

South East Integration Network

Minutes of Network Meeting held on Tuesday 9th June 2020
(Online)

Present:	Asma Abdalla	Empower Women for Change
	Elio Ajmone	We Are With You
	Huda Alarishi	Scottish Arab Women's Association
	Tracey Burns	Families Outside
	Ruth Cape	SEIN
	Miroslav Cuba	Ando Glaso
	Jola Dolewska	South Seeds
	Sabine Etchu	Women's Support Project
	Sovay Fitzpatrick	We Are With You
	Ruth Forsythe	Finn's Place / SEIN
	Ama Frempong	YCSA
	Godsal	Glendale Women's Café
	Nabilah Haq	Glendale Women's Café
	Jenny Hunter	Govanhill Baths Community Trust
	Anne Kinghorn	Mears Group
	Karen Krawczyk	SEIN
	Hazel Kyle	Glasgow Life
	Penny Macleod	The Well / SEIN
	Grace Mark	The Hidden Gardens
	Safina Mazhar	Pollokshields Development Agency
	Jennifer Mitchell	The National Lottery Community Fund
	Angie Mwafulirwa	Scottish African Women's Network / SEIN
	Reginald Oko-Flex Inya	Migrant Help UK
	Mary Rocks	Glasgow Life
	Alex Sarkisian	Glasgow Zine Library
	Mahrukh Shaukat	Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre
	Felix Slavin	Music Broth
	Lorna Smith	Mears Group
	Anne Strachan	Voluntary Sector Voice / PATH Scotland
	Ryan Warren	Home Start Glasgow South

Apologies: Shazia Akhtar (Castlemilk Law & Money Centre), Eileen Baxendale (Castlemilk Community Church), Meg Camley (Home Start Glasgow South), Susan Clark (Dixon Community), Grace Gracie (Families Outside), Hannah Graham (CYCA), Clare McBrien (Givin' it Laldie), Kirsty McDonald (Alliance Scotland), Rami Ousta (BEMIS), Nadia Rossi (Rumpus Room), Emma Straughan (SAMH), Mary Sneddon (SEMDC)

1. Welcome

Meeting chaired by Angie Mwafulirwa, who introduced herself as a SEIN board member, & also representing the Scottish African Women's Network.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed by Karen Krawczyk, Seconded by Grace Mark

3. Updates

Music Broth – Thank you to SEIN for the small grant. Musical instrument delivery service is up & running. [Taking requests through website](#) – looking for requests coming in from organisations as well (offer an organisational membership). Let us know if you know anyone who might be interested in accessing musical instruments & we can have a discussion about this. We are also developing online music tutoring. [Music Broth's Instrument Delivery Service Flyer \(June 2020\)](#)

Glendale Women's Café – Currently trying to work out, with Southside Housing Association, when we can get back in to the building. It's a very small space, so physical distancing will be difficult/not possible. Wondering whether there are other spaces in the community that we could use instead – if anyone has ideas about this, please get in touch. Also, struggling to get our members to connect through Zoom – request for resources on how to use Zoom (esp. in Urdu). [See item 8 below for shared resources on this]. Otherwise, we are trying to signpost our members to other organisations & venues that are supporting groups & delivering services (particularly in Pollokshields). Contact: theglendalewomenscafe@gmail.com

YCSA – Ama introduced herself as the new programme lead for YCSA, heading up Climate Challenge Fund project called 'Mend our Planet'. Hoping to have classes such as cooking, upcycling, energy efficiency & cycling. Looking at having these online to begin with. Will share more information once the classes are up & running.

We Are With You – Sovay and Elio introduced themselves, their first time along to a SEIN meeting. [We Are With You](#) has rebranded from Addaction. Elio has just started (yesterday) as new Asylum Seeker Specialist Community Links Worker. We Are With You provide a team of Community Links Workers across Glasgow. The focus of the role is to link people with support & ways to deal with health & wellbeing. Elio will work specifically with asylum seekers in Glasgow (who are registered at specific GP practices: The Crescent in Cessnock, Thurston Road in Mosspark/Cardonald and Ballantyne & Blair in Springburn). We also have a role for sharing learning within the Health Improvement Team & wider Community Links Workers of how better to support people who are seeking asylum & appearing in primary care. Looking forward to connecting with the work you're all doing.

Amina MWRC – Developing digital content & currently hiring Digital Inclusion Officer, looking at what the problems are in the community & what we need to address in order for people to engage more easily. We will feed back on how that's going. We will also be recruiting for a Communications Officer soon. Otherwise, our helpline is continuing.

Scottish Arab Women's Association – Have been distributing food parcels, sanitary products & toys – across Glasgow & wider. Also supporting people over the phone. Looking for funds at the moment so we can offer online English tutoring.

