottish Government's Child Protection Improvement Plan Leadership

Group. Sally-Ann is going to take a range of issues from the Parents Group back to the Scottish Government Group.

Bianca spoke about the issue of neglect. Gillian said that this will be put on to the agenda for the next meeting.

#### **4) How can we work better with parents?**

Discussion took place as follows:

- Gillian asked if parents should have a dedicated space to come together outwith the Network meeting and meet either before or after the Network meetings. Funding would have to be found to support this. It is however important not to lose the value that parents bring to the Network meetings
- Val informed the Network that research shows that networking opportunities are very important to parents with a learning disability as well as being able to talk openly about experiences and building relationships and trust

Bianca suggested the following:

- Having a parent representative being involved in the planning of the Network meetings and what goes on the agenda
- Having a list of questions to send to the Parents' Groups at least one month before each meeting so their views can be heard
- Making the meetings more accessible and the minutes accessible
- Having an event for parents
- Using social media and Skype.

It was agreed that the Network will speak to parents to find out the level of interest there is for parents to meet together either before or after the Network meetings and the format of these meetings. Feedback this information to Oonagh.

#### **5) Oonagh Brown Network Update**

Oonagh gave the following updates:

- **Guide for professionals working with young pregnant women and young fathers** – contributions have been made to this guide, including highlighting the importance of accessible information.

Oonagh asked Network members who have parents willing to have quotes included in the guide to contact her.

- **Upcoming events –**
  - Children and Young People Act Follow Up event on 7 December at Camelon Education Centre
  - An Everyone's Children bite-sized briefing on the Scottish Supported Parenting Guidelines on 8 December at The Albany Centre in Glasgow.
- **Gender Based Violence Roundtable –** this took place on 16 November. People talked about the best way organisations that support people with learning disabilities can help women who experience gender based violence.
- **Relationship, Sexual Health and Parenting Survey –** the aim is to publish this survey alongside a case study with Carrongrange school, towards the end of January 2018. It has still to be confirmed how this will be distributed.
- **UK Network updates**

#### **Wales**

- Staff met with a contact regarding gender based violence. They are keen to deliver resource kits
- They are building links with relevant organisations who support women regarding domestic abuse.

#### **England**

- Links have been made with Sir Munby, President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales to promote good practice guidance
- Training with Research in Practice / Fostering and Adoption (RIP / RIPFA)

- Statutory social worker guidance on assessment is being updated. It has been requested that parents with learning disabilities are included.

## **All**

- The International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD) event is taking place in Glasgow from 6 – 9 August 2019. Network partners in England have contacted conference organisers about holding an event about support for parents with learning disabilities as part of this.

- **Year 2 Guideline Event**

**What has been confirmed?** – The event will take place on 15 May 2018 at the Scottish Youth Theatre in Glasgow, with performances from Mind the Gap: MIA and ANNA. The venue can hold 90 people.

**MIA Working Group** – the first meeting took place on 20 November. The Working Group members are David Barr, Alan Roberts, Amanda Muir, Dominic Jarrett, Lisa Clark and Oonagh Brown (Lisa Clark from SCLD is the only member not part of the Parenting Network).

At the meeting, the structure of the event was agreed as well as the cost to attend of around £25 for professionals. The cost for parents to attend has yet to be agreed.

The Working Group discussed having volunteers from the existing network membership across Scotland who would act as a link with those attending and could follow up with attendees on the impact of the event.

**Discussion** – it was agreed that Oonagh will pull together a volunteer job description and send this to the Network. Sharon, Paul, Katie and Gillian offered to be volunteers. Gillian proposed that the event should count towards CPD with certificates of attendance issued to attendees.

## 6) Presentation from Dr Val Corry - Parental engagement

Dr Val Corry gave a presentation on parental engagement. Discussion then took place based on the following questions:

- What are parents with learning disabilities' experiences of schools like?  
Bianca gave feedback from the Parents' Group on one parent whose son has a communication book, one who receives easy read letters in big print and where the school had a crèche available during the parents' evening. Not all schools use easy read or provide support which makes communication, attendance at parents' evenings etc. difficult. One parent uses support time to go through all of the information received which means that parent misses out on other things that support can be used for. Another parent said that it is hard to get to speak to someone at the school
- Do parents always get the information they need from schools?  
Bianca reported that one parent received 6 leaflets in their son's bag and none of these were in easy read. Another parent does not know which letters are important as they cannot read these. Making payments to the school for trips, school dinners is hard if you have to do this through their website as this does not use easy read
- What information would be helpful for parents to get from schools?  
Bianca said that both parents should receive information about their child if the parents do not live together. Val confirmed that this should be happening. All information for parents should be clear, short, accessible and easy to understand. People First (Scotland) have created templates for schools to use but these are not being used because it is too time consuming
- What do you think schools can do better to engage parents who have a learning disability?  
Parents' evenings need to be accessible and more time given to parents with a learning disability. Katie said that having one point of contact at the school is hugely important and improves academic success. This gives parents the confidence to do more at home with backup from the person at the school.

## 7) Presentation from Anthony O'Malley – CHANGE childcare & nurture Glasgow East

Anthony O'Malley gave a presentation on the 'CHANGE childcare & nurture Glasgow East' project which aims to grow childcare services to best support children and families, increase the number of available spaces for 0 – 12 year olds and share learning.

People First (Scotland) will provide Anthony with information on easy read.

## 8) Any other business

Gillian informed the Network that Ailsa Stewart, who was the previous Chair, is retiring.

Katie informed the Network that Morag Innes is moving on.

The Nurture Group Network's Annual Scottish Conference takes place on 22 Feb 2018 at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh. More information can be found [here](#).

Oonagh asked the Network to let her know of any topics / issues to be discussed at future Network meetings.

## 9) Date of next meeting

7 March 2018 in Dunfermline. Venue to be confirmed.

## Actions from this meeting

- Network to speak to parents to find out the level of interest there is for parents to meet together either before or after the Network meetings and the format of these meetings. Feedback this information to Oonagh. **(ALL)**
- Contact Oonagh with details of parents who are willing to have their quotes included in the guide for professionals working with young pregnant women and young fathers **(ALL)**
- Put the issue of neglect on to the agenda for the next meeting **(GILLIAN / OONAGH)**

- Send the volunteer job description to the Network (**OONAGH**)
- Provide Anthony O'Malley with information on easy read (**PEOPLE FIRST (SCOTLAND)**)
- Let Oonagh know of any topics / issues to be discussed at future Network meetings (**ALL**)