



Minutes of South East Integration Network Meeting

Tuesday 9th February 2021 - Online

Present:	Elo Acland	Youth Community Support Agency (YCSA)
	Marzanna Antoniak	Govanhill Thriving Places
	Kim Blyth	The Glad Café
	Tracey Burns	Families Outside
	Meg Camley	Home Start Glasgow South
	Ruth Cape	SEIN
	Susan Clark	The Dixon Community
	Naomi Clarke	The Sound Lab
	Margaret Daly	Empower Women for Change
	Lilian Delaney	Home Energy Scotland
	Lisa Doherty	GMAC Film
	Jola Dolewska	SEIN / South Seeds
	Marion Eele	Govanhill Community Development Trust
	Hayden Foreman-Smith	Govanhill Baths Community Trust
	Ruth Forsythe	SEIN / Finn's Place
	Andrea Gillespie	The Hidden Gardens
	Sabine Goodwin	Independent Food Aid Network
	Shaunagh Jones	The National Lottery Community Fund
	Vicky Kakos	The Wee Retreat
	Karen Krawczyk	SEIN
	Rachel Krofcheck	Youth Community Support Agency (YCSA)
	Hazel Kyle	Glasgow Life
	Anna Lomas	Govanhill Baths Community Trust
	Penny Macleod	SEIN / The Well
	Stephanie McCulloch	NHS Health Improvement Team South
	Kirsty McDonald	The Alliance (Community Links Worker)
	Lorraine McHendry	Govanhill Community Development Trust
	Paddy McKenna	SEIN / Cassiltoun Housing Association
	Caitlin McMullin	Concordia University
	Angie Mwafulirwa	SEIN / Scottish African Women's Network
	Deirdre Nelson	Artist in Residency (Linn Ward)
	Alex Sarkisian	Glasgow Zine Library
	Mahrukh Shaukat	Amina MWRC
	Felix Slavin	Music Broth
	Maureen Smith	Castlemilk Law Centre
	Emma Smart	ENABLE Scotland
	Jess Steele	SEIN
	Jackie Stockdale	Glasgow Community Food Network
	Anne Strachan	Voluntary Sector Voice / PATH Scotland

Apologies: Gregor Cree (Active Life Club), Godsai (Glendale Women's Café), Grace Gracie (Families Outside), Kirsty Hood (Queens Park Arena), Amra Nazmin (Govanhill Housing Association), Mary Sneddon (SEMDC), Rumpus Room

1. Welcome

Meeting chaired by Jola.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed by Vicky, Seconded by Stephanie

3. Board Update

Office bearers updates

Sadly Penny and Ruth F will soon be stepping down as Chair and Treasurer of the SEIN board, but we are thrilled to announce that current board member Angie will be taking up the Chair position. Penny and Angie will co-chair for the next few months as we make the transition.

The opportunity to join the board is still open (particularly for the role of treasurer), please get in touch if you are interested.

We are currently planning board development and orientation, which makes it a great time to join the board.

4. Staff Update

Welcome to Jess

A warm welcome to Jess, who is joining her first network meeting in-post, having started as SEIN's new Communications & Admin Officer at the beginning of January.

Training Programme with Evaluation Support Scotland

We finished this training programme, with positive feedback from those who participated. Anyone who didn't get a chance to do this, there are lots of free resources & training [on the Evaluation Support Scotland website](#). Ruth will be working on a training schedule for the member groups, and will be in touch soon with information about that. For SEIN members: if there are any topics that you would value training on, please get in touch with Ruth.

SEIN Evaluation System

We are developing our own evaluation systems and will be using a short survey to gather feedback from the network meetings. [Please fill out the survey if you can.](#)

Asylum Migration and Integration Fund

Managed by COSLA, this is a new fund which should be open at the start of March with a 6-8 week turn around (timescales yet to be confirmed). The aim is to meet the outcomes of the New Scots Integration Strategy. It's open to unincorporated organisations, particularly encouraging applications from refugee-led groups, with

joint applications welcome. We can support with facilitating joint applications or applying for our members. Ruth will keep you updated as more information is released about this.

SEIN Funding

A reminder that we are no longer providing project grants.

Mears Mother and Baby Unit

New accommodation has been opened by Mears last month near the Gorbals to house mothers and babies who are asylum seekers. There is a lot of concern about the conditions and the way people have been moved. Various organisations are looking into it and gathering evidence of the concerns. If you are working with anyone in the unit, or if you hear of any experiences that you want to share, get in touch with Ruth. Updates will continue going forward.

SEIN Newsletter Submission

Jess has created a newsletter submission form [which can be found on the SEIN website](#). Please use this going forward to submit any updates or opportunities you want to be included in the SEIN newsletter.