Pollokshields Development Agency – Continuing to work closely with community food point at 423 Shields Road, and with local mosque, for food deliveries. Also

have had funding to give out supermarket vouchers which has been working well, so looking in to securing more funding to continue this. Going to be applying for funding to give out vouchers for energy top-ups (gas & electricity) - only for those with pre-payment metres (this will be open to anyone in Glasgow). Keen to speak to organisations who could give some guidance on this, or could help us link with people who could use this support. Have started doing creative writing workshops, through funding from SEIN, which are going well. Contact:

safina@pdaglasgow.org.uk

Ando Glaso – Supports Roma cultural development across Glasgow. Running a Roma talent competition throughout June ([see flyer](#)). Also able to give emergency food vouchers to people from Roma communities. Get in touch:

Mirocuba@andoglaso.org

Glasgow Zine Library – Looking for two new board members – hoping to open up our board to better reflect the communities we're working with. Grateful if people could share this opportunity, or get in touch if you're interested. [See advert for trustees](#).

Voluntary Sector Voice – Through Voluntary Sector Voice in the south west of Glasgow, Anne Strachan is part of the Third Sector Interface Network where all the voluntary sector networks in the city come together (this feeds in to Community Planning). If anyone has any issues or concerns that they would like to raise, in relation to the current situation particularly, let Anne know & she can take these forward. Contact: annejb14@gmail.com

PATH Scotland – Provide life skills & employment support for BME women & do traineeships within Housing Associations; one is available at the moment with NG Homes in the north of Glasgow. Contact: info@pathscotland.org.uk / anne@pathscotland.org.uk

Mears Group – Update from Anne Kinghorn: we have [issued a statement](#) regarding the asylum seekers who are being accommodated in hotels. The main action is that we have an exit plan to get people out of the hotels and are currently waiting for sign off on this from the Home Office. The people who will be moved first are those who have been in the hotels the longest period of time. The plan is to move them out with the support of Public Health Scotland and Glasgow City Council to ensure any risk of Covid is minimised. We have partnered with Refugee Survival Trust to provide top ups for people's phone, so if you are coming across people who are needing access for phones, please let us know. Contact:

anne.kinghorn@mearshousing.co.uk

Families Outside – Continuing to provide support & helpline is open. Glasgow peer support group for children & young people (8-18) affected by imprisonment is running online every 2 weeks – usually on a Thursday between 4-5pm. Just launched art competition in partnership with Children of Prisoners Europe. Holding weekly reading sessions to help children understand and talk about imprisonment (for age-group 7-12). If you know of a child, young person or family affected by imprisonment, please contact Tracey: tracey.burns@familiesoutside.org.uk

Empower Women for Change – Distributing food parcels & ready meals. Two new projects started – one of them is a climate change project called 'Low Carbon

Community', we have recruited three members of staff for this who will join the next meeting & give an update on this. We have also recruited for our heritage project. Have received funding to offer counselling & mental health support – you can refer people for this. Contact: info@empowerwomenforchange.org.uk

Glasgow Life – Connecting Scotland programme: the programme aims to connect digitally excluded people, allowing them to access services and support, and to connect with friends and family during the pandemic. People on low incomes who are at greater risk of isolation due to coronavirus will be provided with: access to kit (an appropriate internet enabled device), access to connectivity (a mobile hotspot and 12 months of data), support to develop skills and confidence online. The online application portal will be available on the [Connecting Scotland website](#) soon. In the meantime, if you would like to know more about the programme in Glasgow please contact digitalskills@glasgowlife.org.uk

Glasgow Life have secured funding which will go towards ESOL bags with resources for people to learn English at home (offline). Have been engaging with the learners on our course lists & have been providing training for ESOL and adult literacy tutors. Through links with EASE project at Glasgow Clyde College, we have so far referred 63 learners from the south east to move on to college, when that is able to happen.

Women's Support Project – Recently secured some funding from the Scottish Refugee Council & Cash for Kids. Many of the women we work with were working on zero hours contracts - we have been supplying them with food vouchers & deliveries & phone data & digital appliances. Starting a pilot Zoom group with single mothers for sharing experiences & giving peer support. We have recruited 16 volunteers who we are putting on a training programme to support women digitally.

