



**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
YOUTH ISSUES GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2008
IN THE SOUTH EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP OFFICES, 13 NEWTOFT STREET**

PRESENT

Kathy Evans	CEC, Services for Communities
PC Karen Scott	Lothian & Borders Police (NAU)
PC Jeanette McCulloch	Lothian & Borders Police (NAU)
Maureen Watson	South Edinburgh Youth Forum
Jade Mooney	CLD – The Base
Lyn Patterson	Health Opportunities Team
Brian Jennings	CEC, Children & Families
Jane Gould	bfriends, Children 1 st
Mike Bell	Rathbone UK
Douglas Jeffrey	CEC, C&F CLD (South)

APOLOGIES

Vesna Rajacic	CEC, Libraries
PC Kenny Hall	Lothian & Borders Police
Insp. Glen Milne	Lothian & Borders Police
Fergus Pringle	Scottish Rugby Union
Cllr Conor Snowden	The City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Tom Buchanan	The City of Edinburgh Council
Jane Inglis	Local Resident
Jeannette Mulgrew	Local Resident

PAPERS TABLED

Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership – Youth Work Matrix Fund

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The minute of the meeting held on 21st August 2008 were approved as an accurate record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4 RATHBONE UK (Presentation by Mike Bell, Rathbone UK)

4.1 Mike Bell, Rathbone UK based at 64 Gilmerton Dykes Street, outlined the concept of the work carried out by Rathbone UK.

4.2 Rathbone is a UK-wide voluntary youth sector organisation providing opportunities for young people to transform their life-circumstances by re-engaging with learning, discovering their ability to succeed and achieving progression to further education, training and employment.

4.3 **Current Operations:** Rathbone's work centres around 4 key target groups; Youth Choices, Preparation for Life & Work, Apprenticeships and Youth Engagement Projects.

4.3.1 **Youth Choices:** Programme for youths aged 14-16 who have been excluded or at risk from exclusion from school due to complex social difficulties in their life. The programme offers the young people individual support, specialist training and education and work placements.

4.3.2 **Preparation for Life & Work:** Preparation for Life and Work is about providing training support and nationally recognised qualifications for young people who are not yet ready to access work or study.

4.3.3 The programme provides personal development, vocational, life and core skills. It helps young people to move into employment, further training or college by helping them focus on what they want to do and how they can achieve it.

4.3.4 **Apprenticeships:** Rathbone offers a broad range of apprenticeship programmes for young people. Apprenticeships are designed to help young people gain the skills employers want, and are open to anyone aged 16 to 24. The programmes help them gain essential skills and qualifications by working and studying.

4.3.5 The programme concentrates on core skills such as literacy, numeracy and problem solving.

4.3.6 Apprenticeship programmes in a wide range of jobs including Childcare, Administration, Hospitality, Motor Vehicle and others.

- 4.3.7 **Youth Engagement Projects (Liberton Gilmerton Theme):** This programme focuses on engaging and motivating individuals by involving them in activities based on their needs, adopting a youth work style approach.
- 4.3.8 It has been identified that some of the young people in disadvantaged areas are often not taking part in any form of education, training or work. Mainstream education has already failed to successfully engage and retain this group, leaving them with a record of non-attendance and low achievement, frequently resulting in anti-social behaviour.
- 4.3.9 To engage with these young people Rathbone provides a streetwork and outreach service which enables the young people to approach the workers. For the past 5/6 weeks staff has been implementing the outreach part of the programme 3 times a week in the Liberton Gilmerton area.
- 4.4 In addition Mike advised that Rathbone will also be operating in Leith.
- 4.5 Scott thanked Mike for the informative presentation and invited questions/comments from the group.
- 4.6 *Brian enquired if all the 4 main strands would be applied to Edinburgh.*
- 4.7 Mike advised that the key strand in operation for this area will be that of Youth Engagement.
- 4.8 Kathy advised that the TAC Group (Tasking And Co-ordinating) which meets regularly could be a valuable source of information such as crime statistics and local intelligence for Rathbone and suggested that further contact is made in order to progress this further.

ACTION: KATHY EVANS/MIKE BELL

- 4.9 *Jane enquired if the outreach work would concentrate on solely engaging with young people in the streets.*
- 4.10 Mike advised that in addition to streetwork they would also work with young people who have been referred from other agencies.
- 4.11 *Kathy enquired what the current caseload of Rathbone workers was.*

- 4.12 Mike explained that the workers have conducted 12 hours streetwork identifying affected youths and are now entering into the 1 to 1 sessions with these young people. Each worker has approximately 6-10 young people to work with.
- 4.13 Mike reiterated that that Rathbone is open to referrals from other agencies and look forward to working in partnership with these agencies.
- 4.14 Scott thanked Mike for his attendance and his informative presentation.
- 4.15 Douglas asked that Mike be invited to return as a full member of the group.
- 4.16 This was agreed.

