**Forth and Inverleith Voluntary Sector Meeting**

**18.01.22, 1:30pm**

**Present:**

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| Dawn Anderson (co-chair) | PCHP |
| Morag Wilson (co-chair) | Stepping Stones North Edinburgh |
| Jim O’Rorke | ASH Scotland |
| Neeru Bhatnagar | NKS |
| Heather Yang | Volunteer Edinburgh |
| Dave Pickering | GIC |
| Julie Calder | Circle |
| Roy Douglas | Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre |
| Claire Darlow  | Capital City Partnership  |
| Sophie Johnston | VOCAL |
| Ryan Lytwyn | PEP |
| Judy Crabb | Heart of Newhaven |
| Katie Innes | ACE IT |
| Niall Murphy | Home Energy Scotland  |
| Cara Babineau | Community Renewal  |
| Fay Butler | CEC |
| Gillian Guy | Macmillan Cancer Support Link Worker |
| Debbi McCulloch | Spartans |
| Aynsley Lafferty | Heath in Mind |
| Kate Barrett (minutes) | EVOC |

**Apologies:** Alison Leitch, Fiona Hunt, Katrina Smith, Mary Q-Burnside, Kirst Hernon. Abigail Jackson

**Fay Butler – Project Updates**

Fay updated the group on two projects she is involved in:

1. The North Edinburgh Community Festival (registration details previously circulated)
2. The Adult Learning Consultation

Fay said the festival in West Pilton Park has been in planning for 2 years. The festival will be held May 7th from 12-6pm. The core theme of the festival is upskilling and community learning. Planning Committee is meeting fortnightly. Stalls still available to book (deadline March 25th) see details at link below (and attached) or email Fay: Fay.Butler@edinburgh.gov.uk

<https://linktr.ee/northedinfest>

Fay also updated on the Adult Learning Consultation (now closed) – said they have been undertaking a range of engagement activities including workshops and encourage VSF members to get in touch. Fay said they have been working on a report to share with the public (expected by the end of March).

**Niall Murphy – Home Energy Scotland**

Please see slides circulated with these notes, Niall gave group overview of services available to support households to stay warm and manage fuel bills. This includes everything from energy efficiency advice, debt advice to connecting vulnerable households with crisis grants.

Niall emphasised through the Energy Carers scheme vulnerable households can access more in depth support, including home visits where necessary.

Details in slides on how to refer into support.

Niall also confirmed they are able to provide outreach support, for example, coming out to speak to groups about energy efficiency.

**Clare Darlow – Community Benefits Portal**

Clare introduced the group to the community benefits portal launched in November 2021

<https://www.esescommunities.org/>

The Community Benefits Portal has been designed to be a user friendly platform for local community groups and organisations to register and proactively request services, support or materials in their local area (e.g., WHALE Arts in the SW have posted request for assistance in making their community garden space more accessible (e.g., for wheelchairs, push chairs, elderly)).

Clare emphasised that the portal is about establishing relationships and they hope to see donation in kind of materials, expertise etc. – rather than one off cash donations. They also hope the portal will offer a space for communities to share stories of positive impacts and partnerships and inspire others. Noted there will also be a growth in knowledge of what resources are out there and
what sort of things are wanted/needed in communities – this will all be shared and available on the website. Claire noted with COVID a lot of public consultation has changed or been reduced so this could be a useful resource.

Claire Darlow: claire.darlow@capitalcitypartnership.org

**Morag Wilson - Highschool**

Morag highlighted to the group that a local high school had recently come to the Locality Operational Group with concerns around aggression in both children and parents/carers and noted that food poverty is a concern with a number of families at the school. School is keen to hear from any organisations that may be able to offer support – Morag asked members who may have suggestions to get in touch with Katherine at EVOC: katherine.anderson@evoc.org.uk

Dawn noted that they have a recently updated resource on food access point sin EH4 and EH5 (circulated with these notes)

**Group Updates**

Dawn:

* Women Supporting Women outdoor activities, please see PCHP twitter: <https://twitter.com/PiltonComHealth>
* Digital inclusion work for women

Ryan:

* Day care and mental heath clubs have reopened

Julie:

* Finding it hard to access suitable space for in person work – lots of groups ready to go back in person

Neeru:

* They are keen to look at ways to meet in person, but anxiety management is key for the people they support
* CEC should make buildings more accessible to community groups as a priority
* Noted she is supporting a university student who needs a laptop – group suggested People Know How or the Remakery

Jim:

* Highlighted free training offer from ASH Scotland, added to Zoom chat function: “*IMPACT smoking and mental health free training sessions www.impact.scot/events other smoking tobacco issues* [*www.ashscotlandmoodle.org.uk*](http://www.ashscotlandmoodle.org.uk)”
* Noted partnership with Fast Forward, with a training programme focussed on young people and risk taking behaviours: <https://www.fastforward.org.uk/projects/tobacco-education/>

laura@fastforward.org.uk

Cara:

* Pennywell Pantry open fulltime
* Developing a community space in Muirhouse for up to approx.. 9 people

Sophie:

* Funding for short breaks for carer respite available

Aynsley:

* Developing workshops for online and in person – eg 6 week group for 18+ supporting mental health
* Noted iThrive website: [https://ithriveedinburgh.org.uk/#](https://ithriveedinburgh.org.uk/)

Added to Zoom chat function: “*https://www.health-in-mind.org.uk/services/wellbeing\_courses\_and\_workshops\_edinburgh/d209/https://ithriveedinburgh.org.uk/services/wellbeing-toolkit-health-in-mind/Forgot to mention but our drop in group which is peer-led support, the 'Listening Space' - currently online due to restrictions, hoping to go back to Gilmerton Community Centre. We are also looking for a venue in the Leith area to duplicate the course. :) You can contact us on Edinburgh@health-in-mind.org.uk*”

Gillian:

* Cancer support worker – service is fully launched with 1:1 support by phone or using ‘Near me’ app

Added to Zoom chat function: “*Hi everyone, sharing contact details for Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey - to get in touch with our Admin team please call 07977 307286 / 07929 784315 or email loth.icj@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk*”

Katie:

* Still have lots of laptops and prepaid sim cards for over 50s available

Morag:

* Delivering 1 to 1 and group work outdoors and online, capacity for new young parents
* New space on Ferry Road Drive with group work space – moving in March

**Next meeting**

**Time: Mar 30, 2022 01:30 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84101934062?pwd=cnNwSlRSZ2lQWWhoVmFjd1BmY0E0QT09>

Meeting ID: 841 0193 4062

Passcode: 569297