



Minutes of South East Integration Network Meeting

Tuesday 9th March 2021 - Online

Present:	Elio Ajmone	We Are With You
	Leanne Archibald	Mears Housing
	Eileen Baxendale	Castlemilk Community Church
	Chani Bond	Givin' it Laldie
	Sarah Bowers	Youth Community Support Agency (YCSA)
	Ruth Cape	SEIN
	Susan Clark	The Dixon Community
	Naomi Clarke	The Sound Lab
	Cara Craig	Glasgow Community Food Network
	Joanne Craig	Home Start Glasgow South
	Gregor Cree	Active Life Club
	Paul Gallacher	South Seeds
	Romy Galloway	Empower Women for Change
	Godsal	Glendale Women's Café
	Grace Gracie	Families Outside
	Fiona Hamilton	Ardenglen Housing Association
	Tiffany Haraguchi	Youth Community Support Agency (YCSA)
	Leon Healy	Action for Children
	Nabilah Haq	Glendale Women's Café
	Kirsty Hood	Queen's Park Arena
	Angela Ireland	Milk Café
	Zoe Jarvis	Pollokshields Development Agency
	Shaunagh Jones	The National Lottery Community Fund
	Anne Kinghorn	Mears Housing
	Amanda Konoralma	New Creation
	Alexandra Krause	Govanhill Baths Community Trust
	Pip Lawrenson	Macmillan@Glasgow Libraries
	Zac Loudon	Mears Housing
	Reginald Oko-Flex Inya	Migrant Help
	Penny Macleod	SEIN / The Well
	Grace Mark	The Hidden Gardens
	Stephanie McCulloch	NHS Health Improvement Team South
	Laura McEwing	Alliance Scotland
	Margaret Muir	Marie Curie
	Angie Mwafulirwa	SEIN / Sharpen Her
	Amra Nazim	Govanhill Housing Association
	Sohini Petrie	Harikoa
	Yasmine Rahemtulla	Glasgow Social Enterprise Network
	Charlie Reischl	Remade Network
	Maureen Smith	Castlemilk Law Centre
	Jess Steele	SEIN
	Jackie Stockdale	Glasgow Community Food Network

Anne Strachan
Karolis Toleikis
Sean Wai Keung
Michelle Wilson
Jenny Wong
Chris Yeoh

Voluntary Sector Voice
Bike for Good
Home Cooking with Tramway
The National Lottery Community Fund
New Creation
Glasgow Zine Library

Apologies: Kim Blythe (The Glad Café), Meg Camley (Home Start Glasgow South / SEIN), Ruth Forsythe (Finn's Place / SEIN), Kate Hughes (Volunteer Glasgow), Karen Krawczyk (SEIN), Kirsty McDonald (The Alliance), Jen O'Brien (Music Broth)

1. Welcome

Meeting chaired by Penny and Angie.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed by Anne S, Seconded by Naomi

3. Board Update

Office bearers update: Treasurer Opportunity

We'd like to note a huge thank you to Ruth Forsythe, who will be stepping down from the SEIN board soon. Ruth has given a huge amount of time & energy to SEIN in her role as board member over several years. We're particularly grateful for the time she has given as Treasurer over the last couple of years.

We're now looking for someone to join the SEIN board as Treasurer. We hope this can be an opportunity to give someone experience in & we will provide training & support, depending on need. Please take a bit of time to share this opportunity. You can find the [advertisement on the Goodmoves website](#). Deadline is the **14th of March**

4. Staff Update

SEIN Evaluation System

We'd love to hear your feedback on how you find our network meetings and any thoughts you have on how we can improve things. [Please take a moment to fill out the survey](#).

'Capturing SEIN in Illustrations' Focus Group

We are doing some work around developing our brand and would really value SEIN members being involved in this process. We are planning to hire an illustrator (who is connected to the network) to create images which will represent our work & services, which we can use across our website, social media & other publications. It's important that these images reflect what the network means to you.

We will be holding a Focus Group on **Thursday 25th March, 11am-12noon (on Zoom)**, and would like to invite anyone involved in the network to join. Please sign up to join

by sending your name & organisation to Jess at jess@seinglasgow.org.uk / 0795 5083 385

SEIN Newsletter Submission

Thanks to everyone who has used the newsletter submission form so far. Please use this to submit updates and opportunities you wish to be featured in our fortnightly newsletter. [The form can be found on the SEIN website.](#)

5. Presentation: Mears' Mother and Baby Unit (Anne Kinghorn and Leanne Archibald)

Anne K gave a statement about the new Mother and Baby Unit operated by Mears Housing.