5 NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES (Report Circulated)

- 5.1 In addition to the report circulated Scott highlighted the following points for discussion:
- 5.2 Discussions in Liberton Gilmerton highlighted seven proposed priorities which have been consulted widely in order to fully gauge people's views and opinions from all walks of life locally including residents, young people, officers and specific groups of interest
- 5.3 The existing sub structure including the Youth Issues Group is tasked with undertaking the actions associated with the relevant priorities. The priority the Youth Issues Group will undertake is **Prevent alcohol behaviour in young people becoming health or social problems for them and society in later years.**
- 5.4 Maureen enquired why the priority focussed on just alcohol misuse and not substance misuse as a whole.
- 5.5 Kathy reported that the statistics the priorities are based on were extracted from Viewfinder and whilst it is recognised that there is a problem with substance misuse as whole, the statistics have identified alcohol misuse for the south area is a bigger problem and a key issue. In addition, Scott advised that HYPE also deals with drugs and substance misuse also.
- 5.6 Maureen enquired if the Youth Forum could be involved in this procedure. Scott advised that the Youth Issues Group would be keen to see the Youth Forum as a lead organisation on the outputs table, and would welcome input from members of the Youth Forum.

- 5.7 Douglas explained that it was important to remember that misuse of alcohol at a young age could continue at an older age too therefore impacting on long health issues.
- 5.8 Jade reported that the young people she works with do not view taking recreational drugs and alcohol as a problem, although they are aware of the issues but cannot associate to them personally.
- 5.9 Kathy felt this was useful information that can be utilised as part of the action to address the issue.
- 5.10 Brian enquired what opportunities and alternatives could be offered to the young people to divert them from regular recreational alcohol misuse out of boredom, eg Open All Hours project.
- 5.11 Douglas advised that the CLD action plan will be linking in with the national priority in order to address this issue.
- 5.12 Scott informed about a pilot initiative between Lothian & Borders Police and HYPE specifically for South Edinburgh, identifying and helping young people affected by alcohol misuse. The success of the pilot initiative has led to a proposal for a dedicated initiative to operate in the area with dedicated workers based at local High Schools. Any young person to receive 3 home visits by the police would be referred to the HYPE worker who would also attend on the 3rd visit and proceed on a one-to-one basis with the young person.
- 5.13 Scott advised that this proposal has been submitted to the Liberton/Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership who has agreed to support the proposal. Funding is currently being sought from Lloyds TSB, the outcome of which will be known by February/March 2009.
- 5.14 It was noted that Rathbone could link in with this initiative.

6 CLD PLAN – YOUTH ISSUES PROGRESS (Report Circulated)

- 6.1 The Youth Issues Group previously agreed that the outcomes associated with the Community Learning and Development Plan would be circulated in order to update any changes or add to agreed outcomes.

- 6.2 Scott reported that the Community Learning and Development Partnership met on Tuesday 11th November and discussed the plan in its widest sense. It has been agreed that the Youth Issues Group should revisit the associated outcomes and promote which it would seek to prioritise in the coming year. The following updates were provided in addition to progress reported within the circulated report.
- 6.3 **Case Tracking:** Scott highlighted that specific elements of the Case Tracking approach are continuing through the Community Safety Team.
- 6.4 Brian reported that Andy McWhirter has been appointed as the new Social Services Manager for South. The Case Tracking meetings have been replaced by local Neighbourhood Group meetings, the membership of which will be reviewed in due course. The meetings remain a valuable source of sharing information from the various agencies and partners and would be an ideal opportunity for Rathbone to take up referrals.
- 6.5 It was agreed that Rathbone should be invited to attend future meetings.

ACTION: BRIAN JENNINGS/MIKE BELL

7 EDINBURGH SOUTH YOUTH FORUM (Report Circulated)

- 7.1 The circulated report provided the Youth Issues Group with information in respect of the on-going development of the Edinburgh South Youth Forum.
- 7.2 The Youth Forum has been established as part of a city wide network in an attempt to engage local young people to fully participate in both the development of activities for young people and to have a say in wider issues.
- 7.3 Maureen advised that at present she works 4 hours a week for the South Youth Forum and Jade is employed on a temporary contract and was keen to establish a longer term vision for the progression of the Youth Forum.
- 7.4 Maureen reported that the Youth Forum members have expressed a desire to have an input in youth issues in the area and would like an opportunity to air their opinions and assist in decision making processes. In addition, they would like to attend the next meeting of the Youth Issues Group.
- 7.5 Jane advised that bfriends have a group of young people who are ready to move on from the befriending service and would be ideal candidates for groups such as the Youth Forum.

