

## Minute of Meeting Forum for Empowering Communities

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 3 October 2023	14:00	Remotely via Teams

### **Present**

A McNiven, Engage Renfrewshire; M Fotheringham, Renfrewshire Citizens Advice; J Gonani, DEAR; J Wilby, Paisley West & Central Community Council; S McLellan, RAMH; S Cruickshank, Renfrewshire Access Panel; and C Forbes, ROAR.

### **Chair**

A McNiven, Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire, presided.

### **In Attendance**

R Robertson, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership; and M Gilligan, C MacDonald and S Graham (all Renfrewshire Council). and M Dymond and K Miller, Shopmobility Renfrewshire Ltd.

### **Apologies**

A Thomson, Bridgewater Housing Association; M Mathieson, Barnardos; and G Sergeant, Police Scotland,

### **SEDERUNT**

The Chair intimated that Item 4 – Partner Intel Portal had been withdrawn from the agenda and would be submitted to a future meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to commencement of the meeting.

## **1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities Group held on 18 May 2023.

**DECIDED:** That the Minute be approved.

## **2 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

## **3 ROLLING ACTION LOG**

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for approval.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) That the update be noted; and
- (b) That the Rolling Action Log be approved.

## **4 THE PROMISE**

M Gilligan, Social Work Manager Operations/Promise Lead, Children's Services, Renfrewshire Council, gave a presentation relative to the Promise, the Scottish Government's commitment to listen to the voices and needs of the care experienced community.

The presentation outlined the role of the Promise Manager; highlighted the priorities and outcomes; advised of progress and update; detailed the Promise Keeper update.

The presentation offered each board member to meet with the Promise Manager to discuss their progress and contribution in relation to The Promise; asked members to note the Renfrewshire Language Policy (guidelines for how we speak about and describe Care Experience and Care Experienced children and young people) and consider its use within members' organisations in Renfrewshire; to give due consideration in becoming a "Promise Keeper" or a representative; and to note that there was an offer for regular update reports to be brought to the Forum to ensure members were sighted on implications for policy and practice as the Promise work progresses.

**DECIDED:**

- (a) To note the progress and update;
- (b) To note that the Promise Manager had offered to meet with each member to discuss their progress and contribution in relation to The Promise;
- (c) To note the Renfrewshire Language Policy (guidelines for how we speak about and describe Care Experience and Care Experienced children and young people) and consider its use within members' organisations in Renfrewshire;

(d) That members would give due consideration in becoming a “Promise Keeper” or a representative; and

(e) That it be noted that there was an offer for regular update reports to be brought to the Forum to ensure members were sighted on implications for policy and practice as the Promise work progresses.

## **5 MY BUS**

A verbal update was given by C Forbes, ROAR and S Cruickshank, Renfrewshire Access Panel relative to their concerns with My Bus.

C Forbes advised that she had met with SPT along with S Cruickshank to address their concerns and they had been advised that there were a number of challenges which had been brought on by Brexit and Covid which could not be overcome. C Forbes also intimated that she had met with the management of the Tannahill Centre and the Manager of class care service who advised that they managed a small bus which was used for pre school and after school services however, the bus was now not fit for purpose, and she advised that they were now in the process of setting up a constituted community transport group. It was noted that a meeting had been set up with some elected members to see how to progress the transport solution.

A McNiven thanked them for the update and advised members that they should contact C Forbes directly if interested in being part of the Community Transport Group.

### **DECIDED:**

(a) That the verbal update be noted; and

(b) That members should C Forbes directly in interested in being part of the Group.

## **6 TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE**

B McDowell, Trauma Informed Programme Lead, Chief Executive’s Service, Renfrewshire Council gave a presentation relative to trauma informed practice.

The presentation outlined the vision, background and definition of the programme; highlighted statistics relating to risks and outcomes; outlined the principles of trauma; shared the 6 “R”s of trauma informed cases; highlighted the road map; and looked at the development, actions and next steps.

**DECIDED:** That the presentation be noted.

## **7 FUNDING FOCUS**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to an update on the funding streams that local community and voluntary sector organisation were able to access.

The report advised that in addition to established funding streams such as the Villages Investment Fund, Parks Play Areas and Greenspaces Fund, Local Partnership funding and Celebrating Renfrewshire, a number of funding streams would be launched during Autumn 2023. Three funding streams to note were: Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund; the new Sustainable Communities Fund; and Winter Connections 2023/24.

**DECIDED:** That it be noted that the funding streams were open during Autumn 2023 and were available to local community and voluntary groups.

## **8 BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

J Gonani, DEAR advised that Black History month was celebrated in October in the UK. It was originally set up in USA to recognise the achievements of Caribbean and African people in the global north.

He intimated that Black History month was important to acknowledge the contributions of people from communities and the theme this year was “Celebrating Our Sisters and their contribution to society”.

**DECIDED:** That the verbal update be noted.

## **9 COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP UPDATE**

A McNiven gave an update on the work of the Community Planning Executive Group and in particular the Working Group which was to be set up relative to partners working collaboratively in a financially challenging environment. He advised that this was an opportunity for the Forum to feed in views and get feedback from the process and influence the direction of travel.

**DECIDED:** That the verbal update be noted.

## **10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**DECIDED:** That it be agreed that the next meeting of the Forum for Empowering Communities Group would take place on 7 December 2023 at 2pm.