



## Child and Family Support Forum 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009



**Present** Khent Abraham (Manchester Carers Forum), Mike Wild (MACC), Pauline Clark (MACC), Claire Kerfoot (Contact a Family), Jen Richardson (Routes BHA), Barrington Reeves (Sowing Seeds), Eunice Stephenson (Wythenshawe Community Initiative), Joanne Mcleod (MACC)

**Apologies:** Judith Saffer (Reconnect, Depaul Trust), Joy Wright, Diedre Lewis (Barnardos), Melanie McGuinness (Family Action), John O'Donnell (Reach Out), Hugh McWilliams & Nathalie Long (BME Network), Ross Grant (Voluntary Youth Manchester), Sarah Forster.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Strategic Lead Update & Children's Board**

Not much to report from the Children's Board. There will be a joint meeting with the Safeguarding Children's Board re Baby P issues. Every local authority is getting loads of attention of how inter agency governance is handled. The Safeguarding Board is going through a major review and have appointed an independent Chair. Pauline Newman has stepped down as chair but still goes to the Board Meetings. Ian Rush is now the Chair and seems to be driving it fairly well. Mike has had brief contact with Jill Greenfield (VCS rep) and we're trying to work out where the voluntary sector fits in to this. There will be a joint meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> June with the Children's Board and Safeguarding Children's Board to sort out the safeguarding issues. Melanie McGuinness has been going to the serious case review in Cheetham as a kind of test of how the voluntary sector person sits on the panel. Melanie has another meeting to go to and will then produce a report and report back to the Forum.

Laura Roberts (PCT) wanted to know what we had achieved for children in Manchester and what we're delivering. A handbook will be produced which will contain terms of reference and what the different projects are. The Forum will be looking at the content of this and making any necessary changes before it is widely circulated. Mike will be meeting Donna Mair (Children's

Trust Implementation Manager) to look at updating and making changes to the handbook.

### **Commissioning**

A draft tender was circulated at the meeting which reviews the Commissioning that took place before Christmas. Hopefully we will get a report back to the Forum which then gets fed in. The group that was meeting to oversee that process has now stopped. There is now a specific commissioning project within children's services that's about to start meeting. They had a pre-meeting that Mike attended last week where they did a health check on how good commissioning is which included an exercise on the voluntary sector. Donna Mair is involved in the commissioning project for Children's Services. The formal project group will meet in 2 weeks which Mike Wild will attend. Regarding the timetable we need proposals in by 29 June 09 and the report by the end of July 09. The consultant will have to identify themselves to people so we will ask people to put their names forward for an interview. If you know of any consultants who would be suitable then please let us know.

The Youth Commissioning process is going on PAYP (Positive Action for Young People). VYM are concerned that they will encounter the same problems again but have managed to get a place on the panel so that they can observe the process. Mike will clarify with Ross for more info.

### **Safeguarding**

There is a review on the voluntary Sector engagement in safeguarding strategically but we need to pay more attention as a network to safeguarding as an issue. A proposal is that MACC may get a worker in for a year to look at safeguarding capacity with smaller organisations.

Ross has been developing training on safeguarding and was asked to flag it up at this meeting. There is an e-learning course available and 700 orgs have applied. If your interested please speak to Ross Grant. Some people at the meeting didn't know about this so Mike will produce a bulletin around safeguarding and forward on to interested participants. Pauline will liaise with Ross about this.

There was going to be a piece of work around safeguarding faith organisations with Jill Greenfield and Emma Hicklin to try and find out where things were up to in terms of the funding but was postponed as Jill was off sick. A decision was to be made yesterday but it will now be in a few weeks time.

Safeguarding has been put in the service specification for the Nova Scarmen tender. Which ever organisation that will be delivering the service will have some responsibility on delivering safeguarding to small organisations. The tender decision has been delayed by 3 weeks.

MACC put together a tender with VAM, GMCVO and CN4M to do work around supporting voluntary organisations with regards to the Nova Scarmen tender.

Government have launched initiative Back on Track, commissioning by the Schools and not Local Authorities. They will be setting up a framework for people to apply to providers for alternatives to education. There will be an application process in June/July which is meant to be as simple as possible. A proposal has been made to get into partnership with other schools. Schools will not be able to commission services outside Manchester. Ann Jones is the lead on this and Mike will be meeting with her in the near future.

### **Action Plan for 2009/10**

Mike has been working with Ross and the Strategic Reference Group on the action plan for the year:

- Network – sharing capacity
- Policy – keeping an eye on schools, children and families
- Children's Trust Arrangements
- CAF, small organisations, districts
- Safeguarding – Manchester Safeguarding Children's Board
- Capacity Building, toolkit and training.
- Commissioning – working with commissioners and voluntary sector
- District Working Programme – District Reps, Networking, Engagement & Events
- Strategic Representation
- Contact Point
- Data protection
- Info sharing, C&FSF to do more work around this.

The funding position for the full year is currently unclear. Although the Children's Board have approved an additional £30k investment into the infrastructure, VYM has lost £15k due to not being commissioned by the Youth Service and both MACC and VYM are awaiting news of the funding which comes via CN4M. There is a risk that despite the additional money from the Children's Board, the overall investment may have gone down rather than up. The uncertainty means we cannot be clear about what capacity we will have during the year.

## Information Sharing

- Khent (Young Carers Forum) is trying to get into Schools to do citizenship work. He will start work in 6 schools organising Drop In sessions for young carers and promoting the Young Carers Forum. They have high numbers of young people coming through from CAF to the Carers forum. He's also doing some research around outcomes.
- Claire is organising family events for the summer and will have all the details in their newsletter in June. There will be an events with Fathers and siblings and how this all relates to each other. Also doing Aiming Higher work and working with Contact a Family.
- Jen is working around SEN (special educational needs) provision – dealing with traveller issues, 200 children don't have a primary school place as yet. This seems to be a recurring issue as other issues have taken a priority over this eg. particular districts are concentrating more on gun crime.
- Barrington – Continue - a national organisation, have 180 training places to raise awareness of involving men and fathers in organisations through the parenting fund for 2 years.
- Eunice – lost a lot of funding for work with under fives. We're running a young parents group which is beneficial with guest speaker coming and trying to raise the profile of the work. Could make links with Signpost as school advisors assigned to each school to give advice and work with parents. Emma Beresford is the contact based in the Parent and Partnership team.
- VYM flyer circulated – Leading the Way event on 17.6.09 at 9.30am – 4.30. Venue to be confirmed. Speaker coming from the voluntary
- Event in Central East District on 12.6.09 (flyer circulated).
- CN4M Research Report on 'Economic Downturn on Third Sector organisations in Manchester' is available to download on their website.
- Funding Opportunities - Inspiring Communities Grant Programme up to £450k grant of up to 4 years. Will accept 15 bids. Single bid for each Local Authorities – Mike to follow this up.
- Community Foundation – Targeted support fund (10K – 40K available. Expression of interest by 12 June. Key themes are information advice and guidance around housing, financial debt, legal issues, employment

and general health and well being. Contact person is Alke Hall 214 0958.

**Next Meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> July 10am – 12noon at MACC.**