

CYP Voluntary Sector Reference Group Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 4th of June 2024

Venue: Teams online

Present:

Co-Chair - Becky Wolstenholme – CYA (BW), Co-Chair - Lisa Handley - Family Action (LH), Laura Fitzgerald – Brathay (LF) Juan Shimmin – CYA (JS), Anna Witty – CYA (AW) Sarah Bowman – TNLCF (SB), Hannah Gill – The Rock Youth Project (HG), Amanda Burrow – Complex Safeguarding Manager (AB), Claire Price – CYA (CP), Conor Johnston – CYA (CJ), James Baggley – CYA (JB), Jane Callow – NISCU (JC), Lindsey Buckle – Cumbria Family Support (LB), Sophia Newton – Anti Racist Cumbria (SN), Tamsin – Women’s Community Matters , Helen Carter – Frieda and Francis Scott Trust (HC), Lynn Islam – Frieda Scott Trust (LI), Steve Walker – University of Cumbria (SW), Guy Thompson – HAF Project Officer (GT), Helen Davis – Safety Net (HD), Stephanie Ellis – TNLCF (SE), Maryann Liddle– Spiral (ML), Dani Leslie – Carlisle Eden Carers (DL).

1. Meeting Format/ Ground Rules

- Lisa Handley (LH) commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone and outlining the format and ground rules.
- Online Meeting – will be recorded for notetaking only.

2. Group introductions

Attendees were invited to introduce themselves, providing their names and the organisations they represent.

3. Apologies:

Jen Chambers – PAC Therapy, Gem Webb – Stomping Ground, Mary Biddle – Youth Presence, Cllr Niel Hughes – Eamont and Shap

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on the 12th of March 2024

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. No amendments were suggested, and the minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the previous meeting's discussions and decisions.

LH raised one issue in matters arising relating to neglect. LH recapped that she represented VSRG at the neglect sub group of the CSCP Board. Steph Smitson had been due to attend the meeting today but has sent apologised. LH shared part of the presentation from Steph and updated about the progress of the sub group. LH and BW have updated the action plan for VSRG and this has previously been circulated.

LH outlined that BW and LH were looking at doing a workshop style VSRG in September where neglect would be one of the workshops (alongside other options for example funding)

Main agenda

5. Complex Safeguarding Team Manager - Encompassing Child Exploitation and Missing Children Services – Amanda Burrow (AB)

The presentation will be circulated with the minutes if applicable.

Amanda Burrow (AB) presented an in-depth overview of the work of the Complex Safeguarding Team, focusing on child exploitation and missing children services. She began by defining child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, highlighting the manipulation and coercion involved in these abuses. Amanda provided detailed insights into the signs of exploitation, such as missing school, unexplained gifts, secretive behaviour, and changes in mood or appearance. She explained the referral processes, detailing the steps required for referring children not currently open to children's services, which include completing the CE Vulnerability Checklist and a single contact form. Amanda also elaborated on the review process, explaining that high-risk cases are reviewed every four weeks and medium-risk cases every eight weeks. She concluded by discussing the available training opportunities, including Level 1 Child Exploitation training via eLearning and Level 2 in-person training, and encouraged organisations to appoint CE champions to enhance their capacity to address child exploitation.

AB is the TM in Westmorland and Furness and her counterpart is Linda Warrel in Cumberland.

Links shared during this presentation:

- <https://cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/neglect/default.asp>
- <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/our-work-and-impact/policy-work-campaigns-and-research/policy-reports/the-jay-review-of-criminally-exploited-children/#:~:text=Launching%20the%20Jay%20Review,what%20more%20can%20be%20done.>
- <https://cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk/professionals/cse/ce.asp>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>
- <https://cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk/training/childexploitationtraining.asp>
- <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Ftrixcms.trixonline.co.uk%2Fapi%2Fassets%2Fcumbriascp%2F62354d98-c9c5-4e78-a0b4-bc9320607f58%2Fapp1-ce-vulnerab-checklist.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

Action - Share detailed information about the Child Exploitation processes and training links provided by Amanda Burrow

6. University Of Cumbria – Youth Work Degree Apprenticeship – Steve Walker (SW)

The presentation will be circulated with the minutes if applicable.

Steve Walker (SW) from the University of Cumbria provided a comprehensive outline of the Youth Work Degree Apprenticeship programme. He explained that this three-year integrated degree apprenticeship leads to JNC recognition and professional status, combining 80% work-based learning with academic study. Steve detailed the programme structure, which includes a residential week each year followed by online learning one day per week. He highlighted the costs involved, noting that the apprenticeship cost is £20,000, which is covered by levy funding, with a £1,100 non-levy cost for employers. Employers are also responsible for covering wages, expenses, residential costs, and access to training. Steve described the curriculum, which focuses on reflective practice and face-to-face youth work in the first year, curriculum design and delivery in the second year, and leadership and management in the final year. He emphasized the comprehensive support provided to apprentices through academic tutors, personal tutors, and access to university services and library resources.

