

## Minutes

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

**9.30am – 11.30am, Tuesday 15 September, 2015**

**Department of Education Regional Office**

**184, Hampton Road, Beaconsfield**

**Chair:** Karin Mac Arthur, Executive Director, South West Metropolitan Partnership Forum

**Participants:** Denise Henden (Department of Education); Russ Eldean (Youth Liaison Officer, WA Police); Christine George (Youth Project Officer, City of Fremantle); Bobby Mizen (Youth Outreach Officer, City of Cockburn) Pamela Sturgeon (A/Team Leader, Responsible Parenting Services, Department for Child Protection and Family Support); Rebecca Caldwell (Department of Housing); Debbie Moss (Case Worker, Mercy Reconnect); Joseph Moss (prospective student teacher) ; Chris Stent (Manager, Housing Services, St Patrick's Community Support Services)

**Visitors:** Simone Sieber (Children's Development Officer, City of Cockburn); Simone Ryan (Youth Counsellor, South Metro Community Drug and Alcohol Service)

**Apologies:** Michael Wood (Operations Manager, Operations Manager, Nyoongar Outreach Services); Rieki Rolle (Team Leader, Y-Shac Anglicare WA); Dee Skuza (Community Development Officer, Youth - City of Melville)

**Minute taker:** Rebecca Caldwell

#### **1. Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Welcome to Chris Stent (Manager, Housing Services, St Patrick's Community Support Services) who brings a wealth of experience of working with young people.

#### **2. Approval of minutes meeting 25 August 2015**

The minutes were approved without change.

#### **3. Business arising from minutes**

All actions have been completed.

#### **4.Update on stage 1 initiatives in each of the schools**

Caralee: after school homework program – hoped-for philanthropic funding has not come through as it will not be possible to demonstrate outcomes in the immediate term. Funding is now being sought from the Eagles’ community funding program.

Winterfold: Discussions are continuing to try link up high school students to provide after school homework at Winterfold.

Karin requested that this program be referred to as a homework support program and not a ‘Computer Games’ program because the children asked for the former and it is critical they understand that SWMPF has taken their suggestions and run with them.

Options for the homework program will be presented to WPS in due course.

South Lake: There is some confusion about the bike building project. Karin had obtained a quote from Dismantle but in the meantime another individual has started to run a program, but with only a few of the students.

Bobbie requiring some support as she has effectively been working on her own since Ruth left Youth Justice. Chris Stent is happy to join this group and Deb said she would try to do so (if work commitments allowed). Joseph may also be able to assist (WWC may be required).

#### **Action/s:**

- All members of the group to continue working on the initiatives requested by their respective school groups.
- Bobbie to send information to Chris and Deb.
- Bobbie to follow up with South Lake re bike building project.
- Rebecca and Christine to explore options for Winterfold.
- Karin to continue efforts to secure funding for Caralee program.

#### **5.Update on Palmerston’s tailored resilience building programs in each of the 3 schools**

Simone provided an update on each of the schools and advised that she had adapted the program to meet each school’s individual needs. She is using a rewards-based system to encourage students to be responsible for their own behaviours. SWMPF has provided \$20 Target vouchers for Simone to give to the ‘best’ student in each group at the end of term.

Caralee: 20 students – focussing on building emotional regulation. She is finding that students are more responsive when they have first done some sporting activity. A couple of the students involved are engaged with CAMHS and their behaviour has proved difficult to manage. One student will not be returning to the group as he has been suspended from school.

Next term the students will identify their favourite superhero and make ID cards. A dedicated garden bed is being purchased for their use.

Winterfold: 20 students. Focus on gardening programs and adding to existing garden. A roster has been developed with working group members volunteering to assist Simone as Winterfold have not provided a teacher to assist.

South Lake: 27 Students. Simone expressed concern about an individual who interrupted her last session to single out a few children for a media photograph. He also advised he would be running the bike building project the children had requested but only for Years 5 and 6.

**Action/s:**

- Bobbie to follow up with SLPS re bike building program and advise whether Dismantle should also be contracted to ensure all the children are able to participate.

**6.Update on meeting with Year 7 coordinators to support transition to high school**

Christine advised that she and Dee met with Melville High School representatives to discuss ways of supporting our students transition to high school (the other two feeder high schools were invited but did not attend).

Melville facilitates an orientation day for the Year 6 students every year and Year 10 Peer Support Leaders visit Caralee School.

Christine suggested that a Q and A session and mock lesson could be facilitated at Winterfold Primary School. This would be run by South Fremantle High School students who have transitioned from Winterfold to Sth Fremantle.

The meeting agreed that this would be a great initiative and Simone would seek feedback from the Year 6s in the 3 schools. It had been suggested this could be the focus of a working lunch, but the working group recommended it be held separately to the working lunch as it would not be of interest to the younger children in particular. Also, it should be made available to all Year 6s at WPS, not just the Winterfold Strikers.

**Action/s:**

- Bobbie (or other member working with SLPS) and Dee to follow up with their respective feeder schools to see if they would be willing for similar initiative to be held for the Year 6s at SLPS and Caralee.
- Simone to seek feedback from the children regarding the types of event they would like to hold with Year 7s in future.

### **7. Update on WA Football Commission program**

Program has commenced in Willagee and Dee has reported it has been a great success. Russ has provided invaluable support by arranging transport for children from Fremantle PCYC. However, he noted that this was difficult to do on an ongoing basis because of shortage of staff at PCYC.

Bobbie is meeting with Liam Anthony to discuss program details next term in Cockburn. Christine to attend this meeting also as she has not yet had the opportunity to meet with Liam.

The WAFC CEO and Liam Anthony have requested a meeting with Karin and Dee next week to discuss ongoing support for the program.

#### **Action/s:**

Russ to follow up with Fremantle PCYC regarding providing regular transport to WAFC program.

### **8. Any other business**

- ***Working lunches: Term 4***

It was agreed that the focus of the working lunches next term should be on engaging the students in local clubs (in accordance with the project outcome). Representatives from local clubs will be invited to talk to the students. Dates for working group lunches to be locked in at next meeting.

- ***Meeting with Principals***

Possible dates to be agreed at next meeting.

#### **Actions:**

- Russ to invite Fremantle PCYC rep to talk to Winterfold Strikers.
- Karin to follow up with Dee re appropriate club to talk at Caralee.
- Bobbie to identify suitable club to talk to Rocketeers.