The key points of the statement are as follows:

- Overview – 38 individual self-contained unit property, with a welfare team and staff members on site.
- The unit supports pregnant asylum seeking women, and those with one child.
- Mears had in-depth conversations with Glasgow City Council and COSLA who have supported the unit.
- Mears have invested into the property to improve the overall standard and make the rooms self-contained.
- The unit is for women & young babies at any stage in their asylum claim.
- Mears are working with social work to help the women access services
- The unit is manned during normal hours by Mears staff, as well as in the evenings and at weekends. There is a dedicated female concierge team who are on-site to provide support outwith working hours.
- There are robust health and safety measures in place, and an audit system to ensure the ongoing health & safety of the women & children in the unit.
- Mears will support the family until the child's first birthday, then review the housing & support options at this point.
- Mears realises and accepts that the unit is not right for all individuals/families coming into the unit, this will be under review and discussed with the individuals.
- Decisions about movement to another property will be based on the needs of the family.
- Mears will undertake regular feedback surveys from the women in the unit and use these to continually review the services delivered in the unit.
- Mears will work with both third sector and community groups to support the needs of the women and children in the unit.
- All the new women/families coming into the unit are referrals from social work, third sector, health teams and the new Initial Accommodation intake, if that's appropriate for them.
- Future aspirations are for a volunteer English tutor to run English classes.
- There are two communal areas which will be used for external engagement sessions with third sector organisations or statutory visitors.
- Plans to design an external garden space, with input from the women living in the building, and sensory room and library.

Discussion Feedback

- **Q** - The building wasn't deemed fit for young single people, why has it been deemed fit now for mums & babies? **A**- The building has had a whole new makeover and is completely different. It's very fresh, clean & bright. The building is all self-contained, which is one of the reasons that we wanted to use this type of building. We're hoping it works out for what we want it to do, and make it the best home that it can be for the women and babies that we are supporting. **Q** – In the past it was basically bedsit accommodation, does that remain the case? Has the footprint of each room changed? **A** – It's self-contained units. The sizes have not changed from the original footprint. **Q** – So now instead of a single person being in it, it is a mother and her child? **A**- Yes. It's not all children and mums, there are some pregnant ladies in there and some ladies who are there for other reasons. There are a wide variety of different sizes & types of rooms, so there is a degree of flexibility with how we use the accommodation and the team take into consideration individuals requests.
- **Q** - You mentioned that there are women there who are not mums/ expectant mums but you said it was a dedicated mums and babies unit. Can you expand on that? **A**-We use the unit in emergencies (e.g domestic violence) and don't feel it's appropriate to put the women into a hotel. The women are brought in for 1-2 nights before being moved on.
- **Q** – I'm in touch with quite a few of the women in the accommodation, and from what I've seen I'm not sure there was enough consideration about whether this accommodation was appropriate for the women. There was no consultation and there is a no choice basis in the offering of accommodation. From the videos that I've seen of the property, women who have toddlers or kids who are crawling have no space to move around. There's also been issues raised about them accessing services, GPs for example, there has been complaints that it's far from the services. It seems to me the bottom line is the accommodation isn't suitable. What is Mears doing about all this? **A** – Everyone who has come to the unit has been registered with a local GP within walking distance. Women on Section 98 deal with the asylum health bridging team who have a clinic in here, so they will deal with any issues within the unit. The rooms aren't huge, but there are communal areas that the children can go to. **Q** – Some women were concerned about being moved from the areas they were familiar with and having to register with new GPs. I appreciate there are spaces for the children to play in, but mums and kids can't always be going to the play room. What about the times they are in the property? I saw a baby cot right next to a radiator. **A** – The cot next to the radiator was the mum moving the room about, we didn't have the room set up like that. We are reviewing each case when the baby turns one, and if alternative accommodation is required then they will be housed. We're registering the women with a doctor nearby. I understand they might not want to change doctor, but they need someone close to where they're living.
- **Q** – To what degree were residents consulted and properly understood the implications of the move? What was actually done there? How was that

presented to the prospective residents? **A** – The first ladies who arrived received a letter from Mears to tell them they would be moving. They also had a least two telephone calls with the resident welfare manager, who explained the move and what they were moving to, and advised that it was a studio flat. So they were made aware at the start that that was the case. We have since realised we should have done more of an assessment with the ladies and that is something we are going to change going forward. **Q**- So, what you're saying is that the assessment prior to most of the current residents going in was basically inadequate? **A** – Yes, well not most of them. We had a safeguarding issue at the start; we had a lot of babies born during lockdown and these mums were sharing properties with unrelated single females, so the first ladies that came here came out of that situation. So for us, it was about safeguarding the mum and baby, and that's what we did by bringing them here. But looking back, Anne and myself (Leanne) and a few others have decided that going forward we will do a more in-depth assessment. However, the ladies that we're receiving now are being referred to us. We've got ladies referred by TARA, social work and the new Section 98 ladies that arrive who are pregnant will come to the unit. Going forward, we're not going to take anybody out of the community, it will now just be referrals & those who are just arriving in to the system.