Jess's contact information

Contact Jess at: jess@seinglasgow.org.uk / 0795 5083 385

5. Presentation: The Impact of the Digital on Migration Integration Services - Caitlin McMullin, Concordia University

Caitlin has been doing research about migrant integration services since last March, which has become centred around how migrant integration services are functioning during the pandemic, and the transition to online service delivery.

The key points of the research are as follows:

- The first challenge of moving to online service delivery is the lack of access or consistent access to technology and/or the internet. Something which is not new to those living in poverty. The main difference is the fact that households require more than one device as home schooling and homeworking are the norm, many households don't have this, and it has presented a challenge when connecting with service users.
- The second is the issue of trust and communication, a lot of people said there had been a decrease in engagement with their service users. Some of this is about doing things online generally, and some of this is about doing things on particular platforms such as Facebook or Zoom. Working with clients who have low levels of English becomes really complicated when the in-person element is removed.
- Thirdly the breaching of the public-private divide has been flagged as services and service users are now essentially letting people into their homes. This makes work and private life difficult to separate.

- Finally, it was raised that it hasn't been all bad; there have been fewer missed appointments, and the need to no longer travel has given access to clients that wouldn't access services otherwise.

Discussion Feedback

- South Seeds have noted an increase in engagement with their energy services, likely because of the increased need due to financial hardship. People in the community found it easier to call than come to in person appointments.
- HomeStart found most of their services users didn't want to transition to online support, so they have continued to train volunteers to provide remote support. HomeStart were able to access funding to supply devices for families.
- Cassiltoun Housing Association have found a general increase in participation after a few months and have heard feedback from people that they are very welcoming of things being online because they are normally housebound due to health reasons, as well as lone parents. They are planning on setting up an advisory panel to incorporate the digital when in-person returns.
- Amina MWRC have found that facilitating online spaces has been challenging at points, particularly with group sessions and being able to interpret the needs of group members during the session now that body language is harder to read and technology issues can create a disconnect. Planning these sessions has to be thought through very differently compared to an in-person session.
- Caitlin noted that group activities had been the most difficult to transition to due to multiple languages and vulnerabilities of individuals.

You can read Caitlin's blog about her findings [on the SEIN website](#), which also links to the full research report. The research is still ongoing, so if you would like to contribute, comment or ask any questions, you can contact Caitlin at caitlin.mcmullin@concordia.ca

6. Breakout Groups

The meeting split in to break out groups. The groups were invited to discuss the following questions:

- **What's working well for you at the moment?**
- **Is the current lockdown presenting any new challenges for you?**
- **Have you noticed any needs in the community that aren't being addressed?**

Below is a summary of some of the notes from the group discussions:

Working well

- With funding, have been able to provide clients with devices so they can now access groups etc – this has increased engagement (Empower Women for Change)

- prioritising making sure that people who have limited English are supported to take part in online events by working with ESOL teachers, community groups etc. (Govanhill Community Development Trust)
- Secured government funding to give carers a break (The Dixon Community)
- Have increased what they're doing as a result of running online sessions, instrument delivery (with help of volunteers) (Music Broth)
- More contact with clients now, due to phone calls (The Alliance - Community Links Workers)

New Challenges

- There is still a sense that this is temporary, and that we will only be doing this for a few more months, this has had an impact on the overall progress of orgs, as a lot of us are still functioning in a reactionary state/unsure how to progress.
- Planning for next financial year is difficult due to unpredictability of restrictions
- Working with homeless people is a struggle (difficult to assess cases over the phone)
- Fears about how, when Covid is over, the system will catch up with the mountain of paperwork that has not been signed off. This could have implications for funding if funders are not able to access the information they need.

Gaps in services

- Lots of people say they don't know how to use Zoom and language can be a barrier to understanding how to use it. It would be good to have videos in different languages that explain how to get onto Zoom as a starting point. *(Glasgow Life trained local digital connectors who can work with people in the community to explain how to use different technologies in their own languages)*
- Some families only have phones as their main device which can be harder for accessing groups.
- Families may not want to admit to not having the money to top up data etc.
- Lack of private space in the home is an ongoing problem for many *(outdoor spaces like The Hidden Gardens can be a great resource to combat this - weather permitting! Need to increase awareness of these spaces)*

7. Updates

Sound Lab – We have a new project called 'Beats without Borders' a free project open to anyone with an interest in DJing, percussion, strings or music production. The project will run for 10 sessions on a Wednesday from 6.30pm-8pm starting on Wednesday 10th February, and a translation service is available. Contact thesoundlab@live.co.uk for more information.

