

LIBERTON & GILMERTON

NEIGHBOURHOOD
PARTNERSHIP

**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
YOUTH ISSUES GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 21ST AUGUST 2008
IN THE SOUTH EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP OFFICES, 13 NEWTOFT STREET**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Rhona MacKay John Nicolls Kenny Hall Stuart Gilmour Douglas Jeffrey Scott Donkin Stewart Laird Margaret Campbell	HYPE – National Childrens Homes Health Opportunities Team Lothian & Borders Police Lothian & Borders Police CEC C&F CLD (South) South Edinburgh Partnership (Chair) SEP – Community Development South Edinburgh Partnership
<u>APOLOGIES:</u>	Kelly Faughman Cllr Norma Hart Cllr Tom Buchanan Cllr Conor Snowdon Cllr Ian Murray Jeanette Mulgrew Jeff Douce	CEC, Children & Families The City of Edinburgh Council The City of Edinburgh Council The City of Edinburgh Council The City of Edinburgh Council Local Resident – Inch Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2008 were accepted as an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 **Para 3.1 – The Base:** Douglas Jeffrey reported that a temporary worker, Jade Mooney, was in place over the summer months who worked between the Base and Gracemount Youth & Community Centre. This appointment has been extended to the end of September 2008. Douglas reported that there was funding available for this post to March 2009 but the decision as to who might be appointed is caught up with the Children & Families (“C&F”) review. Once the staff area of work preference study was complete and staff re-assigned any vacant posts would be advertised.



4. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALCOHOL (Paper Circulated)

- 4.1 Scott Donkin reminded the group that at the last meeting both he and Rhona Mackay of HYPE gave a presentation on the concerns surrounding young people and alcohol.
- 4.2 At that meeting the group endorsed the establishment of a Working Sub Group to fully develop an initiative aimed at reducing the overall number of young people accessing alcohol to a dangerous level. This Working Group has met on a number of occasions and developed an outline project proposal the third draft of which was circulated. It was noted that further amendments would be made to the document as a result of a further meeting which took place on 20th August 2008.
- 4.3 In response from Scott's request for comments, Douglas Jeffrey raised a concern regarding the link between ASBO's and ABCs; in particular he was keen, given the voluntary nature of the project, that referral to the project not be made a condition of either an ASBO or ABC. Scott reported that this was never the intention and he would check the document to ensure there was no ambiguity as to how this element had been written. He emphasised that it was intended that the Police, Housing Officer or whomsoever could recommend HYPE as a source of help.

Action: Scott Donkin

- 4.4 Scott reported that at the meeting of the Working Group on Wednesday, 20th August they considered how best to take forward the referral process. It was felt that one of the reasons that take-up was low during the pilot project was that the referral was too early. At that time a referral was made when the Police issued a first Personal Descriptive Form ("PDF"). The group was of the view that parents may have felt that as a "first offence" they could handle the situation themselves and did not require outside assistance. Therefore in future the referral will be made if a young person is issued with a third PDF. At that time there may be an opportunity for a HYPE worker to visit the parents. Rhona was of the opinion that it was better to explain the ethos of the project face to face rather than simply through an anonymous letter. At all times the voluntary aspect of engaging with the project will be emphasised. It was noted that other agency staff will be able to make referrals in addition to those made by the Police.
- 4.5 It was intended that the organisations already operating within the area would work in conjunction with the new project including Rathbone which was due to commence operations as of Monday, 18th August. Obviously discussions and agreements with the respective organisations will be required but it was anticipated that in an effort to reduce the need for sessional staff that projects would agree to combine their efforts. For example, a HOT worker operating in Liberton/Gilmerton could use the Base as a drop-in in the evenings and conversely HYPE workers and/or Rathbone etc could use the HOT space within the schools throughout the day.
- 4.6 John Nicolls suggested there was a wealth of information available through the Healthy Respect approach. This gives information as to what range of interventions young people would wish available through drop-in facilities. HOT is particularly interested in the link between alcohol and sexual health.

- 4.7 Scott intimated that a number of elements required to be added to the proposal which would help with a funding application.
- 4.8 Scott reported he had written to the Head Teachers of both Liberton and Gracemount High Schools seeking letters of support for the Project. He also intimated that discussions would need to take place with teachers and guidance staff. It was noted that PC Mark Thomson had recently been appointed the School Liaison Officer for Liberton High School and would be working with the guidance staff on a daily basis. Both Douglas Jeffrey and John Nicolls agreed to arrange for their respective organisations to submit letters of support.
- 4.9 With regard to potential funders, Rhona MacKay reported that she had checked the Proceeds of Crime fund - but its criteria did not appear to match with its advertising and subsequently was not appropriate for the Young People & Alcohol initiative.
- 4.10 However, Rhona reported that she had approached the Laidlaw Fund and whilst there were no funds remaining for this year they were interested in the concept. She had been informed that Lord Laidlaw was intending to put money into "addictions" but to date had been non specific as to what form this might take. Therefore it may be possible to secure funding from this source. Rhona will continue to progress this possibility.
- 4.11 Rhona reported that Lloyds TSB were, in principle, very interested in the initiative; in particular they were pleased at the amount of partnership working suggested. This particular source requires matched funding; Lloyds TSB will only provide 50%. First round initial applications will be considered after 24th October. Those successful will be required to submit fuller applications for final consideration in January 2009.
- 4.12 Finally, Rhona reported that the Drugs Action Team had been allocated funds from the NHS for intervention work and it was her understanding that an element of this money would be made publicly available in the near future. Therefore this may be a further source of funding for the Young People & Alcohol initiative.

