



**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP  
YOUTH ISSUES GROUP  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011  
IN 13 NEWTOFT STREET, EDINBURGH, EH17 8RG.**

**PRESENT**

Douglas Jeffrey	CEC, C & F – Community Learning and Development
Jade Mooney	CEC C& F – the Base/Youth Forum
Gilbert Clark	Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum
Sgt Simon Broadhurst	Lothian & Borders Police
Gayle Henderson	WEACT - Employability
Jan Williamson	Streetwork UK
Steven Gillies	Dunedin Canmore HA
Emma Smith	CEC SFC - Moredun Library
Scott Donkin	CEC Services for Communities (Chair)

**1 APOLOGIES**

George Mackenzie	Gilmerton Library
Andy Chittick	Liberton Kirk – Youth Worker
David Hayden	Moredun Library
Jane Denmark	CHILDREN 1 <sup>ST</sup> - Bfriends
Brian Jennings	CEC, C&F
Kirsty Hughes	Action for Children - HYPE
Helen Munro	Princes Trust
Paula Gaunt Richardson	Action for Children
Stewart Laird	CEC Services for Communities
Robert Ure	Fernieside Football Club
Cllr Norma Hart	City of Edinburgh Council
Niki Powers	Health Opportunities Team

**2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

2.1 These were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 There were no matters arising.

**4. YOUNG PEOPLE & ALCOHOL STRATEGY - Presentation**

4.1 Scott presented the newly developed Liberton Gilmerton Young People and Alcohol strategy. The strategy was devised to take forward the Local Community Plan priority and in response to research conducted by the Health Opportunities Team.

- 4.2 The research involved seeking the views of young people in the area whereby they effectively identified issues around perceptions linked with their friends and peers alcohol use.
- 4.3 422 young people below the age of 21 yrs participated. This also involved looked after young people.
- 4.4 From the perceptions put forward, there are a number of concerns and in particular those relating to quantities of alcohol consumed, potential longer term health implications and the risk taking behaviours.
- 4.5 The development of the strategy involved a wide variety of agencies and individuals including NHS Lothian, Police, Schools, Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Partnership, Children and Families and specialist input from the voluntary sector and support based agencies.
- 4.6 It was quickly agreed that the main factors linked to tackling the issue relate to:
- **Education**
  - **Prevention**
  - **Support**
  - **Communication**
- 4.7 Education is meant in the widest sense whereby not only young people are involved but also parents, carers and the wider community.
- 4.8 It has been suggested that prevention alone can make a significant impact on tackling the issue and positive discussions have taken place with Lothian & Borders Police to examine how best this can be approached.
- 4.9 Support is vital especially for young people promoting potential issues linked with alcohol misuse. Similarly, we need to identify opportunities for support measures to cross 'target group' boundaries to establish a greater wrap around support service involving parents, carers and other family members where necessary.
- 4.10 Communication has been identified as a critical aspect of tackling the issue at a number of levels.
- 4.11 The strategy itself does not promote abstinence but rather it seeks to identify opportunities for young people to be better equipped to make positive choices based on knowledge and experience. Linked to this is a need to identify appropriate measures to prevent access to alcohol and to support those known to be in greatest need.
- 4.12 A detailed action plan was also devised by the strategy group.
- 4.13 The strategy will be in place until 2014 and the Strategy Group have agreed to reconvene annually to review its progress.
- 4.14 Gilbert asked if the strategy only tackled alcohol misuse.

- 4.15 Scott indicated that the Strategy Group had discussed this and it has been agreed that in the whole, the strategy is aimed at tackling alcohol misuse as this is most prevalent amongst young people locally however; there is acknowledgement of substance misuse throughout the strategy also.
- 4.16 Sgt Broadhurst confirmed that there is a greater majority of young people linked with alcohol at present. He added that the development of the local strategy has shown a real commitment and desire from a number of agencies to tackle the issue as best we can.
- 4.17 From the police perspective, support will be provided in terms of collating data linked with the strategy and engaging primarily in the preventative measures using techniques such as test purchasing etc.
- 4.18 The group welcomed the strategy and agreed that once the baseline information gathering has been completed, the Strategy should be presented to the Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership for formal adoption.
- 4.19 Scott added that this may be September/October to allow for the data collection.

**ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN**

## **5. COMMUNITY PLAN – REVIEW & DEVELOPMENT**

- 5.1 The group were informed that the consultation stage of the new Community Plan is about to get underway. A new online questionnaire will be available as well as discussions in neighbourhood forums, a presence in and around local shopping venues and through other local groups.
- 5.2 The process will involve seeking the views of the wider community in respect of the proposed priorities as identified by the Partnership Sub Groups with the Youth Issues Group promoting 'Positively Engaging Young People'
- 5.3 Scott added that it is important that we can engage young people in this process and asked members of the group if they have any suggested activities to develop this to let him know.
- 5.4 Those present agreed.

**ACTION: ALL**

## **6. YOUTH EVENT 2011**

- 6.1 The working group had met as agreed to begin the early development process for the Youth Engagement Event 2011.

- 6.2 The group discussed some early aspects of what the event could look like in terms of format etc and it was agreed that the previous format was good and worked well and that this should be repeated. It is suggested also that we should include the voting pad system as this allows those young people perhaps less confident to take part.
- 6.3 It is hoped that young people will embrace a theme of 'My Community' which will allow for different mediums to be used including photography and video.
- 6.4 The group are keen to see as many young people involved as possible both in developing the theme but also at the event itself. October/November has been suggested as an ideal time.
- 6.5 Those working with young people will be encouraged to involve as many as possible in any aspect of the event.

