



Renfrewshire
Area Support Team

Learning & Development Group Meeting

5 October 2023

MINUTES

In attendance: Derek Bramma, Ciara McLean, Jacqueline Torrens, Alex MacDonald, Jacqueline Doherty.

Also in attendance: Edi Hanley

Apologies: Ewan McNaught, Mo Quinn.

1. Pre-Service update

- Recruitment update

8 applicants to date. Closing date has been extended to 9th October.

Approximately 400 applicants across Scotland so numbers low all over.

Of those 8 there is a good mix of applicants which would represent the target areas.

It was noted that these smaller numbers will make the learning and development aspect more manageable than previous years.

Discussion around applicants expectations and the reality of the role and importance of accurate information being provided. AST will continue to provide relevant information to applicants to ensure they have a good awareness of what the role involves.

- Learning Academy Training Calendar

This is now available and all agreed new format is easier to read.

9th Jan – 16th March will be window for pre-service training.

- Local Training & Support

Tuesday 24th October for 1st local information evening.

Mon 6th and Tues 7th Nov proposed dates for interview.

Wed 8th Nov for post-interview discussion evening.

Mon 4th December local welcome session.

- Proposed local pre-service training

Would ideally cover reporter, social work, education, advocacy and possibility of secure unit input.

There followed a short discussion around difficulty in establishing a contact at Kibble and alternatives were suggested.

- Observations

These will be arranged in the usual manner.

2. In-Service Update

- Mandatory training (Deadlines)

IG – had to completed by end of September. We still have one PM with this outstanding. Discussion around best way to provide support.

TIP – still a number of PMs who have to complete this.

Siblings and Advocacy still on list of mandatory training but AST unaware of any PM who have these outstanding – list to be requested.

- Training calendar January – June

Next training has been arranged for Thursday 12th October. Need to check for sound projection from laptop and connections for laptops as there will be videos embedded in the presentation.

Presenter to provide invoice.

Wellbeing evening confirmed for November.

Discussion around whether to have a recognition slot included within the Christmas night. All agreed that this would be a good idea. 19 Confirmed with 15 paying deposits.

Remaining three training dates are Thursday 8th February, Monday 11th March and Thursday 18th April.

Jacqueline D will contact social work to ask if they have a preferred date to provide training on contact (particularly relating to babies).

Following confirmation of that date Derek will contact 'Who Cares' to confirm date for their presentation.

The third session would be on 'inclusion' and it is hoped that the module CHS were compiling would be available for this – information relating to this will be sought at next LDC forum meeting.

- MOH/Enhanced practice update

EP – few still outstanding

MoH – PMs to be encouraged to complete this, however should they then feel chairing hearings is a barrier to continuing service they will be supported appropriately.

- Panel member/social worker twilight event

Having spoken to members of Paisley SW, it was felt this would be a worthwhile event. Proposed dates 27th or 29th November, 5-7pm.

Suggestion that small group meet prior to event to agree possible topics for discussion.

All teams – Paisley , Renfrew and Johnstone - to be invited. Jacqueline D to contact and confirm date.

There was a short discussion around benefit of liaison meetings with SW. Edi and Jacqueline D have attended few with the Paisley team and all agreed we should reach out to Renfrew and Johnstone teams to re-establish similar there.

3. TSM - Learning Champion role

The description of role was shared, however lacks clarity as to whether this would be one champion per new TSM area or one from existing AST areas. Also unclear as to whether this will result in the loss of localised training priorities as the description alludes to national priorities.

Discussion followed around PPAs and impact on their role.

4. Reappointment 2024

Couple PMs expected to drop off system at this time as they have been dormant for number of months.

Four PMs have outstanding training to complete – Alex will check training log and contact PMs as necessary.

5. AOCB

Discussion about changes to the system in terms of last minutes swaps and cover. Concerns around this allocation and whether covering other areas is going to be an issue.

All agreed that we shouldn't be making any changes to our system prior to the implementation of the new TSM as this will only cause confusion and frustration for our volunteers.

Jacqueline T has received positive feedback from presenter and PMs in relation to the last training evening.

6. Date of next meeting - To Be Advised