Migrant Help UK – Free helpline open (0808 8010 503 – average wait time is currently between 5-10mins). Have set up a whatsapp number to make it easier for people in Initial Accommodation to stay in touch. Positive Move On support continues – if you know anyone who might need any help regarding this, please contact positivemoveon@migranthelpuk.org. Also providing Negative Move On support – important to let people know that no evictions will take place at the moment. Get in touch if anyone is experiencing any issues. Highlighting 'Services and Commissioning Framework'; will be running this again & encouraging organisations to sign up (organisations can be sub-contracted through Migrant Help to deliver services). Also running an event during Refugee Week – Migrant Help will provide materials for asylum seekers to take part (particularly for those in Initial Accommodation). [See poster for the event](#). Contact: Reginald.OkoFlex@migranthelpuk.org

Updates in absence

Dixon Community (Glasgow South East Carers Centre) - This week is Carers Week. Follow [@dixon_east](#) (Twitter) or [@DixonCommunity](#) (Facebook) & share their content, using #MakingCaringVisible. To access information and support you can: Contact the Carers Information Line on 0141 353 6504 / [Self-Refer Online](#) / [Get Information](#)

Rumpus Room – See [Rumpus Room's June update](#) including free online activities for families, free raised beds for Govanhill families, free art packs for children & young people & mobile top ups for young people. Contact: rumpusroomteam@gmail.com

4. Presentation: Ryan Warren (Dad's Coordinator, Home Start Glasgow South)

Home Start are working on volunteers' ability to support people remotely. Running first online volunteer training course (both for those who would like to become a volunteer in the current period, and those who would like to become a volunteer once lock down is over) – get in touch about this if interested. Usual perinatal group 'Dads & Weans', for Dads with children under 2, is now online (in partnership with Merry Go Round) – this has been going very well, but keen for more Dads to join. Also in partnership with Merry Go Round, delivering antenatal course (including Dads-specific session) – there is a fee for this through Merry Go Round but if cost is an issue, Home Start may be able to help. Ryan will also be hosting Dads-specific antenatal classes online (1-1 & group sessions), let him know if you know of any Dads-to-be who would be interested. All Home Start groups are transitioning online; now looking in to what opportunities these present & how they can meet the needs of people beyond pandemic times. Please continue to get in touch for referrals, or volunteers. Contact: Ryan@homestartglasgowsouth.org.uk

5. Board Update

We will be opening a new round of funding for member organisations to apply to (deadline end of June, for payments beginning of July, to be used by the end of September) – information about this will be circulated shortly.

6. Development Worker Update

BEMIS Counselling Service – BEMIS were invited, but couldn't make it along to this meeting to give a presentation about their new counselling service. They sent the following information to be shared:

[Our Multicultural Counselling Support](#) is a professional provision, and was initiated following the Covid-19 noted impacts of the diverse EM communities and this was paired with direct consultation and intelligence gathering from our member organisations and grassroots communities, mostly under-represented. We initiated this support with volunteer counsellors initially: professional counsellors, who are from different cultural backgrounds, multilingual, fully qualified and registered with BACP (all confidentiality policies, procedures and GDPR issues are in place and managed strictly with relevant Data Protection Officer. Referral form organisations and community groups are treated with utmost confidentiality.

While language is vital, we cannot facilitate the support in all languages, but we have English, Arabic, Polish, Persian, etc. We still refer potential clients to other agencies where language is not available such as Urdu, Punjabi.

The counselling support provision is part a wider responsive step that we have utilized in support of the diverse EM: the formation of the [Ethnic Minorities National](#)

[Resilience Network \(EMNRN\)](#) presented a responsive platform to enhance collaboration, access to SG departments, intelligence gathering settings, etc. Part of this support, we have initiated and facilitated small grant funds : [Sustenance Grant and Transition Grant](#).

We are happy to collaborate with your network, and if any of your members have the relevant personnel to provide counselling support in other languages, we will be happy to contract them to work with us as part of our support provision. we are happy to receive CVs for potential counsellors and add them to our team through paid contracting hours.

Presentations – Let Ruth C know if there are any presentation topics that you would like to be covered at future network meetings.

Training – We will be looking in to online training options to offer to the network. Please let Ruth C know if there are any training sessions that you would like to be offered by SEIN.

Evaluation / Check-in – We are planning to carry out some check-in/evaluation work with our members in late July/August. This will probably be in the form of a short guided interview over the phone.

Anti-Racist Work – In light of the last week, it is important that we reflect on how we work, as a network, and as individual member groups & support each other with embedding anti-racist practice into our work. This is a core value to SEIN and as such, should be a core value to all of our member organisations. This is, of course, an ongoing process and we need to be having these conversations. If you'd like to discuss anything in relation to this, in terms of your own work or organisation, or in terms of the network, please get in touch.

7. Dates of Next Meeting

Tuesday 14th July, 10-11.30am

Tuesday 11th August, 10-11.30am

8. Information & Resources Shared via the Chat

- [Translated guides to Zoom](#), organised by Jewish Council for Racial Equality (languages are being continuously added)
- [Flyer with South Seeds contact information](#) (South Seeds phone lines: Jola 07752727457, Paul 07548334147)
- Scottish African Women's Network are supplying mobile phones thanks to Foundation Scotland and SRC. But we are also getting requests for tablets and laptops. Contact Angie at 07575907597 or angiemwaf@yahoo.co.uk

- The National Lottery Community Fund has a different advice line number while our office is closed 0141 846 0447 and you can reach the local team Glasgow@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk