

# CYP Voluntary Sector Reference Group Meeting

## MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Venue: Morton Manor Community Centre**

### **Present:**

Co-Chair - Becky Wolstenholme – CYA (BW), Co-Chair - Lisa Handley - Family Action (LH), , Anna Witty – CYA (AW) Sarah Bowman – TNLCF (SB), Maryann Liddle – Spiral (ML), Hannah Gill – The Rock Youth Project (HG), Caitlin Nugent – Stomping Ground (CN), Janet Gordon – Cumbria Cerebral Palsy (JG), David Morris – Cumbria Sexual Health (DM), Diane Harrison – Family Help + Prevention Cumberland Council (DH), Mary Biddle – Youth Presence (MB), Pragya Bansiwali – Anti Racist Cumbria (PB), Helen Davies – Safety Net (HD), Beth Harrison – Safety Net (BH), Sam Drude – People First (SD), Nikki Donaldson – Cumberland Council (ND), Davie Barwise – Cumbria Movement (DB), Sarah Penn – Cumbria CVS (SP), Tamzin Aitken – Women’s Community Matters (TA), Julia Clifford – iCan Wellbeing Group CIO (JC), Clare Edwards – Cumbria CVS (CE), Helen Carter – Francis Scott Trust (HC), Lynsey Buckle – Cumbria Family Support (LB), Dylan Wilby – The Well Communities (DW), Kate Jensen – Wigton Youth Station (KJ), James Baggley – Northern Fells Group (JB), Jade Clifford – iCan Wellbeing Group CIO (JC), Tonie Spence – Euphoric Circus (TS.)

### **1. Meeting Format and Introductions**

- Lisa Handley (LH) commenced the meeting by welcoming everyone and outlining the format and ground rules.
- Attendees were asked to briefly introduce themselves stating their name and where they work.

### **2. Apologies**

Juan Shimmin – CYA, Cameron Wilson – Active Cumbria, Danie Leslie – Carlisle Eden Carers, Sandra Keaveney - NADT, Sandra Rey – Pebbles Care, Cllr Neil Hughes – WAF, Sue – Drop Zone, Cllr Emma Williamson – Cumberland, Holly Wainwright – CADAS, Kellie Bradburn-Sims – WAF, David Beuzival – Wave Forward, Beth Nicholls - PPP, Jill Richardson – Windmill Trust, Mandy Taylor – Copeland Youth Network.

### **3. Neglect Update and Presentation**

*The presentation will be circulated with the minutes*

LH gave an update on the Neglect Strategy 23 – 26. This strategy focuses on a countywide approach looking at how we identify and respond to neglect; acknowledging that the majority of children who are subject to a child protection plan is because of neglect they are subject to at home.

LH is part of the CSCP subgroup on neglect, where she represents CYP VSRG. Each representative is required to have an action plan around how we collectively identify and respond to neglect and LH shares updates at this meeting

LH confirmed that the presentation would be shared which includes the definition of the term. The group were encouraged to use the terminology more and not be worried about using the term. LH wanted to revisit the ‘Day in the Life’ tools in the strategy to help practitioners recognise and understand and respond to neglect and promote the use of these tools within our sector and

organisations. The tool is a list of questions to help you think about what life might be like for that child – helping practitioners to either increase or reduce their concerns around neglect and then know how to respond.

LH spoke about four key components of the strategy - recognizing, responding, quantifying and evaluating and asked us to consider where our organisation is in relation to recognising neglect in families and encouraged the group to talk to each other as we have experts in this group.

LH highlighted that a scrutiny piece of work is currently being undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy. LH encouraged everyone to ask practitioners to complete the survey so that their experiences are represented.

She finished by asking if we would appreciate more training around this and if we would look at the action plan and make sure it represents what we're all doing.

**Action 1: All orgs re-visit 'day in the life' tools.**

**Action 2: All orgs check the action plan represents their organisation.**

**Action 2: Please complete questionnaire and share with practitioners by 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. (Sent 27<sup>th</sup> Nov)**

#### **4. Session 1: CYP VSRG**

*The presentation will be circulated with the minutes*

LH introduced the session asking the group to consider where they fit on the wheel and whether there was anyone not represented on the wheel. (See PDF ref VSRG Meeting Imgs)

Based on these discussions, the groups were then asked to consider whether the Terms of Reference (TOR) were still representative of our group. Collaboration was discussed, including with competitors, and groups were asked to consider collaboration; how you do it, what it looks like and what makes it successful (See PDF ref VSRG Meeting Imgs)

We were then asked to consider who we represent when we attend meetings – whether it's yourself, your organisation or the CYP VSRG. Becky and Lisa attend meetings to represent VSRG but what is stopping the rest of us? Groups were asked to consider: 1. What is stopping us representing CYP VSRG at meetings and 2. How could you feel more comfortable doing this? (See PDF ref VSRG Meeting Imgs)

Finally, a discussion around the key priorities on the TOR – are they still relevant or do they need to change? (See PDF ref VSRG Meeting Imgs) This will be picked up again in January's meeting.

DH thought we could introduce ourselves in a better way to begin meetings – name and what you actually do.

HD asked whether we could ask VSRG what they should say/ represent when attending a meeting on behalf of VSRG.

SP suggested a v. quick questionnaire

LB commented that we could potentially ask 2 questions: 1. What are we here to give and 2. What are we here to take away. LB highlighted the importance of coming prepared.

Discussion continued around complexity of representing the county as a whole - LH + BW will continue this discussion on the agenda for January 14th to keep it going.

#### **5. Session 2: Funding**

*The presentation will be circulated with the minutes*

The group were asked to consider two questions and feedback to the wider group: 1. What works well in terms of funding, and challenges, 2. Where could VSRG go with funding? (See PDF ref VSRG Meeting Imgs)

This discussion again will continue in January.

#### **6. Finance Update – Becky Wolstenholme (BW)**

(BW) the funding balance for the Voluntary Sector Reference Group currently sits at £4674.90.

#### **7. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on**

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.

**8. Any Other Business (sent in advance) – Becky Wolstenholme (Co-Chair)**

- BW Reminder to attend the Cumberland Family Hub Roadshows – the presentation from the Workington Roadshow will be sent out. The Carlisle Roadshow is on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at Carlisle Youth Zone.
- BW Reminder of CVS AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- BW Reminder Cumbria Economic Summit on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.
- LH Request for someone from this group to be the North Cumbrian representative at the CYP Integrated Care Partnership Group.
- CE Alongside ACT CYP VSRG are being offered the opportunity to become a member of the North East & North Cumbria VCSE Partnership Programme Executive. The Partnership Programme work across the region supporting our sector to have a voice in health and care issues. The executive group help to direct the work of the programme and ensure it firmly rooted into place-based work and organisations.
- AW representing Cath Clarke: The hampers with activities for children via the Salvation Army must be booked by the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. That will be hampers with food and gifts for the children and I know many families will be struggling this winter so this could make a real difference. Last year the hampers were exceptional. Please make sure you know what is on in their locality and ask them to make sure families are aware of the offers they can tap into- if they need information on what's available in any of the 6 areas they can ring me or email me: cathhaf@btinternet.com.
- AW Youth Work course enrolment will begin again in January 2025. Please look out for this and get in touch if you have anyone who would like to get a L2 or L3 Youth Work qualification.

**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.*