

Westminster Children and Young People Network

Minutes of meeting held on Weds July 8th at One Westminster.

1. **John Lyon's Charity.** A presentation was given by Erik Mesel from John Lyons Charity, which give grants to benefit children and young people up to the age of 25 who live in nine boroughs in northwest London. He outlined the 6 funding streams they run - Main Grants Fund, Schools in Partnership Fund, Bursary Fund, Small Grants Fund, School Holiday Activity Fund, School Explorer Fund. He also stressed the advisability of contacting the charity to talk about your proposed project well before submitting an application – the Charity welcomes such approached, especially as if an application is unsuccessful a new application may not be made for 2 years.
2. **Westminster City Council CYP.** Jackie R led a catch up on local authority CYP services in Westminster –
 - a. Early Years: closure of some and reconfiguration of other Children's Centre provision <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/childrens-centre-changes> . CC Outreach programme now run by Family Lives. Jayne Vertkin, Head of Early Help Services for WCC, will attend future CYP Network meetings. FLIP project delivering new after school and family support in the Church St area.
 - b. 8-13s: LA funding for activities has effectively ceased; the play service is dwindling. The trend is towards no open access provision, just individual high need and targetted services.
 - c. Youth: funding cut already 20% and the proposed tender has an allocation of another 50% less. The YS tender is already behind schedule. Again, the likelihood is that services will become less universal, more targetted at individual young people.
3. **Re-launch of CYP Network.**
 - a. It was agreed that the Network has been very useful and should continue to meet and provide networking, partnership and policy support, VCS representation on policy and service forums locally.
 - b. It was agreed that it should meet bi-monthly (and include an invited speaker), with a bi-monthly e-newsletter in between.
 - c. It was agreed that the Network needs a Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair is a key role – representing the sector at various Tri-borough and other Children's Services meetings. It was agreed that nominations/self-nominations will be sought through the CYPN e-newsletter, which will include a job description of the role. Then there will be an election, probably by email or online survey, in the autumn.
4. **Networking updates.**
 - a. **Cockpit Theatre Children and Families programme** – a new programme, with a monthly show for families for £4 or £5 only. Take up has been lower than hoped. More details here: http://www.thecockpit.org.uk/show/monthly_children_and_family_shows
 - b. **Paddington Arts** – now has funding for an outreach programme of photography, street dance and spoken word, aimed at 11-14s. <http://www.paddingtonarts.org.uk/about-us/>
 - c. **Caxton Youth** – Rose introduced the new Independent Support programme that she is running at Caxton Youth – encouraging young people with disabilities to get out into the community more. She would welcome invitations from other projects who

might have work experience opportunities or would just welcome a visit from young people.

- d. **Serpentine Galleries** – are working on an early years play programme with the Portman Centre; a ‘moving on’ transitions project with Gateway Academy and Quinten & Kynaston schools; and a youth forum for Year 10s with Westminster Academy.
- e. **Westminster Academy** – Sam introduced himself as the contact at WA for everything to do with access and partnership working.
- f. **Positive Volunteering** – Davide outlined this free training for volunteers who are or would like to work with children in Westminster. A partnership between OW and WCC, the training incorporates both Safeguarding/child Protection and an introduction to service for children in Westminster.
- g. **CYP Plus** – is a project at OW to support organisations working with CYP. As well as capacity-building and funding support, Emma will be administering and supporting the CYP Network and e-news bulletin.

5. **Date and venue of next meeting** – tbc, will be end of Sept/early October.

List of attendees

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