

## Minutes

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

**9.30am – 11.30am, Tuesday 21 July 2015**

**Department of Education Regional Office**

**184, Hampton Road, Beaconsfield**

**Chair:** Karin Mac Arthur (SWMPF)

**Participants:** Denise Henden (Department of Education); Russ Eldean (Youth Liaison Officer, WA Police); Dee Skuza (Community Development Officer, Youth - City of Melville); Bobby Mizen (Youth Outreach Officer, City of Cockburn)

**Apologies:** Michael Wood (Nyoongar Patrol Outreach Services); Christine George (City of Fremantle); Rebecca Caldwell (Department of Housing); Pamela Sturgeon (Department for Child Protection and Family Support)

**Visitors:**

- Dr Amma Buckley, Curtin University
- Liam Anthony - Engagement Officer - Metro South, West Australian Football Commission

**1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Unfortunately, the meeting did not have a quorum. However, the meeting proceeded as it was too late to cancel. Many of the apologies were received only that morning and so it hadn't been known beforehand that there wouldn't be a quorum.

Karin asked members to please advise at the earliest opportunity if they are unable to attend a meeting. It is understood that if people are sick they are unable to give advance notice.

**2. Volunteer to take the minutes**

Dee Skuza

**3. Evaluating the impact of our project: Dr Amma Buckley, Curtin University**

The working group welcomed Amma who went through the project logic which was circulated to the working group ahead of the meeting.

- The Evaluation Plan addresses what we can measure between now and the end of the project.

- The evaluation will be assessing the impact of the project on the children as well as the effectiveness of the SWMPF collaboration.
- One-on-one interviews will be held with the children to seek feedback as it is apparent from our earlier written survey that we will obtain more meaningful data through individual conversations.
- The Principals/Deputy Principals will also be asked to take part in a focus group with Amma to answer questions on the project and on perceived changes in the children.
- Quantitative data – notably relating to school attendance over the course of the project - will be collected directly from the schools.
- The evaluation will also look at underlying assumptions during the project and how these may have changed (for example, why the original objective of working with the children’s families had to be reviewed).

#### **4. Approval of minutes meeting 16 June 2015**

The minutes were approved without change.

#### **5. Business arising from minutes**

- Karin confirmed Drumbeat would not be suitable for a working lunch as it is not a one-off program. Also it is targeted at an older age group.
- Foodbank will be meeting with Winterfold PS re nutritional value of the takeaway breakfast club.
- Russ Eldean followed up with Brad Robbins at Fremantle PCYC to put in for a Community Participation Grant to engage someone to coordinate sporting activities at Davis Park. Brad has since resigned. Karin has asked the Davis Park youth sub-working group to follow this up with PCYC central grant application officer, Elizabeth Hales.
- Bobby also recommended Karin followed up with Darryl Bellotti to ensure no duplication.
- Many thanks to Denise for doing up certificates for the participants of the ‘Poster’ working lunch. These will be given out at the next assemblies as follows: Bobbie - South Lakes, Russ - Caralee and Karin - Winterfold.

#### **6. Next steps for consolidating stage 1 initiatives (including update on each of the schools)**

Caralee

- Karin continuing to work with business and philanthropy to get funding for the after-school homework program.
- Thursday drop in set up 3pm – 5pm at Willagee Community Centre supported by PCYC Youth worker. This term Hip Hop.

South Lake

- Karin to follow up with Dismantle re Sue’s request for modification of program to fit school’s timetable.

- Rebecca has followed up with Fairgame and it looks as if they are going to be able to provide the sports equipment.

#### Winterfold

- Computer Club (after-school homework group) due to start this term.  
Karin to follow up with WPS group. Rebecca has also been actively pursuing SFSHS re homework program.

#### 7. Palmerston Protective Behaviours Program

Palmerston's funding application to DAO to run the Protective Behaviours/Resilience Building programme was not successful.

However, Palmerston has advised that it will fund the program itself. Karin has sent the Principals an outline of the proposed program. All have advised they are happy to meet with Simone with a view to tailoring the program to the initiatives sought by the children and their particular needs.

Dee and Bobbie met with Simone from Palmerston to discuss tailoring the program to each of the three schools around resilience. Meetings with Principals to happen within the first 2 weeks of school going back this term to confirm content and set start dates.

**Action:** Dee and Bobbie to arrange time with Principals to meet with Simone. Karin will follow up re meeting with WPS Principal (as no members of that group at the meeting).

#### 8. Theme for working lunches, Term 3

The working lunch theme for Term 3 could be the 'soft' launch of the Protective Behaviours/Resilience program (need to name this project??) – with Simone running something with the young people to introduce herself.

Back up working lunch theme for Term 3 needed in case we cannot get Protective Behaviours program up in time. This could involve bringing forward the Healthy Schools Committee project scheduled for Term 4.

#### 9. WA Football Commission project

This item was added to the agenda following a meeting Dee had held with the WA Football Commission the previous week.

Liam Anthony came along to talk about the South-East Engagement (SEE) Project which aims to use football as a vehicle to promote community harmony and social inclusion and also to improve education, employment and health. The project currently targets at risk youth who are based within the South-East Metropolitan Area. The Football Commission is now looking to establish the project in the SW Metro area.

Other project outcomes include engagement with local community within the targeted area, improvement of understanding of Indigenous culture within the football industry, identification and development of talented players and coaches.

Dee met with the Manager Community Engagement and thought it would be a great partnership between the SWMPF and WA Football Commission.

The meeting agreed to start slowly in order to build the project for future funding. Suggested we start in Willagee as it is ready to go (6 weeks Term 3) then Term 4 in South Lakes and Term 1 in Winterfold. The Willagee sessions would be open to any young people identified as being at risk and vulnerable from across the SW metro region. Transport would need to be provided to get the young people to the Willagee sessions. The program is aimed at boys and girls ages 9 – 12 but flexible for younger or up to 16 years.

**Action:**

- Dee to see when Winnacott Oval, Willagee is available and pass this information on to Liam to establish a day and date to commence the project.

**10. Opening up working group to community members**

The meeting welcomed the proposal from the annual review meeting to invite community members to join the working group. The group suggested that we target retired teachers and students (teaching, social work etc). Denise would distribute a flyer to schools.

**Actions:**

- Karin to draft flyer, including selection criteria, for input from working group.
- When flyer agreed, Karin to contact universities for promotion about teaching and other relevant students.
- Denise to promote among schools (retired teachers).
- Karin also to promote to local radio stations to attract semi retirees or those with time to offer.

**11. Strategies to support transition to high school**

The group discussed how we might support Year 6s' transition and agreed the first step should be to get feedback from Year 7 Coordinators to see what they think would be effective.

**Action:** Denise, Dee and Bobbie to seek feedback from their local high schools regarding how we can support the transition strategy for year 6

students. Karin to follow up with WPS group re SFSHS and HSHS.

### **12. Debrief – SWMPF annual review meeting**

Feedback has been incredibly positive. Most importantly, participants have advised they have a much better understanding now of what we are trying to achieve and would serve as project champions if asked to do so (to assist in fund-raising initiatives, for example).

Many thanks to Dee and Paul for their help on the day (and Jason our unexpected support!).

### **13. Any other business**

- Potential Funding Sources list distributed to members before the meeting. Many thanks to Michael for developing this most useful resource.
- Russ to follow up with Juvenile Justice regarding representation on the working group.
- Karin advised she had been approached to nominate the project for this year's Children's Awards. The group agreed we should wait another year when we hope to have more runs on the board.

### **Next meeting:**

9.30am, Tuesday, 18 August 2015, Regional Office Education Department, Beaconsfield.