

## Minutes

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

9.30am – 11.30am, Tuesday 23 February 2016  
Department of Education Regional Office,  
184 Hampton Road, Beaconsfield

**Chair:** Dee Skuza (Community Development Officer – Youth, City of Melville)

**Participants:** Pamela Sturgeon (A/Team Leader Responsible Parenting Services, Department for Child Protection and Family Support); Stacey Robson (Project Officer - Children and Young People, City of Fremantle); Russ Eldean and Rebecca O’Keeffe (Youth Liaison Officers, WA Police); Denise Henden (Department of Education)

**Apologies:** Bobby Mizen (Youth Outreach Officer, City of Cockburn); Chris Stent (Manager, Housing Services, St Patrick’s Community Support Services); Michael Wood (Operations Manager, Nyoongar Outreach Services); Rieki Rolle (Team Leader Y- shac Anglicare WA); Simone Ryan (Palmerston); Lara Steel (Headspace)

**Minute taker:** Pamela Sturgeon

#### 1. Welcome, introduction and apologies

#### 2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 19 January 2016

Minutes were approved without change.

#### 3. Business arising from the minutes

No further business arising from the minutes.

#### 4. Update on Winterfold (Stacey/Simone)

- Winterfold Primary School has pulled out of the project. Karin received a final confirmation email from the Principal who stated that it was as a result of a reduction in the number of high needs students and WPS’ lack of capacity to provide the necessary internal support to the SWMPF project, especially Palmerston’s Resilience Program. Karin thanked both the Principal and Deputy Principal for their involvement over the last 18 months and hoped that, despite the challenges, they found it worthwhile. The Principal responded that the high need students who took part in the project have become more engaged and have all been attending to a satisfactory level.
- The sub-group for WPS has now become redundant and Stacey from the City of Fremantle said she would need to review her involvement in the working group. However, she felt being a part of the group was invaluable as far as sharing information and ideas on programs and/or activities for children and young people in the South West metro region.
- Pamela and Rieki were invited to join the South Lake PS sub-group as the need for further support is greater at South Lake than at Caralee.

## 5. Working Lunches Term 1

- Discussed delivery of proposed 'participatory budget' process for \$5,000 per school (Fremantle Foundation advised that they were happy for their grant of \$10,000 to be split between the two schools now that WPS is no longer involved).
- At working lunch, participants will be asked what they would like to spend the money on to benefit the whole school. The working group will then go away and 'cost' their suggestions and take back to the group (as soon as possible after the lunch). The kids will then take the final list of suggestions to the whole school to vote on. In Term 2 the working group will provide the funds for the most popular project/s to ensure a quick turnaround of the project/s.
- There is an opportunity for participants from each school to attend the Fremantle Foundation Ball to report on how the funds are being used (date confirmation from Karin). The Principals' support will be required.

### Actions:

- Denise offered to organise with Caralee School – date and who will pay for lunch
- Require a volunteer from South Lake working group to contact school and seek payment for lunch
- Dee to find out from Karin how the money will be provided (bank check, cash or direct transfer) and confirm the date of the Ball.

## 6. Meeting with P&C Presidents of South Lake and Caralee

Karin has suggested we leave this for Term 2-3 as part of the sustainability component of the project.

### Action:

Dee to add to Agenda for June.

## 7. Outcome 4: Feeling Safe and Supported by Community.

The working group's new focus for Term's 1 and 2 is to how best to address Shared Project Outcome No. 4. The group 'brainstormed' ideas as follows:

- Survey in school (Principals help to get this done): Ask the young people what they do after school, where they 'hang out', what they would like to do and do they know what is on in the community? What their perception is of what adults think about them?
- Need Bobbie's input on what's in the South Lake area for young people and what nights/ days activities are held and if the young people are attending. Also, where is the closest community 'hub' for South Lake PS?
- Aim to increase use of imagination on how to play (eg: currently they always need someone to direct them for activities) eg: Griffin Longley is teaching students how to climb a tree. Denise talked about a workshop on building a cubby house.
- Intergenerational Project: Retired individuals or groups to facilitate an afternoon activity (after school 3pm – 5pm) in a safe local space for the students. This would help break down barriers between seniors and the students eg: chess, domino's, Box Car Derby (Pamela to share You Tube video), help with reading, hop scotch, knitting, etc.
- Involve Rus and Bec at both schools as participants enjoy their participation.

- Involve local businesses – e.g: local bakery provides cupcakes, young people decorate
- Invite local Guides or Scouts to be involved.
- Invite Fremantle Model Train Club or have an excursion.
- Young people to teach seniors how to use Facebook and other social media.
- Involve local Men’s Shed and wood turners to help young people build cars and tracks.

The group also discussed what’s worked well in the past, for example simple games such as paper plane competitions, water based rocket building.

**Actions:**

Working group to advise (before end of term) which tasks they could follow up on, including:

- Contact Playgroup WA re intergenerational activities
- Find out what Retirement Villages/groups there are in the area close to the schools and contact them to see if they are interested in this project.
- Set up a meeting with interested groups/seniors (by end Term 1) to gauge interest and get ideas.
- Box Car Derby - obtain more information on what is needed
- Dee to meet with Bobbie (City of Cockburn) to advise re possible ‘safe and workable’ locations near South Lake.

**8. Transition to Year 7**

The group discussed ways to assist Year 7s who may be experiencing difficulties once they have entered (the feeder) high school.

- Students to be encouraged to talk about their concerns at high school and be advised whom they could talk with.
- Have the Student Services coordinators come down to the primary schools at the end of the year so they know the faces of the staff. They could be invited for a breakfast with the students a few times in the last term.
- There will be further discussion on this topic at next meeting.

**9. Donated books**

- Ask Principals at next working lunch if we can build a free, mobile, outdoor/lunchtime library, asking the Men’s Shed to help build the book shelves.

**10. Update on WA Football Commission program**

- WAFL program starting Wed 24<sup>th</sup> Feb – all members asked to support.

**11. Any other business**

- Pamela to forward email about project manager opportunity from Public Sector possibility to drive and coordinate this project?

**12. Next Meeting**

Dee to establish best day/time for meetings as some members now have commitments at the usual time. Dee will advise.