

## **Meeting of the Salisbury Child Wellbeing Action Group – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

### **Summary**

#### In attendance:

Prue Castle	- Home Start
Annie Child	- City Council Deputy Clerk
Pauline Church	- Wiltshire Council Safeguarding Portfolio Holder
Mary Douglas	- Chair of Salisbury Area Board and Child Wellbeing Group
Atiqul Hoque	- Salisbury Area Board Cllr
Karlene Jammeh	- Wiltshire Council's Sports Development Officer
Dominic Jones	- Spurgeon's – Children's Centre Manager
Dot Kronda	- Resident Engagement Manager
Karen Linaker	- Salisbury Community Engagement Manager
Jane Miller	- Children's Chance
Lucinda Murray	- Wiltshire Council's Family Learning Service
Aileen Roberts	- Home Start
Trudi Surman	- St Osmund's Pre School
Tony Wilson	- Friary Christian Fellowship Leader
Heidi Yorke	- Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation

#### **(1) Welcome and Introductions**

- Representatives from 15 different partners were welcomed to the meeting

#### **(2) Achievements So Far**

- All noted the report written for the Salisbury Area Board's 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 meeting which summarised the most up to date position regarding the work of the Child Wellbeing Group. This highlighted that the partnership discussions hosted and facilitated by the Child Wellbeing Group over the past 18 months had contributed to the decision of the Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation to work to secure £200k for a

new project on The Friary. This will be a place based project to address some of the causes of child poverty. This 5 year programme will be led by local residents with the aim of improving the mental health of parents, and helping families to become stronger and more resilient.

- Cllr Douglas confirmed that the Child Wellbeing Group was very keen to work alongside and with this project, to offer support where needed, in particular noting that the Community Development Worker to be sub contracted to this project was to be recruited from Salisbury City Council

### **(3) Work with Little Learners (Spurgeons Toddler Group) and St Osmund's Pre School to increase engagement with parenting programmes on The Friary**

- Both Little Learners and St Osmund's pre school are already doing a lot on The Friary, but each agree that it is very difficult to engage families in activities and programmes designed to help and support them with parenting and many other aspects such as improving their education, budgeting etc
- Wiltshire Council's Family Learning Service, and the Resident Engagement Team also have a strong presence on the Friary. Children's Chance and local businesses are also good sources of support for new projects and actions on the estate.
- Spurgeon's and St Osmund's agreed to explore the potential to re-start the volunteer link which once existed between each others' organisations to assist with matters such as transition to pre school and to ensure both were working to complement one another's aims
- The pre school is keen to use the community centre more, particularly if more could be done to improve the appearance of the centre, i.e. to strike a better balance between needing to be secure and vandal-proof and yet welcoming and attractive to the community, e.g. enhancing the current stark appearance of the wire mesh cage on the windows
- Partners agreed to work together to build a programme of activities designed to better engage families, alongside growing a stronger local volunteer base (of Friary Ambassadors) to begin to demonstrate a greater sense of care and investment in the neighbourhood and its people, i.e.
  - pampering events in partnerships with local hair dressers and beauty therapists,

- clothes swaps,
  - a community fridge,
  - a kindness wall
  - more gardening projects, including Forager fences (help yourself to veg), and growbags for balconies
  - local initiatives to respond to the need for basics such as bedding, curtains, carpets areas to dry clothes
  - develop a welcome pack for new residents,
  - design a welcome day
  - improve and develop the Friary facebook page with volunteers from the neighbourhood and training support from Spurgeons
  - to enhance the appearance of the community centre
- Understand the potential to strengthen links with the new outreach worker at the Cathedral and with nearby schools as part of the Child Wellbeing Group's action plan

#### **(4) Home Start – how can we help**

- Home Start is already working on the Friary and elsewhere in Salisbury to offer family support, whether on a one to basis or through group work
- Salisbury City Council has recently funded additional work from Home Start in the city
- If Home Start were requested to further increase its work, the organisation would need to actively recruit new volunteers
- There is scope for Home Start to also work with those families who are 'just about managing'

#### **(5) Improve Communication and Co-ordination of existing information, advice and services to families living in poverty**

- The group began to review a list of links to websites already providing information, advice and guidance to children and families (see below), and discussed how best to improve promotion of these links
- The group felt that leafleting and opportunities at events, weekly/monthly activities already ongoing on the Friary to promote these links were worthwhile exercises, and that this would be enhanced by the rollout of other activities as listed above (para 3), in particular the development of the Friary facebook page

<http://www.cfvsf.org/>

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-young-people>

<https://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk/>

<http://www.wiltshirepathways.org.uk/useful-links/>

<http://www.awp.nhs.uk/>

[https://www.yourcareyoursupportwiltshire.org.uk/search/searchresults?new=true  
&query=family%20carers](https://www.yourcareyoursupportwiltshire.org.uk/search/searchresults?new=true&query=family%20carers)

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