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**Project Update Meeting**

**Tuesday 21 July 2020**

**James Miller House, 98 West George Street, Glasgow**

**Attendees**

Niven Rennie

Alastair Muir

S38(1)(b)



**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Niven welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked them for all of their hard work to date over the difficult COVID-19 period and hoped to see a continued and sustained return towards normal working over the coming period. He re-emphasised that during this period office access remained restricted to 6/7 people at a time.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received Will Linden, S38(1)(b)

Similarly, nobody was available from Police Scotland Safer Communities to attend this meeting.

**3. Minutes and Action Log**

The minutes of the meeting of 10 March 2020 were adopted as a true record and Niven ran through the action log updating as required.

**4. Current Projects – Update**

*4.1 Braveheart Industries*

S38(1)(b) provided the BHI report as Brenda was absent S38(1)(b). The small airstream van had been removed from the multiplex and was in storage. The larger van which had been in storage was now leased to 'carriages restaurant'.

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The café at the Dental Hospital re-opens on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July and work is progressing in advance of this. The service will be on a smaller scale with a one way system and restricted space. Only 4 people will be allowed behind the serving counter at any one time but at least the training programme would re-start.

Only 2 trainees remain but another 2 have been offered by CVS, although they will be for a six month placement rather than a year as has been the norm. S38(1)(b) had approached the Credit Union to ask them to sponsor a trainee and a meeting will take place with S38(1)(b) in the short term. Niven offered to make a similar approach to the Scottish Police Federation.

**ACTION: Niven to approach the SPF re potential to sponsor a trainee.**

### 4.2 Navigator

S38(1)(b) provided information relating to the Navigator activity over the lockdown period. On 23 March a 24 hour referral line was opened and it ran until 17 July when Navigators returned to the hospitals. During this period they received 118 referrals. The average age of each referral was 39 with 85 from a hospital setting. 68 abused drugs and 51 had mental health issues, 26 had both. 16 smart mobile telephones were issued to individuals to help them interact with Alcohol Anonymous or Cocaine Anonymous and they remain engaged. The funding for this came from the Recovery Forum.

31 third party referrals came from organisations that had no previous relationship with Navigator including Social Work Departments and ambulance services, the latter will be explored further. Over 40 referrals came from the newest hospital at Wishaw.

In addition it should be noted that navigators provided emotional support to 34 NHS staff members.

On return to the hospital setting there was re-training and induction at each location given post covid changes. Staff will also adhere to new regulations regarding lone working and outreach.

Funding remains a challenge with only the £80K from Glasgow ADP secured. Dialogue continues with hospitals and ADP's with private sector involvement also being examined. Meetings are to take place with S38(1)(b) seeking their support.

Additionally, S38(1)(b) had raised the possibility of having community triage navigators introduced as a support for people who regularly utilise the 101 system inappropriately. Alastair intimated that the police also were examining this problem and there could be a joint approach. A meeting regarding the initial proposal was being arranged.

There has been a request from a couple of areas for the introduction of Navigators including Forth Valley and St Johns, these have been placed on hold due to COVID and will now be picked up. Similarly, dialogue regarding CTACS and Inverclyde expansion was delayed due to COVID.

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S30(b)(i)&(ii)

He proposed that tam arrange a meeting with S38(1)(b) and he in order to schedule toe work and the necessary support.

**ACTION:** S38(1)(b) to arrange a meeting between Niven, S38(1)(b) and he to discuss navigator funding and expansion.

#### 4.3 One Community

S38(1)(b) outlined extensive activity since lockdown. With the aid of volunteers and community champions they had tackled:

- Extreme poverty
- Domestic Abuse
- Mental health issues
- Community concern and lack of understanding
- Unemployment

£10,500 had been obtained from a variety of charitable sources and this had been distributed in the form of food vouchers and energy tokens to over 400 families. The crisis has allowed new people to engage with one community and the intention now is to keep them engaged utilising all methods including WhatsApp.

The Royal bank of Scotland has intimated that 60 new jobs have been set aside for the BAME community and some of these may go to the people engaged with One Community – CV writing assistance is being provided.

Due to a lack of understanding of COVID messaging which is largely in English, translations were provided.

Niven praised the work of the One Community team throughout this pandemic.

#### 4.4 The Crib – Edinburgh

S38(1)(b) provided an overview of recent work in Edinburgh where, he too, had been busy helping with food distribution. Indeed, the CRIB bus had become the focal point in east and Midlothian in this respect.

Following an approach from the Lothians, virtual head teacher 49 young people considered at 'immediate risk' through lack of engagement with schools and services had been referred to the CRIB. Of these, 28 are now clients attending regularly for activities and the help of a jobs coach. This in turn has led to the creation of a 'complimentary curriculum' for such young people which may be SQA accredited.

The second bus will be delivered to Edinburgh prison shortly and is still destined for Dundee. Dialogue has commenced regarding future buses including a proposal to convert former mobile banks in this way. Scottish prisons are keen for other prisons to get involved in this work but some have no ability due to size.

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**S38(1)(b)** also summarised his youth work at Hayes Business park where he had helped to engage with 8/10 young people who had been causing disruption in the local community.

