

Minutes

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

9:30am – 11:30am, Thursday 11 December 2014

Department of Education Regional Office, 184 Hampton Road, Beaconsfield

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); Bobby Mizen (Youth Outreach Officer, City of Cockburn); Christine George (Youth Project Officer, City of Fremantle); Dee Skuza (Community Development Officer, Youth - City of Melville); Ian Jorritsma (Team Leader, Department of Housing); Denise Henden (Behaviour and Attendance Officer, Department of Education); Paul Loseby (Manager, HeadSpace)

Apologies: Maria McAtackney (CEO Nyoongar Patrol Outreach Service); Catherine Duce and Sarah Brown (Y-Shac); Claire Heffernan (Manager, Youth Justice Services)

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Sita and Craig have both left their respective organisations and will therefore no longer be on the working group. Ruth has also left her position with Youth Justice.

Actions:

- Karin to follow up with Rebecca at PCYC regarding future of Drop In program.
- Karin to follow up with FMC regarding a possible replacement for Sita.
- Karin to follow up with Claire Heffernan regarding replacement for Ruth.
- Karin to re-issue invitation to school Principals to attend the working group meetings, if they so wish.

2. Volunteer to take minutes

Julie Fitzgerald

3. Approval of minutes of meeting 16 October and 11 November 2014

The minutes were approved without change

4. Update on actions arising from the minutes

Denise advised that she had written to McDonalds to request the donation of vouchers to give as a thank you to children participating in our project.

Christine also advised that staff at the City of Fremantle had done some fund-raising and were keen to provide the students at Winterfold with some movie tickets.

It was agreed that these gifts should be given to the School Principals to distribute as they see fit.

Action:

- Denise and Christine to direct any offers of gifts to the relevant school Principals.

5. Update on initiatives to be taken in the 3 schools

In order to increase the profile of the project among the whole school – and enable the student group to see the important role they are playing – and join the dots between the lunches and the resultant initiatives - all 3 principals will be asked to promote the project and the students' work, including, for example, at school assemblies.

Caralee

- Dee advised that the school stationery shop would be opening at the beginning of term 1, 2015. This is being organized by the P&C.
- Karin advised that the SWMPF Leadership Group had expressed concerns about providing funding for a salary to enable the after-hours homework program to continue at Caralee. Karin is now working with the Fremantle Foundation to see if they can source funding. The program at Caralee is the first of its kind in Australia (to our knowledge) and, in addition to improving outcomes for the children involved, it is providing an important community service beyond the school grounds.
- Dee advised that Caralee is progressing the students' requests for tables and chairs for the shady area.
- Caralee has requested Dee/Karin to provide them with a proposed plan, including design, for the installation of a nature scape.
- Dee advised that City of Melville will fund the continued employment of the current incumbent to undertake out-of-school games and physical activities; however, this is subject to the current incumbent being available and is not transferrable to another individual.
- Given that all 3 schools are seeking to develop their garden areas (albeit in different ways), it was agreed it would be preferable to

adopt the same approach for all the schools. Dee to ask if the designer of the very successful project at Booragoon Primary School would be available to talk about that project to the 3 schools, highlighting in particular how they engaged the students and the broader community therein.

Winterfold

- Breakfast Club. Julie and Christine met with WPS to explore options. They had given thought to re-introducing the breakfast club since the last SWMPF meeting but identified several difficulties with this:
 - School start time. Winterfold shares their only access road with a private school next door. The private school starts at 8.45 AM and to avoid too much congestion on the road, Caralee must start earlier than this (8.25AM). A Breakfast club would need to start at least ½ hour before the bell goes. However, those children who do not have breakfast at home are also most often the ones who are late to school and do not get to school until after the bell has gone.
 - Not wanting to cause embarrassment for those children who don't eat before school.
 - School unable to staff full-scale breakfast club themselves.
 - It was proposed therefore that we instead look at introducing a take-away breakfast that would be available at recess.
 - The working group will endeavour to ensure that breakfasts are available from the beginning of term 1.

