**Forth and Inverleith Voluntary Sector Meeting**

**03.03.21, 1pm**

**Present:**

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| Dawn Anderson (chair) | PCHP |
| Morag Wilson  | Stepping Stones |
| Dave Pickering | Granton Information Centre (GIC) |
| Jim O’Rorke | ASH Scotland |
| Lesley Ross | PYCP |
| Alex Collop | Circle |
| Michelle Lee | Granton Information Centre (GIC) |
| Neeru Bhatnagar | NKS |
| Katrina Smith | Public Health Practitioner (PHP) |
| Sophie Johnston | VOCAL |
| Judith Crabb | Heart of Newhaven |
| Isla Whateley  | ACE IT |
| Heather Yang | Volunteer Edinburgh |
| Kirsty Hernon | TNL Community Fund |
| Alison Leitch | Community Link Worker, North Lead |
| Cara Babineau | Community Renewal |
| Debbie McCulloch | Spartans |
| Fay Butler  | Business Growth and Inclusion Contracts and Programme Officer, CEC |
| Kate Barrett (minutes) | EVOC |

Apologies: Katie Innes, Abi Jackson, Paul Powrie

**Granton Regeneration**

Fay Butler presented on the Granton regeneration project. Please see slides circulated with these minutes.

Fay’s role is focused on community engagement, key focus of development:

* Sustainability/carbon neutral development
* Inclusive economic growth
* Vibrant place
* Providing new housing

15 year project, to be rolled out in 4 key phases (currently phase 0). Building a whole new space for community with housing, health centre, primary school, commercial space and spaces for arts and culture. Phase 1 (2021-2028) focus on the “Heart of Granton”. This month (March 2021) begins the redevelopment of the Edwardian station building which will provide a focal point with affordable workspace, especially for local creatives.Fay also noted that they will be partnering with local groups and artists over the next two years on lighting the gasholder (highlighted culture steering group)

Comments from the group:

Dave (GIC) – noted that while the project looks positive, there have been many false starts over the last 20 years, need to work hard to include very disillusioned community members currently living in some of the worst housing conditions in the city. Need to find out what the community really wants.

Fay acknowledged previous false starts and added that her specific role is designed to ensure meaningful engagement. Also noted that she is linking with the IMP group (Improving Muirhouse & Pennywell) and that approximately 35% of housing developed will be affordable housing.

Dawn (PCHP) asked about membership of Culture Steering Group, Fay said that it is currently strategic partners (e.g., museums) but they are looking to broaden

Neeru (NKS) agreed with Dave’s comments as local resident and worker. Also highlighted growing ethnic minority community that needs to be engaged with.

Alison (CLW) flagged in her work that housing conditions come up a lot and a safe and warm housing crucial

Neeru suggested that builders/developers could be asked to update or improve local existing housing concurrent with new development, Fay said she would take this suggestion away.

Fay gave the group her email for follow up: fay.butler@edinburgh.gov.uk

**Introduction, Alison Leitch CLW North Lead**

Alison told the group that there are currently 12 Community Link Workers (CLWs) across GP surgeries in the north of the city. Key goal is to help tackle health inequalities. Have a range of third sector hosts (e.g., Carr Gomm, Life Care, PCHP, Community Renewal). GP surgeries without a link worker can also access funding to get link worker hours in.

The role of a CLW requires very good knowledge and connection with services on the ground, highlighted that there has been a 90% reduction in services with lock down and they are holding a lot of people at the moment in waiting for services/support.

Alison said that her team have been developing their own ‘wellbeing packs’ to help support people waiting to connect with services when they reopen.

Heather (Volunteer Edinburgh) highlighted the Community Taskforce is available to support people both socially and practically with their community volunteers. Not time limited and can support people over a number of visits if required.

<https://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/volunteer/community-taskforce-volunteers/>

Group discussed people housed in temporary accommodation in Edinburgh getting missed for services and Alison noted that they have a CLW at the Access Practice (GP practice for those experiencing homelessness) so there is some coverage. Michelle (GIC) also noted that they work from GP surgeries and have some staff that specialise in homelessness.

Morag (Stepping Stones) asked about what a typical referral looks like. Alison said that they come via GPs or Practice Team and must be over 16 years. CLWs are not specialist mental health workers so strictly low to moderate mental health concerns, isolation/loneliness, economic and/or housing concerns. Alison said recent annual report suggests 40-55 years old typical age, with some additional focus in areas on over 65s. Morag noted that younger people engage differently with GP and may have an influence on these statistics

**Updates from the group**

Jim (Ash Scotland) highlighted free mental health and tobacco use training sessions, noted have had a number of CLWs along to training and that the training is open to volunteers, please see: <https://impact.scot/>, jororke@ashscotland.org.uk

Isla (ACE IT) highlighted recent Scams Awareness workshops run in partnership with Changeworks: <https://aceit.org.uk/scams-awareness/>

ACE IT Scams Awareness workshop 31st March at 11am, contact katie@aceit.org.uk or https://aceit.org.uk/events/

Cara (Community Renewal) their Muirhouse Youth Forum is looking at the priorities in the area and always keen to link with others in the surrounding area.

Michelle (GIC) emphasised they are still operating all their services

Dawn (PCHP) highlighted some upcoming ecotherapy workshops for wellbeing (including for those shielding) (now past)

Katrina (PHP) added contact details to chat: katrina.smith@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

**Next meeting:**

**Time: May 11, 2021 01:00 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85694749579?pwd=TzBvU0FsT3I3WlZFcGtMMW8xMDdUdz09

Meeting ID: 856 9474 9579

Passcode: 601145