

## Minutes

### Meeting of the SWMPF Working Group on Vulnerable and At Risk Children and Young People

**12:00 – 2:00pm, Tuesday 18 September 2014  
City of Fremantle**

**Interim chair:** Karin Mac Arthur, Community Partnership Broker, South West Metropolitan Partnership Forum

**Participants:** Julie Fitzgerald (Team Leader, Responsible Parenting Services, Department for Child Protection and Family Support); Russ Eldean (Youth Liaison Officer, WA Police); Catherine Duce, (Y-Shac Anglicare); Christine George (Youth Project Officer, City of Fremantle); Ian Jorritsma (Team Leader, Department of Housing); Ruth Dogovski (A/Youth Education Advisor, Youth Justice Services); Craig Green (Youth Worker, Fremantle PCYC); Maria McAtackney (CEO Nyoongar Patrol Outreach Service)

**Apologies:** Dee Skuza (Community Development Officer, Youth - City of Melville); Michael Carter (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Indigenous Network - Perth); Bobby Mizen (Youth Outreach Officer, City of Cockburn); Sarah Brown (Manager, YSHAC Spearwood)

**Minute taker:** Christine George

#### 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

#### 2. Approval of minutes meeting 2 September 2014

The minutes were approved without change.

#### 3. Update on actions arising from previous meeting

Karin to follow up with non govt organisations: Headspace, Wanslea and Mercycare  
Headspace will be coming on board  
Wanslea – still attempting to find a contact person  
Mercycare – are interested. Karin to follow up with Mercycare's Reconnect case worker.

Other options for NGO's

Sita Fitzgerald from Fremantle Multicultural Centre

**Action:** Christine to ask.

Pam Pollard – Principal, Belliar Primary School.

Leanne Mason from the Ottey Centre

**Action:** Karin to follow up.

All other actions have been addressed

#### 4. Debrief on meetings with school principals

Caralee Community College

- Acting Principal (Jason) suggested adding some questions around community participation so that these are not solely school focused.
- Discussion on whether to include parents at the lunch. Outcome decided to send a letter by the principal seeking parental consent for their children to participate in the project. Karin drafted that and it has been confirmed as sent.
- Re: confidentiality, the SWMPF MOU with the Department of Education was viewed and Jason was confident that the MOU will allow the information sharing that will result from this project.
- Letter framed for the children's ongoing engagement in the project over two years.

#### Winterfold PS

- Steve Berry was really positive and wanting to see this project work. Brought a few creative ideas to the table.
- He will ask a few trusted teachers with good relations with the students to ask the questions individually. Session will be set up in a nice room (used as indigenous room).
- Suggestion from Catherine to compare survey responses to more 'average academic' students. It was decided to include 5 extra young people. Steve supported this in that it will potentially make the group work more cohesive/ dilute the young people with negative behaviour issues.
- Raised the issue of year 6's and 7's who will be transitioning and that it will be tricky to follow these students post 2014. All identified year 6's and 7's will likely to be going South Fremantle. Existing strong ties with Julie Duffy. **Radar:** Potential to possibly follow these students next year....
- Session delivery will include a canteen lunch (funded by SWMPF), ipads and discussion time.

#### South Lake PS

- Very excited about process and the questions. They suggested that it would work better with an outside facilitator. Ruth has become the volunteer facilitator.
- Keen on the lunch and will have it catered. SWMPF to fund.
- Looks like they will be able to get the Noongar Rangers program back, and are very keen to introduce Drumbeat.
- Very good at touch rugby in girls and boys.
- Discussed experimental lag (up to 35 years) Ruth very pleased that there will be three approaches to this project.

#### Overall

- The enthusiasm all the schools are showing is very encouraging.
- While each school will have different strategies the outcomes we are trying to achieve are the same. We will work with the schools the way they wish to achieve this.
- Lunches and project introduction to take place:
  - Monday 27 October Caralee
  - Tuesday 28 October – South Lake
  - Wednesday 29 October – Winterfold

## 5. Development of action plan and engagement strategy

- Lunches are locked in for this early term 4.
- Karin suggested that we should brainstorm ideas for possible initiatives to introduce in the schools and include the wider SWMPF members and other groups that work with 8-13year olds.
- Any programs to be introduced within the school environment will be an easier way to initiate due to regulations, public liability, excursion forms etc.
- Collected brainstormed ideas would be taken back to the students to give us some direction on ideas 'long term' and 'low hanging fruit ideas' to implement from Term 1.
- Many organisations have indicated they will support this project, including Fremantle Foundation and the Department of Sport and Recreation.
- Catherine suggested that time will be needed to bring the group together in order for them to drive the project and Julie stressed the need for the group to build relations with the students.
- A bunch of ideas were generated:
  - Discussed Taste testers of ideas that young people can try.
  - Ian suggested community sports clubs, eg Little Athletics, to do a come and try day, then link into Kids Sport Grants
  - Circus skills
  - Dismantle, make a bike and have biking bus,
  - Kids Sports grants available at all three LGA's.
  - Adventure world
- Karin recalled that any projects would be delivered to the whole school.
- Further discussion ensued with the group agreeing that it is premature to consider asking the broader SWMPF to come together. Instead the group will await the responses from the students, review and discuss these with the principals, and then go back to the students to see their views on the initiatives they would like to see introduced.
- **Proposed Timeline Suggestion**
- The group will meet with all 3 principals a fortnight after lunches, ie week 5.
- At this meeting we will present the data obtained from the students and then directions and feasibility of ideas.
- Meet back with students – week 6 - to relay responses (as applicable) and seek young people's ideas on initiatives to be undertaking, with a view to pursuing them in Term 1, 2015.

### Actions

- Maria to find out sports lecturer's name at Challenger TAFE
- Craig to ask sport distributor whether interested at some point in supporting the project.
- Karin to convene the meetings with the Principals and the students (weeks 5 and 6).

## 6. Allocation of responsibilities and timelines

Russ agreed to join Dee, Karin and Dept of Education representative in supporting Caralee Community School.

**7. Volunteer to take minutes at next meeting**

Karin would seek volunteers out-of-session.

**8. Date and venue of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held from 12:00 – 2:00pm on Thursday 16 October in a venue to be confirmed by the City of Melville. Maria kindly offered to provide funding to cover lunch for the working group members.

**9. Items for next meeting**

- We need to identify an initiative that we can deliver at the beginning of Term 1 so that we maintain momentum, without undermining the authority of the students in determining what programs will be introduced as part of the project.
- Decide format for the working lunches.
- Work on the engagement strategy.

**10. Any other business**

Many thanks to Christine and the City of Fremantle for hosting our meeting.