

**Strabane LPG Meeting**

**17.11.22**

**10:00am Zoom**

**Note of Meeting**

**Present:**

Rose O' Brien (EA)

Sorcha Friel (HC)

Judith Searle (Chair)

Paul Sweeney (WHST)

Mary Mc Nicholl (RAPID)

Carol Stewart (CDCO)

Susan Doherty (DC&SDC)

**Apologies:**

Laura Feeney (STC)

Donna Downey (WHST)

Sharon Devine (Barnardo's)

Sharon Callaghan (Barnardo's)

( note from previous meeting where Carol had sent her apologies)

**Update on WAOG and Services**

Paul briefed on the current plan for the WAOG priority working groups in relation to small funding scheme. Mary indicated that RADPID were working actively on progressing Priority 1 and 2 proposals. Susan had suggested having a conversation with Andy Patton if this would help with the delivery of service. Mary had suggested that there could be a rural/urban split in the roll out of the service. Mary also indicated that there could be a link with the youth project and more sustainable developments within the youth alliance as there is a possibility of further youth projects being developed in six rural areas. Susan also commented on the Councils good relations worker and the possible links that could be developed here.

All service updates continue to highlight pressures. The consensus remains that all areas are trying their best to help and support children, young people and families whilst at the same time trying to cope with increasing resource and financial demand within these services. Paul indicated that this would continue to be iterated to the WAOG at the beginning of each meeting.

### **Poverty and Cost of Living Crisis.**

There was considerable discussion relating to poverty and the difficulties families are continuing to face in relation to the cost of living crisis. Susan highlighted some of the work in relation to social supermarket model and the work from the DfC. There is a growing need for places where vulnerable people are warm as well as foodbanks. There was agreement that this would remain on the agenda and people could update with any new developments or resources. Carol stressed the importance of this group being able to share knowledge, resources, ideas so that people know what is available for families, particularly throughout winter months.

Mary indicated that there was a need to be vigilant also within rural areas and that rural DEAs make up a third of DC&SDC area. There could be opportunities for collaborative funding proposals under a PEACE bid to incorporate both rural and urban dimensions. Susan indicated that Council are cognisant of the dire situations families are coping with and are actively trying to mitigate this but are always willing to cooperate with all partners within communities to work together on these issues.

### **Action Plan**

The action plan was distributed for comment and it was suggested that people could look at it and come back at next meeting with comments, suggestions to account for changing circumstances with communities. The progress on the WAOG priority areas align broadly with the action plan but there was agreement that it should also be dynamic and be able to respond to presenting need through the collective efforts of the LPG. Agreed to review at next meeting.

### **UNICEF**

Paul briefly updated on UNICEF CFC programme and asked that this become a standing item on the agenda as we move forward. DC&SDC/EA/ WHSCT have agreed to work toward becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City, where children's rights are respected and their views recognised and integrated into services/policies/spaces and environment. Paul will continue to update regularly on this.

Next meeting 19.12.23

10:00am