GMAC Film – We have some funding to do a focus group for a new project which is currently in development called GMAC Action. This will combine youth development, social action and film making. We are looking for participants to form

the focus group, so if anyone is working with young people who are 16+, who potentially aren't engaging in education, training etc, we'd like their input. We're also looking for feedback and advice from partners. Any community organisations that would be interested in hosting a small group of young people to do some voluntary work please contact Lisa@gmacfilm.com

Govanhill Community Development Trust – We have new ESOL teachers who have joined recently and are facilitating a wide range of ESOL classes. We can provide classes for all abilities and are looking for referrals. Contact: lmchendry@govanhillha.org

Home Energy Scotland – We're just as busy as we ever were if not more so, and are trying our best to work with community development organisations, to make sure no-one is over looked, by providing interpretation services and finding different ways of doing things. We're offering lots of extra training for staff groups to support people in fuel poverty. Please contact lilian.delaney@sc.homeenergyscotland.org, if you are working with those experiencing fuel poverty and need support.

Govanhill Baths – We have [launched a wellbeing postcard service](#) – distributing free postcard packs in Govanhill; through shops, community groups & GP practices. Each pack contains 6 commissioned designs with simple activities or exercises which people can follow to improve their wellbeing. Contact Hayden (new Wellbeing Development Worker): hayden@govanhillbaths.com

Govanhill International Festival happening in August. If anyone would like to get involved please contact arts@govanhillbaths.com

For those who don't know, the People's Pantry is open on Cathcart Road for subsidised food shopping for those living in G41/42

Amina MWRC – A reminder that we have a hardship fund; you can find out more about the conditions of funding on our website. We can provide an online interpretation service, so language shouldn't be an issue. Contact hardshipfund@mwrc.org.uk or call the freephone helpline on 0808 801 0301

We also have a Financial Advocate Officer, contact mahrukh@mwrc.org.uk if you would like to be connected, or have any financial support services which you would like us to refer to.

[We have our Emerging Futures exhibition coming up on the 11th of March](#)

We are running a Facebook live session today (9th Feb) on mythbusting about the vaccine & will have several translated resources about this following the session. You can find a recording of the session on [Amina MWRC Facebook page](#).

We are running digital inclusion "Chai with me" sessions, contact Fakhriya@mwrc.org.uk

Enable Scotland – We provide employability support for those age 16+. The support is varied and can be around action planning, confidence building, goal setting etc. We can offer this on a one-to-one basis. We also have group work & personal development award courses which are currently being run remotely.

Inspiring Scotland Stage 1

1:1 support available for participants who:

- Are 16/17 years old
- Have been impacted by COVID
- Have an ASN or other barriers
- Can be enrolled in school but not engaging/ left school with no positive destination

Contact: Marie McNeilage marie.mcneilage@enable.org.uk 07552277379 or Karen Gillhaney ksg@enable.org.uk 07889456302

Employability Fund Stage 2 & 3

- Delivery: Remote delivery through the platform Zoom (Wi-Fi required and smartphone/tablet/laptop required)
- Duration: 10 weeks (2 days a week for 2.5 hours each day)
- Eligibility: Participants must not be in education, employment, on any other training programme or with an accepted College/University place

Participants will be shown and supported to:

- Achieve their Level 3 SQA Personal Development Award
- Create a CV
- General employability skills

emma.smart@enable.org.uk or 07552 277 389

www.enableworks.org.uk

HSCP South Glasgow Health Improvement Team – We work to support and promote a variety of public health initiatives for the whole community. There will be familiarisation sessions for the [We Journey Together](#) Resource, which shares the lived experience of the asylum system. The issues that are being faced by asylum seekers and refugees have been raised with the HSCP Equalities group and actions will come from that. Contact stephanie.mcculloch@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

There will be training available from the self-harm forum, the information will be available at the end of February.

Independent Food Network – We are doing some work along side The Trussell Trust and Glasgow Community Food Network, to develop cash first referral leaflets or money advice leaflets that will help support people access advice to find financial entitlements and Scottish welfare funds. If anyone is interested in being involved or finding out more about our Cash First Project and cash first referral leaflets visit the [website for more information](#). Contact: sabine@foodaidnetwork.org.uk

YCSA – Safe Happy Confident Programme for 16 – 25yr olds from BAME backgrounds who are at risk of homelessness or on the edge of the criminal justice system. We have some new opportunities coming up.

- A creative project around plants and growing, and art and photography. It's for 16 – 25yr old refugees and asylum seekers. Will be delivered remotely and will be good for making friends and practicing English. Starting late March.

- We will be providing one-to-one mentoring, and pairing up young people with their mentor to work on goal setting, C.V improvement, interview skills and signposting. We will be advertising soon for recruiting mentors and mentees.