6. **Breakout Groups**

The meeting split in to breakout groups.

7. **Updates**

Empower Women for Change – Ongoing activities include a sewing club and cycling when permitted. Low Carbon Community Swap Shop. [Free food parcels for asylum seeking or vulnerable women](#) . [Thistles & Dandelions Heritage Group Newsletter](#). [Counselling services](#).

Queens's Park Arena - The noticeboard has been activated at the entrance to Victoria Road, for the next two months we can use it for posters / flyers about local services. There's a wee post box fixed to the noticeboard which will be updated on Tuesdays, so post anything in there on a Sunday or Monday. Next month we will be launching a project called Shared Spaces; a big community art project over the steps of the amphitheatre which will double up as a socially distanced seating plan - we are looking for interested groups to participate in sessions. We're really keen for this to be an intergenerational project and hope to work with young people, lone parents and older people. Contact kirsty@inhouse.scot for more details.

Milk Café – We are [hiring a digital support assistant](#) (deadline 12th March) – please spread the word. We will be holding weekly digital inclusion workshops. We have free legal sessions for next four Mondays (9-5) for anyone concerned about the EU Settled Status scheme, [book an appointment](#) or drop in. We are also running an ESOL art class on a Tuesday (women only): [Zoom link can be accessed here](#).

Ardenglen Housing Association (Castlemilk Pantry) - Opening new Community Pantry next month which will be in the Community Centre in Castlemilk (opposite

The Braes Shopping Centre). It will be a £1 annual membership and for £2.50 around £15 worth shopping. Contact: Fiona.hamilton@ardenglen.org.uk

Community Links at We Are With You – We are continuing to work with three GP practices (two south, one north), and are expanding referrals from asylum health bridging team (specific to individuals who are about to be moved to their own tenancies from hotels). Also getting referrals from GAMH, and generally expanding remit across the city. Contact: elio.ajmone@wearewithyou.org.uk

Glasgow Community Food Network – Introduction from the new Community Response Officer for the south side, Cara Craig (CaraC_GCFN@outlook.com). Cara is working with Glasgow Community Food Network and Govanhill Community Development Trust. They are working around sustainable food chains, partnership work, food dignity etc. Cara is able to provide sign-posting and advice.

Castlemilk Community Church - Our helpline number for emergency furniture help is 0739 318 3334

New Creation - Here to help young people from BME, refugee, asylum, and migrant communities (especially those with special needs) to increase their employability by providing free-online training.

Youth Leadership Mentoring Scheme (secondary school students age 16 or above):
Every Tuesday, 5-7pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#) Meeting ID: 832 7352 7347 Passcode: 412746

Career Development Mentoring Scheme (BME Undergrad & Postgrad students):
Every Friday, 5-7pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#) Meeting ID: 892 4910 7693 Passcode: 807779

[Please visit our website](#). Contact: info@newcreationbme.org

Govanhill Baths – We are continuing to run our well-being activities. Govanhill Baths Community Trust's Capacity Building programme is offering targeted mentorship for three organisations to develop confidence and excellence in setting up community fridges and pantries across Glasgow and beyond. Get in touch via email on community@govanhillbaths.com or 0141 433 2999

YCSA – Lots of activities happening at the moment:

- Mending Our Planet Programme, for ages 10-25, "Climate Literacy Class" : Fri 5:30-7:30pm
- "Sewing and Upcycling Classes" Mon 5:30-7:30pm
- "Young Leaders Forum," Tue 5:30-7:30pm (biweekly)
- Healthy Young Minds Programme, "Free Counselling/Art Therapy" for ages 10-25 in Pollokshields & Govanhill: Thurs 4-5pm
- YCSA's Young People Programme, Online "Homework Club" Tue/Thu 5:30pm

Upcoming:

- Safe, Happy, Confident Programme, for ages 16-25, "Paints and Plants" to start Mon 22/3 4:30-5:45pm

- "Radio / Podcasting Club" – Every Saturday, to start 10th April 1pm to 3pm
- "Spring Holiday Week" for ages 12-18, 5/4-9/4 11am-4pm, may be face-to-face
- New Tracks Partnership / Community Renewal "Juniors and Girls Group" to start 7th/8th of April.
- Also, YCSA and Urban Roots "John Muir Award" to start 19th of May-October Holiday (all dates subject covid restrictions)
- "Summer School Leavers Employability Programme" for ages 14-18, dates TBC

We are now recruiting volunteers to support and mentor young people. Please contact us with interest or questions: sarahbowers@ycsa.org.uk (development worker) or tiffanyharaguchi@ycsa.org.uk (volunteer coordinator).