Action:

Julie to contact David Cain – Uniting Care West (SWMPF Leadership Group) - to see if he can provide a suggestion for 'convenient' healthy food that could be made available discretely during the morning recess to children who come without breakfast.

- Support at lunchtimes and out-of-school games
WPS has funding to employ someone to take on a similar role to that played by the officer at Caralee, where he provides much-needed support to students at lunchtimes and continues after school with different physical activities. The challenge WPS faces is to find someone suitable to undertake this role.

Action: All working group members to make contact with their networks to see if they know of anyone who would be able to assume this role.

- Cooking Classes:
Christine advised that Diabetes WA cannot provide cooking classes through the school and she does not have a 'go to' person to explore further.

Action: Karin to see if South Metropolitan Population Health Unit would assist in progressing this initiative.

- After school home work group:
WPS is in discussions with South Fremantle SHS to see if they would provide Year 11 or 12 students to assist with this project.

WPS has advised that an adult would be required to supervise these sessions.

Given the concerns that the students may not take up this option as it requires them to stay at school after hours, WPS suggested that the homework session be referred to, at least in the first instance, as 'Computer Game Club' and that they would begin with computer activities.

The working group also suggested an alternative venue for this session, outside the school grounds, should be considered.

- Garden – installation of obstacles:
Refer final bullet under 'Caralee'.

Southlake

- Sports equipment
Karin has sought funding assistance from the City of Cockburn for this.
- Portable PA
This will be funded through the SWMPF budget so that it can be available at the school from the beginning of Term 1.
- Nature walk/outdoor activity area
Refer final bullet under 'Caralee' above.
- Dance classes
Karin is sourcing funding for Dance Sports. This will not begin until the students have identified what dances they wish to learn.
- Role model to help students deal with conflict and build strong relationships
Karin has made inquiries through the Fremantle Foundation, who have identified a Dockers' player to attend Southlake in term 1 to talk to the students on dealing with bullying and building resilience.

Action: Given that students from all 3 schools raised the issue of bullying, Karin to see if the Dockers' player (or similar) would be available to talk to the other two schools also.

- After-school specialised art classes
Bobby is progressing this through the City of Cockburn.

- BMX bike-building workshops
Bobby is seeking a quotation from Dismantle to undertake this project.

6. Review of responses to base-line data surveys received to date

All 3 schools will have completed the surveys by 18 December.

Action: Karin to collate these with assistance from Paul

7. Workshop to develop project name and logo (week 3, Term 1) proposed strategy

The working group agreed that rather than seek to produce a logo for the project from scratch, the students would be asked to agree on a name for the project (options will be provided that they can work on) and then look at how the name will be presented (in terms of typeface, font, colours). The project name would be placed alongside the school's logo. The project brand would be used in a variety of material, as appropriate, including posters and signs for each initiative. For example, the stationery shop at Caralee would have a poster or sign alongside advising that it is an initiative of this project, which is being driven by the student group.

Karin has met with all the principals to lock in the dates for the workshops. These will be held as follows:

Caralee: Monday, 16 February

Winterfold: Wednesday, 18 February

South Lake: Friday, 20 February

Actions:

- Karin to source suitable graphic designer to facilitate the workshops.
- Karin to draft a few project names for the working group's consideration, which will be the starting point for discussion at the workshops.

8. Individual questions for students (week 5 or 6, Term 1) proposed strategy

Following discussions with the 3 schools, it has been agreed that the best way to approach these questions is for them to be asked on a one-on-one basis over a couple of weeks. They can start anytime after the workshop in week 3. Given the resources required to undertake these interviews, the schools have asked for the working group to assist in doing so.

Actions: All members allocated to a particular school to assist in completing the interviews with the individual students after week 3, Term 1.

7. Any other business

Dee mentioned a rewards program App the schools might be interested in.

Action: Dee will get the name of the App and share with the group



8. Date and venue of next meeting

9:30am, Thursday 5th February 2014

District Education Office, Hampton Road, Beaconsfield

Many thanks to Dee for agreeing to host our meeting once again – and for the delicious morning tea she provided!