### 4.5 Dundee

**S38(1)(b)** had only just returned from COVID secondment back to Police Scotland. She has progressed new contacts and re-established links. She had been asked to become involved with a vulnerable women's project targeted to assist women drawn into abusive relationships and prostitution. She also has a meeting at Perth prison arranged at the request of the governor to discuss VRU involvement.

Niven updated **S38(1)(b)** on discussions he has had with **S38(1)(b)** of Public Health Scotland and **S38(1)(b)** of Police Scotland which has the potential to develop a new model of interagency work in Dundee. He said he would keep her updated.

### 4.6 Custody Navigator

**S38(1)(b)** highlighted the problems encountered due to COVID and the need to hold recruitment interviews by Zoom. Notwithstanding, the preferred candidates are being progressed by SACRO in respect of PVG accreditation and then will move to Vetting with Police Scotland. In any event, access to accused in the cells is by video link at present thus vetting should not hold the project up further.

The ADP in Fife are keen to support this project and have committed £27.5K in each of the first two years adding to the money already committed by the VRU and SACRO. This means that the project is sustainable for two years.

### 4.7 ECHO Project

**S38(1)(b)** outlined the background and objectives of the SMART project that had been delivered during COVID. It was a 10 week training programme on post pandemic recovery which was being delivered to around 30 individuals from third sector organisations in the ECHO target area. On Wednesday of this week, week 6 will be delivered and there is also a train the trainer element. It was being evaluated throughout and could be utilised for trauma informed training for management teams but reduced to 5 weeks. Niven stated that he had discussed trying this out on a management team from Police Scotland.

In Wills absence **S38(1)(b)**, **S38(1)(b)** updated on the wider programme activity and the 2 months of scoping work undertaken. Even during this time the team had engaged with 3 young men who had become involved in criminality and low level drug dealing. All have continued to engage, one has enrolled for an accountancy course, another has qualified to work on a building site and is seeking a placement and another has enrolled to become a car mechanic.

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Links have been made with numerous partners, many of whom have struggled to get referrals for people to work with. Working with S38(1)(b) provides an authenticity that others cannot replicate allowing us to link our people to the correct agency. This in itself creates a ripple effect with other young people seeking a similar route.

Numerous locations are being sought across the North Glasgow area as bases from which to engage with young people and the next step will be to introduce community navigators to raise the level of connection further.

### 5 Future Projects

#### 5.1 Community Navigator

As Will S38(1)(b) no report was made.

#### 5.2 Caithness/Sutherland

S38(1)(b) reported that COVID was presenting problems as a trauma informed approach really required face to face contact. Despite this the partnership with NHS Highland continues and they remain keen to form resilience hubs. Potentially SMART training could also be delivered here.

#### 5.3 Prison Project

Similarly, COVID had delivered hurdles including the release of the young people who had previously engaged. Thus, the aim now is to engage with long termers in the prison in a train the trainer method. There is a room in the prisons which can lend itself to socially distanced training therefore this work should be able to be progressed. The 10 week programme developed with the Street and Arrow trainees can be adapted to become the basis of this lived experience model.

#### 5.5 Football Related Violence

S38(1)(b) will develop a programme for delivery at Pollok Juniors with parents and this will then be discussed with the SFA as to whether it becomes a pilot or a separate programme from the one discussed earlier with the SFA.

#### 5.6 'You Decide' Project

S38(1)(b) also reported on the preparation for a second pilot in Castlemilk based on information received from community police officers to the effect that more girls are becoming involved in violence. This will be an improvement on the first programme as it is planned that it will also involve Scottish Sports Futures to allow referrals from the programme into a sporting programme to continue development. Scottish Sports Futures are also wanting to work with the VRU in Edinburgh and Fife.

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### 5.7 Legal Aid Board

<sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> updated on progress in respect of this project and a meeting with Colin Lancaster the CEO of the Scottish legal Aid Board. This meeting will also discuss how the pilto will run but the aim is to divert young people away from the criminal justice system by mentoring support. It was intended that Keegan Smith Law may be the most appropriate location for the pilot but <sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> suggested that Tony Bone's practice in Kilmarnock may also be ideal as they were both solicitors who understood childhood trauma. Niven offered to meet Tony Bone and discuss this with him.

**ACTION: Niven to meet Tony Bone**

### 5.8 Mentoring Accreditation

Alastair said that COVID had prevented progress in this respect.

## 6 Media

<sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> had submitted apologies. Niven noted that she would be leaving the VRU later this month and <sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> would be returning <sup>S38(1)(b)</sup>. He recorded for the minute our gratitude for <sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> work during her time with us.

## 7 Training

<sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> was unable to attend the meeting due to the fact that he was on a training course.

## 8 Website

<sup>S38(1)(b)</sup>.

## 9 Evaluation

<sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> provided an overview of ongoing evaluation and research she was conducting including the creation of a VRU toolkit. In addition evaluations were starting or progressing in respect of

- You decide
- The Low Moss project
- Community navigator
- Custody navigator
- The Crib.

Finally, <sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> was engaging with students at Glasgow University who are examining the role of masculinity in relation to violence in Scotland with an initial report due in September.

## 10 AOCB

### 10.1 Strategy Documentation

<sup>S38(1)(b)</sup> updated staff on progress and offered to circulate work to date for comment.

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**11 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place at 1000hrs on Tuesday 18 August – at JMH.

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