



## **Note of Waterside LPG Meeting**

**15.11.22**

**10:00am Teams**

### **Present:**

Paul Sweeney (WHSCCT)

Alison Wallace (Chair)

Donna Downey (WHSCCT)

Linda Watson

Lucy O'Brien (AFC)

Dawn Mc Kendry (NOW)

Rosin Mc Laughlin (NWCN)

Tracy Grey (Verbal Arts)

### **Apologies:**

Claire Lynch (DC&SDC)

Fiona Mc Cauley (WHSCCT)

Shauna Spence (YJA)

Janice Stewart (EA)

Laura Feeney (STC)

Carmel Burns (Start 360)

Mary Mc Nichol (RAPID)

Sarah Dillon (RISE)

Kate Taggart (PT)

Alison welcomed all to the meeting and outlined today's agenda.

The note of the previous meeting was reviewed and agreed.

There was agreement that it might be more useful to look at reviewing the TOR at the next meeting, which, all being well, will be face to face. The group agreed that this would be a better environment to aid discussion regarding the Action Plan as well.

Alison then invited Rosin Mc Laughlin from North West Community Network to present on the work that the organisation does throughout the city and district.

Rosin provided a detailed overview generating great interest from everyone and generating many questions about the work. The NWCN provides a wide range of supports for community based agencies who are providing services for people in a range of settings.

Rosin highlighted examples of support, such as:

- Funding applications
- Capacity building
- Partnership and collaborative approaches
- Supports available in conjunction with NICVA
- Weekly information bulletin for the CV sector
- Creating a voice for the North West.
- The work of the Human Library
- Forum for Aging Better
- IDEAS fund- supporting and developing creative intervention in the North West.

Alison thanked Rosin for her comprehensive presentation that people found interesting and that really resonated with the work organisations were doing locally. Rosin indicated that the NWCN was prepared to help any organisation from the sector seeking assistance.

### **WAOG Update**

Paul updated on recent WAOG meeting in particular with reference to the funding arrangements regarding the Priority work stream groups. With lead agencies identified it is anticipated that the work can now begin and funding can be drawn down. This is for two years and the evaluation of the programmes will be ongoing.

### **Members Update**

Members related that much of the need identified and highlighted at previous meetings remains consistent. Paul assured that he would continue to represent this at the WAOG meetings.

Donna highlighted that the Trust's Gateway service is delighted to be developing greater understanding, appreciation and partnerships with the community sector. Gateway remain determined to continue to develop relationships across the sector. Donna is currently reviewing the step up/protocols with the Trusts and recognises the importance of informing and involving this group as part of that process.

Dawn offered an update on the work of the NOW organisation providing a vital service for young people and families with autism.

Linda indicated that the NWRC were offering Level 2 OCN training open to community groups on Autism Spectrum Awareness. A fee of £30 covers the exam and tutor costs.

Paul discussed the ongoing need represented throughout all planning groups concerning children and young people with autism and the support needed. Alison had already highlighted the need for parental support also.

Alison updated on the work of the Neighbourhood Partnership and the particular work of the warm hubs. There was great support through food hampers and foodbanks throughout the partnership over 400 were facilitated last year in the run up to Christmas. The Waterside social café is due in Foyle Arena on 2<sup>nd</sup> December whilst the Minding Mums project continues to offer a vital service in the area. Alison gave a context of the depth of work including Jo Jingles, CAW youth club, Santa's Grotto in CAW, all contributing to community life in the area.

Lucy highlighted the work of AFC in the area with reference to the much-welcomed AFC crisis fund for families. There will be Christmas food parcels and the additional funding from Save the Children to the Family Support Hubs is most welcome. Lucy informed that they continue to see individuals presenting with high anxiety and issues with mental health who require support from the FSH.

Duncan pointed out that the pressure on the crisis fund was severe and this was an indicator of how difficult times are for families. Alison referenced the crisis fund within the Council and the possibility of accessing some of this for families.

Tracey talked about the Verbal Arts Centre's well-being programme. This currently involves 32 post primary schools supporting young people's mental health. The model is an interactive one that aims to build resilience in young people through creative activities. Tracey expressed an interest in linking in with the Family Support HUBs to discuss the potential benefits of this programme within a family context.

## **UNICEF CFC**

Paul spoke briefly about the continuing journey with the UNICEF Child Friendly City programme sponsored by the WHSCT, the EA and DC&DC. This is an ongoing process and one that requires as many agencies interfacing with children and young people to be involved. Paul informed that central to this was the collaboration of the

C&V sector which has a huge reach and influence in engaging and supporting young people. One of the primary areas that can facilitate this is via training in adopting a child's rights approach. Paul informed that he would like this to be a standing item on the agenda and that the area of training for relevant organisations through this forum

There was agreement to discuss this at our next meeting.

### **AOB**

Alison thanked everyone for participating and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

**Next meeting:** 13.02.2023 @ 10:30am