Links shared during this presentation:

- <https://www.cumbria.ac.uk/study/courses/apprenticeships/youth-work-degree-apprenticeship/>
- steve.walker@cumbria.ac.uk

7. Francis and Frieda Scott Trust – Helen Carter (HC)

The presentation will be circulated with the minutes if applicable.

Helen Carter (HC) shared updates on the activities and changes within the Francis and Frieda Scott Trust. She announced the transition to an online application process for grants, aimed at improving efficiency while maintaining personal support through draft applications. Helen also discussed the Aspiring Leaders Programme, which is transitioning to an apprenticeship degree model in collaboration with Brathay and UOC, focusing on leadership and management across the voluntary sector. She explained the trust's exploration of participatory grant-making and their efforts to enhance evaluation practices to better understand and demonstrate impact. Regarding the Frieda Scott Trust, Helen mentioned the 50th anniversary initiatives, which include engaging with local communities through visits and community lunches to better understand local needs. She also announced plans to update the website and move to an online application process. Additionally, Helen highlighted the social investment opportunities available through the trust, offering unsecured loans to support significant capital developments and new work streams.

Links shared during this presentation:

- <https://francis-scott.org.uk/>
 - Francis Scott Trust grant application information – Eleanor: grants@francis-scott.org.uk
- <https://www.friedascott.org.uk/>
 - Frieda Scott Trust grants information - Liz manager@frieda-scott.org.uk
- Social investments or anything else: helen@francis-scott.org.uk
- Aspiring Leaders Programme enquiries Liz ALP: recruitment@brathay.org.uk

8. Summer HAF and moving forward – Guy Thompson (GT)

The presentation will be circulated with the minutes if applicable.

Guy Thompson (GT) provided an update on the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme. He explained that the programme is funded based on the number of children on free school meals, with a DfE 27% reach target. Guy detailed the eligibility criteria, noting that 85% of the funding is ring-fenced for children on free school meals, with the remaining 15% for other vulnerable groups. He outlined the key requirements for the programme, which include providing healthy meals, enriching and physical activities, and promoting healthy eating. Guy highlighted the upcoming summer programme, set to launch soon, and mentioned the need for additional providers in areas like Allerdale, Carlisle, and Eden. He also discussed the planning for the winter programme, which will start the application process in late June, with flexibility in delivery methods to accommodate various needs and circumstances.

Links shared during this presentation:

- Guy.thompson@cumberland.gov.uk
- HAF@cumberland.gov.uk
- HAF@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

9. Care Experienced Update

The presentation will be circulated with the minutes if applicable.

Claire Price (CP) from Cumbria Youth Alliance shared detailed insights into their work with care-experienced young people. She emphasized the importance of building trust and providing holistic, individualized support to young people leaving care. Claire discussed the unique challenges faced by care-experienced young people, including trauma, mental health issues, and financial instability. She highlighted the successes of various programmes, such as the Multiply programme funded by the Department for Education, which focuses on boosting numeracy and independent living skills. Claire shared success stories of young people who have benefited from the support provided, illustrating the positive impact of their work.

Links shared during this presentation:

- clairep@cya.org.uk

10. Updates arising from the Wider Third Sector

No updates were received in advance from the wider third sector. Members were reminded to send any future updates to becky@cya.org.uk to ensure they are included in meeting discussions and documented appropriately.

11. Finance Update – Becky Wolstenholme (BW)

(BW) the funding balance for the Voluntary Sector Reference Group currently sits at £4767.

12. Any Other Business (sent in advance) – Lisa Handley (Co-Chair) / Becky Wolstenholme (Co-Chair)

- Representation in Other Groups: BW reminded members to inform her or LH if they represent the voluntary sector in other groups to ensure effective communication and reporting back to this group. LH and BW are in the process of collating details of attendance at other groups so that this is centrally held.
- BW confirmed that she was the representative at the Third Sector Executive but that there had not been meetings recently. LH confirmed she represented VSRG at CSCP Board and the neglect subgroup.
- AW advised that Virtual ME Tool training would be happening on Wed 3rd July 10.30 – 11.30 if anyone has staff who would like to know more about the ME Tool and using it for their organisation.
- September Meeting Venue: The next meeting is planned to be face-to-face in Carlisle on 10th September 1pm – 3pm. Members were asked to suggest venues that can accommodate up to 30 people.
- LH advised that the next meeting on 10th September is likely to be run in a workshop style. Contact has been received from Jen Chambers at PAC about looking at sub groups sitting under VSRG and this could be something we discuss at the next meeting.

Action - Members to suggest venues for the 10th September meeting in Carlisle.

No further business.

Meeting closed.

Note: The above minutes are a condensed summary of the Voluntary Sector Reference Group Meeting and may not capture all details discussed during the meeting.