Contact eloiseacland@ycsa.org.uk Programme Lead or rachelkrofcheck@ycsa.org.uk Development Worker

Glasgow Life – Online registration is now open for upcoming Glasgow Code Learning (GCL) digital skills courses. All courses are free, SQA accredited and delivered online by Glasgow Clyde College;

Intermediate level GCL Developer Courses

- Cyber Security at SCQF Level 5 (next courses start 15th Feb & 29th March)
- Web Design at SCQF Level 5 (next courses start 15th Feb & 29th March)
- Software Development at SCQF Level 6 (next courses start 15th Feb & 29th March) Register here [Top Level GCL Pro Courses](#)
- Cyber Resilience at SCQF Level 7 (next course starts 15th March)
- Software Development at SCQF Level 7 (next course starts 15th March)

Please get in touch if you'd like more information by emailing glasgowcodelearning@glasgowlife.org.uk. The courses are flexible and we can provide laptops.

The Wee Retreat – We have two new free course running:

- Post-natal Pilates 6-week course Wednesdays 10th February - 17th March 10.30am -11.30am
- Mindfulness for Carers 4-week course, Tuesdays 2.30-3.15pm 16th Feb- 9th March

[Booking for both courses can be found online.](#)

The Hidden Gardens – We're hoping to recruit new volunteers for the gardens, particularly G41/42. We've also got funding to engage people with the garden. IF anyone would like to refer families or individuals to meet with a member of staff and show them all the things available at/in the gardens please get in touch andrea@thehiddengardens.org.uk

Our Men's Group is running online for any south side men who want to join. Contact Grace@thehiddengardens.org.uk

Linn Ward (Artist in Residence) – Deirdre has recently started an artist residency for Linn Ward. She is planning a project about food, and food inequality, and would be interested in connecting with anyone who would like some art input in those areas. She is also doing a 'commoning' project; creating a map of the projects in the local area that are for the common good. [Watch this shortfilm about the commons project.](#) Contact d.stitched@btopenworld.com

Voluntary Sector Voice - is the voluntary sector network for south Glasgow and we are co-ordinating the community response programme in the south. Under this programme, anyone who is isolating and can afford to pay for shopping, etc. will be referred to an organisation that will provide volunteers who will go to shops, walk dogs, etc. For more information, contact annejb14@gmail.com or 07947 402166.

PATH Scotland - Positive Steps programme supports people from BAME backgrounds in the south of Glasgow who are unemployed or under-employed. Contact Najimee or Tracey on info@pathscotland.org.uk or 0141 332 9477.

Path Scotland is also facilitating a customer services traineeship available with Elderpark Housing Association. Contact recruitment@pathscotland.org.uk or 0141 332 9477.

Finn's Place – We have six weeks of free classes, with art and paper crafts, focusing on gratitude and positivity creating a gratitude journal. Also another six weeks of collage workshops. All materials are provided.

We also have four sessions of coping at stress in the new normal.

For more info go to finnsplace.org

South Seeds – We are now using our office number as our main contact number for our energy service (0141 636 3959).

We are looking for people in private flats, or homeowners who would benefit from the improvement of their heating systems. Contact: jola@southseeds.org

8. Updates in absence

Queen's Park Arena – Update re. the notice board at the Victoria Road entrance to Queen's Park. QPA are planning on having poetry on one side until events are back and using the other side as a notice board for local organisations (providing a good reach for those who aren't on social media). There's a small box attached to one of the poles where people can drop information or posters before it goes up in the notice board. The board will be updated on a Tuesday, so that people can drop stuff in the box Monday PM or Tuesday AM and it will be displayed. For more info, contact: kirsty@inhouse.scot

9. Notes from Chat

Thriving Places Govanhill - If you work in Govanhill and need information for the community to be translated, we've got a group of volunteer translators who can support: <https://forms.gle/7a6mgPPHnFR2aMJu9>

Work on the Locality Plan for Govanhill is ongoing. Please fill in / [share this survey to help us get the Community Information and Engagement Strategy right](#)

This year's Bhasha Glasgow Language Festival (21-27 February 2021) is organised under the Thriving Places Govanhill initiative. A multitude of local and not so local partners are involved, and the programme of online events will include multilingual song and poetry performances, language taster sessions, talks, and 1-2-1 meetups for the community to get to know someone who speaks a different mother tongue than they do. [We'll be promoting soon here.](#)

10. AOB

Thank you to Jola for chairing this meeting, and to everyone who came along.

We are planning on showing the We Journey Together film, with follow-up discussion, after the next meeting.

11. Dates of Next Meetings

Tuesday 9th March

Tuesday 13th of April