

Leith Chooses Steering Group

Skype Meeting 3-4 pm Wednesday 3 June

Present – Bruce, Caroline Douglas, Don, Sally

Apologies - Susan

Current Status / Follow Up with 2019/2020 groups

Responses / communication with all groups,
4/10 are still working on their plans

DIY Skateparks have not yet got back to Caroline with any ideas.

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ELREC –ELREC is researching and creating a list of most vulnerable families in BME community in Leith and discovering that many are in a state of acute distress trying to cope with Universal Credit applications and issues to do with income, rent arrears etc. arising as a result of Covid19. Many just need signposting to appropriate source of help, but some need more extended support. Their new project suggestion is to buy cheap smart phones with data for staff so that staff and volunteers working from home can use them to help clients / service users in a variety of different languages. They plan to buy 10 phones for advisers and another 10 that may be given out to service users in need, e.g. domestic violence situation, extreme social isolation etc. This proposal was discussed by the group and approved.

A second suggestion was submitted to mitigate extreme poverty and food poverty – to provide weekly food parcels and maybe meal packages, by liaising with local businesses (restaurants and shops) and volunteers. Again this proposal was approved, but ELREC was advised to check whether families could /had also contacted other sources of food support (Council, charities, foodbank etc.)

Another suggestion was to buy tablet computers, phones or bikes for teenagers, to do school work, stay in contact with family and friends, get around, where families could not afford these. This suggestion did not meet with unqualified approval. This is a less essential need. Caroline pointed out that Edinburgh Education Dept. will be issuing guidance on technology for school work and will probably make provision for supply of technology where needed.

ACTION: Sally will continue to liaise with ELREC as further stages of the project develop.

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FENIKS

Douglas reported that they have failed to find a suitable Polish speaking English teacher locally but have found someone in England (as opposed to the previous suggestion which was someone in Poland). Caroline pointed out that the Edinburgh Council Adult Education team can provide teachers who have all been carefully checked as regards their education credentials, teaching standards etc., and suggested making contact with this team. Heather Muchamore is now back at work after sick leave.

ACTION: Douglas will speak to Heather ASAP and continue liaising with Feniks.

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Dr. Bells – Don will follow up with them this week to see how their plans are progressing.

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PB Scotland Survey

ACTION: Sally will send Bruce an edit ASAP, and then Bruce will send in his draft response to PB Scotland as the Leith Chooses 'official' response.

Caroline and Douglas content with this. Don and Sally also sending individual responses

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Finance issue

Caroline had called a meeting to discuss the issue but only three colleagues attended. She perceived a reticence on their part to acknowledge any problem, which she attributed to the fact

that - possibly - other areas in Edinburgh had not lost their PB experienced 'Lorraine Duckworth' figure and had to negotiate the process completely from scratch, as she had had to. She is now taking the matter to a meeting at Locality Manager Level.

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Consul online system - Caroline had investigated what progress, if any, has been made with dealing with the DPIA issue, so that Consul can be approved for use in Edinburgh... Seemingly activity had been stopped but may be taken up again soon by Information Governance Team COSLA is also carrying out some checks, in relation to DPIA – which seems to indicate that there have been issues raised.

Possibly some other authorities that already used Consul just went ahead without having to meet exhaustive / ultra strict checks?

It was suggested that we ask PB Scotland if there is information from other places about the DPIA issue.

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2020/2021

Continuation of the discussion about a 'Plan of Action' about how LC 2021 will be delivered.

Agreed deadline of 28th June for formulation of Feith Chooses Plan 2021

Evelyn has asked for early notification as to whether or not there is likely to be a large scale 'live' community event.

The group felt that this is was very unlikely. We didn't think there was any point to a socially distanced 'walk through' in-person voting system without the 'buzz' of networking, engagement with and interaction with project groups (which are the main function of the day).

Nonetheless the Community Centre is still provisionally booked for 30 January 2021 and 6 February 2021 (Caroline preferred 30 Jan, Sally and Don preferred 6th Feb....)

Discussion of the 'Panel' approach. Group felt that there were possibilities, if a Panel were composed of a much wider group, from across the community. There would be a need to carry out consultation and make sure the community as a whole 'bought into' the new process (rather than having it 'imposed'). One model could be a Panel made up of past/current grant winners, ranking applications (but not allowed to vote for their own project, if one has been submitted) This could be a good opportunity to try something new.

Discussion of other Voting Options:

Online - Consul software – could we use a CEC account or get one ourselves? Would need agreement from CEC either way, if money is to be allocated to 'winners' voted online.

Downloadable ballot paper sent to a generic mailbox is a new idea, probably preferable to postal voting. BUT – wide open to fraud (like postal voting), and also would exclude people on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Might there be some way of ensuring that the ballot paper could only be downloaded once from the same computer?

ACTION– Caroline - check that question out with IT?

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There would be a need for a Risk Assessment of various approaches.

ACTION: All members will continue to consider this matter and note down ideas, in preparation for further brain storming discussions e.g. at next week's meeting.

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Next Meeting – 10 June 3pm. By Skype (recurring meeting is set for 9 more weeks).