

Minutes

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

**9.30am – 11.30am, Tuesday 19 January, 2016
Willagee Community Centre, Willagee**

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

Participants: Dee Skuza (Community Development Officer, Youth - City of Melville); Bobby Mizen (Youth Outreach Officer, City of Cockburn); Chris Stent (Manager, Housing Services, St Patrick's Community Support Services); Julie Fitzgerald (Team Leader Responsible Parenting Services); Rieki Rolle (Team Leader Y- shac Anglicare WA); Stacey Robson (Project Officer – Children and Young People City of Fremantle); Simone Ryan (Palmerston).

Apologies: Denise Henden (Department of Education); Russ Eldean (Youth Liaison Officer, WA Police); Christine George (Youth Project Officer, City of Fremantle); Michael Wood (Operations Manager, Nyoongar Outreach Services).

Minute taker: Dee Skuza

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Welcomed back everyone and Stacey Robson from City of Fremantle who will be representing the City of Fremantle for the working group. Julie advised that she will be taking 6 months leave and that Pamela Sturgeon (Department for Child Protection and Family Support) will be joining the working group.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting from 20 October 2015

Approved without change.

3. Business arising from minutes

No business arising

4. Update from Principals Meeting

Dee presented the notes on the Principals Meeting held on 26 November 2015 at South Lakes Primary School and clarified some details. The finalised notes are provided as an appendix to these minutes.

5. Update from each of the school sub-groups

Winterfold: The group discussed the difficulties that were being encountered in progressing this project as a result of the school's inability to provide a resource to support the resilience program. Christine George had sent correspondence to the school on 17 December raising a number of issues. It was agreed to ask Karin MacArthur to follow up on the school's response to this correspondence. While the school has indicated its interest in remaining involved in the program, it had not yet addressed the issue of the resources required from the school.

The group discussed continuing with the working lunches and sharing the Fremantle Foundation funding with WPS, but were advised by Karin that it would not be possible to run only part of the project. She further noted that the grant money had been provided on the basis that the original foundation work had been completed.

It was noted that the Night Fields footy program with the WA Football Commission would not be affected as the program is not limited to WPS children.

The group did not have time to discuss the other two schools as all the deliberations centred on resolving the issues at WPS.

Note: If the school is unable to complete the outstanding initiatives and provide a resource to support the resilience program, the SWMPF will have no option but to withdraw from WPS.

Action

- Karin to check with Fremantle Foundation if WPS's share of funding needs to be returned or if it can be shared between the two schools if SWMPF pulls out of WPS.

6. Update on WA Football Commission program

Met with Liam Anthony (WAFC) to discuss the Night Fields program that WAFC will be running following a successful funding application to DSR. All three LGA's are very interested and supportive of the program. Fremantle, Melville and Cockburn will confirm ovals and Liam will then get a poster designed for distribution. Another meeting to be held with WAFC in February to finalise details.

10. Agenda for Term 1, 2016:

- Working lunch with Caralee and South Lakes to be based on ideas on how to spend the Fremantle Foundation Grant (\$3,333). Proposed 'participatory budget' process where kids come up with ideas (and budget) and they then get the whole school to vote on the ideas (using the \$3,333 budget). The project or purchase must benefit the whole school. Working group to come up with plan for the lunch and how to get the kids engaged in the project.

- Arrange a meeting with P&C Presidents of South Lake and Caralee to introduce them to the working group, what it has achieved and how the P&Cs could work with the working group members in delivering the 4 project outcomes.
- Outcome 4: Feeling Safe and Supported by Community. What do the kids want that would assist us in delivering this outcome? P&C involvement?
- Transition to Year 7 – the Principals identified this as a key concern as some young people who were in the project in Year 6 were not transitioning well. How do we involve the High Schools and work on this for the future?
- Donated books – Karin has received donated books that will need to be distributed. Simone’s class could come up with ideas on how best to use these books.
- Arrange another Principals meeting for end Term 1, 2016. It was agreed that meetings should not be convened every term, unless absolutely necessary, given the demands on the Principals’ time.
- Support of the WAFC Footy Program by all partners in the SWMPF

Action:

- Dee, Bobbie and Stacey to find out P&C Presidents’ email address when school goes back and determine a date for meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 23 February, 2016 9.30am at Department of Education’s Regional District Office, Beaconsfield.

Principals Meeting

26 November, 2015
Winterfold Primary School
11am – 12.30pm

Present: Brendan Hodge (Winterfold), Susan Kirkham (South Lake), Jason Shapcott (Caralee), Trevor Anderson (Caralee).

SWMPF Participants: Dee Skuza (Community Development Officer, Youth - City of Melville); Julie Fitzgerald (Team Leader Responsible Parenting Services); Simone Ryan (Palmerston); Russ Eldean (Youth Liaison Officer, WA Police); Chistine George (Youth Project Officer, City of Fremantle);

Achievements to date:

Caralee Idea Hunterz:

Delivered on all suggestions from the Caralee Idea Hunterz:

- Picnic tables
- Nature Play P&C Picnic Bench
- Homework Group at the Library, would love to continue, funding an issue as guidelines from Dept Edu and Local Govt hinder progress. Working on a solution. Possible Melville Citizens Relief Funding.
- Simone from Palmerston has been excellent
- Homework Group a priority for 2016 as results have been outstanding with increase in learning improvements. Looking at 2 days a week in the Library. Since Library closure and closure of Homework Group, tried at school, but attendance low. Participants enjoy going to the Library and getting off school grounds.
- Free Wi-Fi in Library a drawcard

South Lake Rocketeers:

- A successful year and the kids' wish list is still visible with more to do but getting there thanks to Bobbie and Simone.
- Music Monday and Friday, kids are happy and well behaved and it is used as a rewards system
- Not much luck with Dismantle but Corey ran a more successful recycling bike program Tuesday afternoons, some Rocketeers selected to assist, really pleased with the program and kids enjoying the challenge.
- Base Line data group – losing a lot to the Year 7 transition, adding new members who would benefit from being in the group and to keep the numbers up, but no base line data for this new group.

Winterfold Strikers:

- Currently 20 kids, 4 have dropped out
- Kids really enjoying it and asking “do we have Strikers today”
- Simone has experienced discipline problems, Brendan attends the beginning of the session but need teacher support to continue
- Emergency Relief Breaky – Get Up and Go's going well and there are some left over.
- Not a marked improvement in attendance but when Strikers are on, they are attending, they feel special and the school is aware of the program through assemblies.
- Working lunches are a great way to celebrate the group and an incentive for good behaviour.
- Have tried many other ‘incentive’ programs but nothing else works

What's worked:

Jason from Caralee suggested an idea that has worked at their school which was to swap the AEIO role to EA role with a focus on literacy/numeracy. This has improved attendance and there is an increase in responsibility, there are no mixed messages and all correspondence is direct with the kids, seems to make an incredible difference.

Getting the kids to school is the challenge. Caralee have an agreement with some families that so long as they are there by 9.30am, just to get them there and there are no excuses anymore eg: no shoes, breaky, lunch etc as all this is catered for, get rid of the excuses. Last resort is to go to DCP.

Finding that Year 3 & 4s want to come to school and are not behind any more.

The three schools shared their school structures.



Caralee again stressed the success of the Homework Group. Winterfold needed a venue that was close to the school, off the school grounds. Revisit CBC again, possible Prac Teachers, Murdoch or Curtin Uni volunteers, Seaton College?

Gave out donated note pads to each school for their working lunches over the following weeks.

Next meeting: March 2016 – date to be confirmed will all three schools