5. **CLD PLAN – YOUTH ISSUES PROGRESS (Report Circulated)**

- 5.1 Scott reminded the group that the Community Learning & Development Plan had been compiled last year and covered all aspects of work pertinent to the Liberton/Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership ("LGNP"). The Agreed Outcomes relevant to Young People were listed in the paper circulated as was the details of progress on the key developments. Scott reminded the group that the South Edinburgh Partnership was not in itself a service provider and therefore in order to keep the plan updated he was reliant on projects informing him of progress. Thereafter the group updated Scott on the progress of the key developments as noted below.
 - 5.1.1 Case Tracking: Scott intimated that this programme remained in limbo as the Council was yet to decide on whether or not the resources were available to take the project citywide. Douglas reported that Greig Henderson, the previous Case Tracking Manager, was maintaining elements of case tracking work within his substantive post with Services for Communities.



5.1.2 Community Centre Plans: Douglas will report to Scott on progress outwith the meeting.

Action: Douglas Jeffrey

5.1.3 Burdiehouse Community Centre: Work has commenced on the building and Douglas will inform Scott on the timescale.

Action: Douglas Jeffrey

5.1.4 Moredun Library: Moredun library is now focussed on young people, based on the Sighthill model.

5.1.5 Youth Council/Forum: Activities took place over the summer holidays and Douglas to provide details.

Action: Douglas Jeffrey

5.1.6 Referred Residential Initiative: Scott to obtain update from Helen Bourquin, Gilmerton Community Centre.

Action: Scott Donkin

5.1.7 The HUB: This centre at Ravenscroft is now fully operational and is thriving with large numbers of young people using the facilities.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES (Paper Circulated)

6.1 Scott reminded the group that over past months the LGNP has developed its local plan as have the other Neighbourhood Partnerships throughout the city. The issues identified and prioritised are those deemed most important to specific areas. For example South Central have placed street cleanliness high up on their priority list whilst in South Edinburgh Youth Issues is emerging as the top priority. Scott reported that the seven priorities as noted within the paper circulated were developed at the LGNP Away Day in May 2008 and were expected to be formally accepted by the LGNP at its next meeting ie 10th September.

6.2 Since May the local community, through the Forums, have been asked to consider the seven priorities and list them in order of importance. Through this process Young People and Alcohol is emerging as the top priority. In addition organisational Officers have been asked to consider what resources could be made available to the address the emerging priorities.

6.3 Douglas Jeffrey was of the opinion that the views as annotated were principally those of adults and emphasised the need to make certain that young peoples' views were included to ensure a balanced approach. He felt the priority specifically relating to young people and alcohol was too blunt and hoped it could be re-worded to portray a less negative connotation. Scott informed the group that young people were represented at the LGNP Away Day in May but that he took Douglas's comments on board and would suggest a change in wording to the LGNP Officers.



- 6.4 It was noted that the Youth Issues Group was a recognised sub group of the LGNP with responsibility for all areas of work pertaining thereto. Scott suggested that the agenda for next meeting of the group, ie November 2008, should concentrate on Young People & Alcohol and how the problems might be addressed. However, in the intervening period Scott felt it was necessary to progress those actions which could be started immediately rather than hold them back pending discussion at the November meeting.

7. **MEMBERS UPDATES**

- 7.1 Douglas Jeffrey reported on the progress on the Children & Families restructuring. It was noted that the Working Together Team, now known as Early Intervention Team, will in future operate from the city centre.
- 7.2 The Community Learning & Development Teams ("CLD") are currently being re-grouped. Previously Douglas himself had a specific remit for Young People within South Edinburgh. Douglas is now the Senior Worker for the LGNP with responsibility for all aspects of Community Learning & Development throughout the LGNP area.
- 7.3 As noted above CLD staff are currently being asked to state their preferred area of work. This process should be completed soon and staff will be allocated posts during the week commencing 8th September. Thereafter any vacant posts will be advertised. However, there have been 16½ posts lost throughout the city which will obviously impact on delivery of service. For example, in future there will only be one member of staff responsible for both The Inch and Goodtrees Community Centres. This will obviously have an impact on how community learning is delivered throughout the area.

8. **AOCB**

- 8.1 None

9. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Wednesday, 5th November 2008 @ 2.00 pm

(NB As 5th November is traditionally a busy day for Police and Fire Service. It may be decided to alter the date of this meeting. Any change will be notified to you ASAP.)