

## Children & Young People's Network Meeting Notes

7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### Attendees

Michael Jakins	Boys Brigade
Michelle Payne	First Steps
Gail McKay	Inner Flame
Sarah Sealy	Bath Area Play Project
Sue Evans	Bath Area Play Project
John Melbourne	Bath Area Play Project
Julie	Bath Area Play Project
Michelle Kelley	Mentoring Plus
Donna Baber	Time2Share
Liz Bryan	DHI
Alice McColl	B&NES
Esther Harrill	Virgin Care

### Apologies

James Vaughton	BYFC
Julie Poll	Business in the Community
Anne Donaghey	Next Link Housing
Emma Hamilton	Wansdyke Play Association
Nikki Cox	Children's Scrapstore
Derek J Smith	Bath Abbey

### Presentations:

- **14 – 25 Strategy: Charlie Moat.**

The strategy comes from a realisation, during the SEND reform process, that it was not useful to work with the young people with a view to their future if there was not some thought to helping them find a route to employment later. The initiative was then expanded to include all 14-25 year old's in B&NES with the aspiration that all young people would find worthwhile employment.

The idea is that everyone will sign up to the aspirations of this strategy for our young people, including schools, colleges, local businesses, community groups, etc. As community groups we would include it, in some way, in our vision for the young people we work with. It is a joint approach, not all Local Authority driven. The Learning and Skills Partnership will take ownership of the strategy and Richard Baldwin will be the strategy lead.

#### 4 work-streams have been identified within the strategy

1. **Raising Aspirations:** this applies to the young people for themselves and for us in relation to the young people. Access to high quality careers information and guidance will be very important. This is the responsibility of the schools so it is important that they come on board. Other opportunities for input will be through access to information via an Apprenticeship Portal, UZone- a universal platform helping young people navigate their way to what they might like to do for a living and a leaflet will be sent to every household once a year, with Council Connect magazine, detailing opportunities and resources. In trying to find a link to UZone I came across the following which you may find interesting in this context: <http://www.changeboard.com/content/2800/plotr-a-game-changer-in-careers-advice-for-young-people/> and <http://www.computerweekly.com/news/4500273725/Everywoman-launches-Modern-Muse-career-platform-for-young-women>
2. **Originally Increasing the participation age.** Since this has happened anyway, this workstream will now focus on Improving the range of opportunities available during these extra years of school or training.
3. **Pathways to Employment:** includes promoting apprenticeships with large employers, all services providing services for young people will be encouraged to think of taking apprentices. These young people then act as role models for their peers. See a video from a special needs school in Berkshire which put this into practice: [Supported Employment at Manor Green School](#)
4. **Supporting Vulnerable Groups.** Youth Connect now track all young people to the age of 19 to see where they have gone after compulsory education ends. The LA have always had particular duties to support care leavers and they now hope to recreate that success with the SEND group. [Vocational Profiles](#) have been piloted at Threeways, Fosseway and BCA with good feedback.

**Feedback from the Network Members** present included an observation that our aspirations, for young people going forward into life, should not be limited by the idea of getting into employment. They should include all aspects of development including, social skills, identification of personal resources such as music, creative activities, sport, etc. We should not be teaching young people to measure their success solely in relation to their ability to find employment.

Charlie responded that this was, of course understood, but that in our current society employment gave greater access to a good living standard due to increased financial resources. The LA had for this reason chosen to focus on routes to employment.

It was discussed that a wider view of employment could be used and could include developing a young person's interests into self-employment, etc. Questions were

asked about how the strategy would be co-ordinated across all providers and whether models of good practice could be made available.

- **Kooth Online Counselling: Michaela Bisogno and Una le Meur.**

Kooth provides free online support for young people. It is commissioned in 33 Local authorities at the moment and is now available to young people living, or at school, in B&NES. It is text based so there is no video component. Young people self-refer and create a user name, so remain anonymous. They can dip in and out of discussion boards, read articles, write blogs etc. All content is moderated and it is accessible wherever there is wifi. Young people can also request 1 to 1 counselling sessions which are scheduled on a regular basis with a trained counsellor. See the Young person's interface here: <https://www.kooth.com/> More information can be found in the [Kooth Presentation](#) and any enquiries may be addressed to [mbisogno@xenzone.com](mailto:mbisogno@xenzone.com) who is our local contact. Promotional materials are available, on request, in the form of info cards and posters which can be used to inform your service users.

- **Local Giving :**

Chris Dormer. Local Giving is a membership based online fundraising platform. Through funding from St John's in Bath they are able to offer free membership for the first year and £250 initial match funding for 75 organisations on a first come first served basis. The local representative will provide tailored support to your organisation to get you up and running and there is a rolling calendar of Campaigns that you can get donors involved in. Local Giving will collect your gift aid for you and is even able to get gift aid for small, unregistered community groups due to an agreement with HMRC. Find out more in the [Local Giving Presentation](#) with examples from 2 local charities that have benefited. Contact details for our Local agent, James Carlin are on the presentation – he starts in about a week. In the mean-time any queries can be addressed to Chris Dormer, Head of Business Development, Email: [chris@localgiving.org](mailto:chris@localgiving.org).

Chris has asked me to give you the [sign-up link to register for Local Giving](#) and a link to the [B&NES voucher](#) which ensures you are not charged for the first year of membership. This voucher/code will work for the first 75 B&NES organisations to register.