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; looking at promoting 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, more information will be available soon.

The Hidden Gardens – The Gardens are open Tuesday to Sunday, free to visit, entry is via Pollokshaws Road. Men's Group is running Tuesdays 1pm. Cultural Cookery show Thursdays 12pm on Facebook live. [Tai Chi \(online\)](#) Fridays 10am on Facebook live (starting 19th March). Contact Grace@thehiddengardens.org.uk

South Seeds – New contact number: 0141 636 3959 + press 1 for Energy Officer. We are still supporting those in fuel poverty/debt. Tool library now open Saturdays 12-2pm, order by midnight Thursday to collect Saturday.

Bike for Good – both shops are open for repairs. We are still running our [key worker campaign](#). Skills and development from April build your own bike for young adults (16-25) and refugees/asylum seekers (no age limit). [Find out more here](#)

Glasgow Zine Library - Glasgow Zine Fest, 1st-30th April 2021 - [Full programme of talks, workshops, online zine fair and more!](#)

Macmillan@Glasgow Libraries - We are still providing free emotional, practical and financial support for anyone affected by cancer (one off or regular phone calls) Contact macmillan@glasgowlife.org.uk

Glendale Women's Café – looking for advice about computer skills programmes available.

Replies:

[Glasgow Life has the Digi-PALS helpline for software support questions](#)

Glasgow Clyde College's GIFT-TECH opportunity has reopened. Partners should submit the attached referral form on behalf of individuals or families who would benefit greatly by receiving a PC device. All assets will be distributed on the basis of assessed need and are subject to availability at all times. For further Information contact gift-tech@glasgowclyde.ac.uk

Thriving Places Govanhill are offering 1-1 training.

Milk will be starting up Computer Skills Workshops starting up in a few weeks (dates tbc). Please send us an email if you'd like to refer someone/get more info: hellomilkcafe@gmail.com

[GCVS and GCC have worked together to organise computers](#), internet connections and training to reduce digital exclusion in the city. Contact DigitalInclusionFund@GCVS.org.uk

SCVO [Digital Participation Funds](#) (currently open)

Home Cooking with Tramway - Details for a new community engagement project with Tramway exploring food culture and memories in Govanhill and Pollokshields - [more details can be found here](#).

Sharpen Her: The African Women's Network - Celebrating 2nd anniversary/International Women's Day/Mother's Day event. Saturday 13th March. Contact: angie@sharpenher.org.uk / 07575907597

9. **Notes from Chat**

The Sound Lab - All are welcome to join our free Beats Without Borders musical meetups until the end of March, running Wednesdays from 6:30-8pm. We can provide instruments and translation services if needed. Email thesoundlab@live.co.uk if interested and please pass on to anyone who might like to come along!

Action for Children - Here at Action for Children we run various fully funded employability programmes for 16-24 year olds throughout the year. Email me at Leon.healy@actionforchildren.org.uk and I can add you to our mailing list

Voluntary Sector Voice – Voluntary Sector Voice is the voluntary sector network for the south of Glasgow. We're still looking for a voluntary sector representative on the Southside Central Area Partnership, and substitute reps for the other Area Partnerships. The reps help ensure the views of the voluntary sector are heard within community planning processes locally. If you, or someone else in your organisation, might be interested, or you would like more information, please get in touch: voluntarysectorvoice@gmail.com / 07947 402166.

If you know of anyone who can't (or doesn't want to) go out, the Community Response Project can provide volunteers to pick up shopping & prescriptions, walk dogs, etc. The service can be accessed via Glasgow Helps or directly from the

participating organisations. For more information, contact:
voluntarysectorvoice@gmail.com

10. AOB

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

A showing & discussion of 'We Journey Together' was held after the meeting; a film and accompanying resource highlighting the experiences of people going through the UK asylum system. Contact stephanie.mcculloch@ggc.scot.nhs.uk to find out more.

Please fill out the [feedback form for the meeting](#) if you can.

11. Dates of Next Meetings

Tuesday 13th April

Tuesday 11th May