## **7. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM PRIORITIES**

- 7.1 The SNT Priorities were set at a recent meeting of the Partnership's Better & Safer Communities Group as follows:
  - a) Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park – The Dip (*Anti social behaviour and vandalism involving young people*)
  - b) Gilmerton Dykes Street (*Issues around the shops involving young people and anti social behaviour*)
  - c) Ravenswood Avenue (*Issues centred around a couple of common stairs involving ASB*)
- 7.2 Simon highlighted that since the inception of the SNT, there has been a 32% reduction in the number of youth related calls.
- 7.3 IT was suggested that the Youth Issues Group could play a more proactive role in the future SNT priority setting process. This could involve re-scheduling the YIG to meet prior to the BASC Group. The YIG can then discuss in more detail any youth related priorities to be put to the BASC for selection. It was also commented that the YIG could be better involved in developing the issues if it were aware of say the top 10 complaints associated with the youth calls.
- 7.4 Scott agreed to look at the scheduling and Simon agreed to provide details of the complaints.

**ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN/SGT BROADHURST**

## **8. STREETWORK UK – LOCAL OPERATIONS**

- 8.1 Scott introduced Jan Williamson to the meeting.
- 8.2 Jan provided an overview of the work underway and where developments can take shape to influence future work.

- 8.3 Streetwork currently provides street based outreach and engages young people previously accommodated e.g. runaways. This can involve outreach and 1:1 support.
- 8.4 In developing a more generic based service for street based activity, Jan was advised by CEC Community Safety that south had the highest number of complaints/issues involving young people.
- 8.5 Some positive work has already taken place in and around Gilmerton involving PC Eric McLeod and it is hoped that through a dedicated funding route, a specific worker can be charged with providing on going, dedicated support to South. The format and level of engagement is still to be determined and Jan had hoped that the YIG could help give some direction for this locally. Jan added that the specific post was subject to agreement from the funder and following discussion today, she would put forward a proposal. This would see the worker in place until April 2012.
- 8.6 The role at present in the area has been quite informal and has involved education and mediating young people's views etc. The thing that comes back time and time again is that there is nothing to do. The workers will provide details of activities and facilities but a lot of young people don't want to participate in organised activity and are happy to hang about the streets.
- 8.7 As a service, we have found simple things like the colour of our t-shirts makes a difference where we are perceived to be the police. We will be changing them very soon.
- 8.8 It was suggested that the Streetwork approach should link in with the SNT and where issues involving young people have been promoted, the Streetwork team can tie in with the SNT to ensure the young people's views etc are heard before identifying a better long term solution to any issues. Roles will need to be clarified before any engagement takes place in order that neither Streetwork nor the SNT is compromised.
- 8.9 It was agreed by the group that this seemed a logical and effective use of resource and it was agreed that shortly after a priority involving young people has been agreed by the BASC, Sgt Broadhurst (or equivalent) will call a meeting of Streetwork and other partners to identify the most suitable approach.

**ACTION: SGT BROADHURST**

- 8.10 Jan felt that this provided a solid platform and gave real direction to the work locally with focussed outcomes.
- 8.11 Scott thanked Jan for her input and wished the project well.

**9. LIBERTON GILMERTON SPORTS FORUM**

- 9.1 The Sports Forum continues to develop and increase in numbers. The forum is currently focussing on the Sportsfest day at Inch Park on 10<sup>th</sup> June from 2-6pm.

- 9.2 The event provides an opportunity for a number of local sports to engage young people of all ages and allow them to have a 'taste' of sports they may not have the opportunity to access.
- 9.3 Stewart will lead the forum in reviewing the event itself and this will be made available to the Youth Issues Group.

## **10. LIBERTON GILMERTON YOUTH FORUM**

- 10.1 Jade informed the group that the Youth Forum currently has around 10 members and they are involved in different stages of training linked to 'involvement'. They are planning at present for a residential which will involve young people from across Scotland.
- 10.2 The training is a significant step for some of the participants and it is hoped it will help to build confidence and encourage further learning.

## **11. MEMBERS UPDATES**

- 11.1 **WEACT - Employability:-** Gail highlighted that she was now back full time in Liberton Gilmerton following her supporting the Just do it course in Oxfords.
- 11.2 Carrying out 1:1's with young people in Moredun Library, Gracemount Library and Gilmerton Community Centre.
- 11.3 Currently focussing on the next Just Do It course which is being supported by Ian Twaddle and David Aitcheson at Liberton High School. The course will begin on 14<sup>th</sup> June and will run for 7 weeks. Attempts are being made to recruit school leavers although participants can be aged up to 18/19 years.
- 11.4 **Dunedin Canmore** – Steven Gillies introduced himself to the group. Steven is seconded to Dunedin Canmore from Children & Families as part of a Wider Role funded initiative.
- 11.5 The project centres around Dunedin Canmore's main sites in Moredun/Hyvots, Oxfords and Gorgie/Dalry and engages young people to promote where they feel there are gaps in provision and supports them to attract other services. David Aitcheson is also employed as part of the project and he is supported to assist with the We Act Just Do It course.
- 11.6 **Future Meetings:** It was suggested that perhaps the day of the meetings does not suit some individuals and that it may be worthwhile moving the actual day.
- 11.7 Scott agreed and will look at a different day for the meetings.

**ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN**

## **12. DATES AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

***Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at 2.00 pm - 13 Newtoft Street, Edinburgh***