- 7.6 Maureen advised that the Youth Forum will be holding an Open Day in May 2009 at the Burdiehouse Burn in conjunction with CEC Countryside Rangers. The event will host numerous workshops for young people and it is hoped that the success of this pilot event will ensure the organisation of future events.
- 7.7 Scott recommended the Youth Forum investigate the possibility of integrating events with the regular Do In The Burn events organised by the Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park Steering Group which would assist the Youth Forum in seeking funding.

ACTION: MAUREEN WATSON/SCOTT DONKIN

- 7.8 Maureen also advised that the Youth Forum is keen to publish and distribute leaflets promoting their services, seeking new members and new ideas such as a skatepark for Moredun. In order to accomplish this more funding is required and Maureen welcomed any support or suggestions.
- 7.9 The group look forward to meeting with members of the Youth Forum at the next Youth Issues Group meeting and especially to listen to their views and opinions and take on board any suggestions or recommendations that may arise.
- 7.10 Kathy expressed the importance of providing the young people with feedback on ideas and suggestions that have been progressed and also impacted positively on the community. This would avoid disassociation thus encouraging continued future involvement of the young people. Kathy added that much of the youth engagement element of the South Central Neighbourhood Plan had been included as a direct result of the Youth Forum.
- 7.11 Maureen indicated that she would feed this back to the forum where she felt that they would be delighted.

8 YOUTH WORK MATRIX FUNDING (Paper Tabled)

- 8.1 Kathy briefly informed the group about the Youth Work Matrix Fund. Following meetings with community planning and neighbourhood partnerships a revised criteria for commissioning activities has been proposed to include the need to meet priorities from the Community Plan; Tasking and Co-ordination process and Single Outcome Agreement.
- 8.2 Activities would be commissioned by the Community Safety Strategy Unit(CSSU) would seek the following Fund criteria:
- 8.2.1 meets the priorities of the Local Community Plan;
- 8.2.2 meets the priorities identified by the Tasking and Co-ordination (TAC) process;

- 8.2.3 delivers on at least one of the following Single Outcome Agreements (SOA:
 - (a) Outcome 8 – we have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk
 - (b) Outcome 9 – we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger; and
- 8.2.4 Projects will need to take account of the recommendations from the 2007 George Street Research into youth activity and provision, for example increasing youth provision at weekends and diversionary provision during school holidays.
- 8.3 Activities supported by the fund will be procured through a commissioning process following the required procurement rules.
- 8.4 The share of the Fund to each neighbourhood partnership has been calculated on a formula derived from the Edinburgh Index information used for Fairer Scotland Fund allocations, supported with data on antisocial behaviour complaints to Services for Communities and youth calls to police.
- 8.5 The allocation for Liberton//Gilmerton and South Central Neighbourhood Partnerships is £28,052.50.
- 8.6 Kathy informed that the allocation would have to be spent prior to March 2009.
- 8.7 Kathy suggested that the TAC in conjunction with Youth Issues Group should decide on the applications for the area which would then have to be submitted to the Neighbourhood Manager, Susan Bruce.
- 8.8 It was recommended that applications be made for projects such as Open All Hours that would provide out of school activities during school holidays, and given the time constraints with which the funding has to be spent it was felt ideal to seek funding to cover the February 2009 half term break.
- 8.9 Scott enquired about the likelihood of this funding being available after next year.
- 8.10 Kathy explained that it was highly unlikely that this funding would be available on a long term basis.
- 8.11 It was also suggested exploring the possibility of purchasing mobile kick pitches.
- 8.12 This was also endorsed by the group as a suitable initiative.

- 8.13 Maureen advised that, in the meantime, she would seek suggestions from the Youth Forum.
- 8.14 It was agreed that the group seek funding for the February 2009 break, a mobile kick pitch and consider any suggestion brought forward from the Youth Forum. In addition, Scott and Douglas meet separately to discuss the February programme of activities.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN/DOUGLAS JEFFREY

9 MEMBERS UPDATES

- 9.1 Brian reported on the changes to CEC Children & Families Department brought about from the recent reviews conducted on the department.
- 9.2 Brian advised that Working Together service will cease and be replaced with the Early Intervention Service and that he has now been appointed as Early Interventions Team Leader. The focus will be to work with children at risk of exclusion and children who are at serious risk.
- 9.3 In addition, major changes have been made to the referral process. PSG's will continue and young people will be consulted on their views to the referral process on a city wide basis.
- 9.4 Every referral from either Social Work, Children's Reporter etc will go through a prioritisation process.
- 9.5 Brian added that at present there are a number of questions with regards to the existing service level agreements with Children & Families and also the need for services offered at Baird House.
- 9.6 In light of all the recent changes Brian suggested both he and Andy McWhirter provide a more detailed presentation at the next Youth Issues Group meeting.
- 9.7 This was agreed.

ACTION: BRIAN JENNINGS

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The next meeting of the Youth Issues Group will take place in February 2009, exact date, time and venue to be confirmed in due course.