**Notes and Actions from the Children First Pioneer Areas Meeting**

**Government Buildings, Spa Road East, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5HA**

**21 September 2018**

**Present:**

**Children First Pioneer Areas/Partner Organisations**

Lindsey Watkins (LW), Newport

Sarah Mutch (SM), Caerphilly

Sal West (SW), Caerphilly

Noeline Thomas (NT), Carmarthenshire

Caryl Alban (CA), Carmarthenshire

Angharad Stephens (AS), Cwm Taf

Diane Jones (DJ), Cwm Taf

Catrin Thomas (CT), Gwynedd

Caryl Lewis (CL), Gwynedd

Paula McCormark (PM), Wallsend Children’s Community

Emma Peak (EP), Wallsend Children’s Community

Yolanda Marshall (YM), Wallsend Children’s Community

Catherine Rees (CR), Save the Children

Louise Davies (LD), Save the Children

**Non Pioneer areas**

Angeline Spooner-Cleverly (AS-C), Neath Port Talbot CBC

Hazel Cryer (HC), ACE (Action in Caerau and Ely)

Terry Decker (TD), Conwy CBC

Jo Hughes (JH), Powys CBC

Deb Job (DJ), Conwy CBC

Ian Rees (IR), Neath Port Talbot CBC

**Welsh Government**

Hayley Collicott (HC)

Lucie Griffiths (LG)

Sarah Melkevik (SMe)

Wayne Warner (WW)

**Apologies:**

Karen Cornish (Welsh Government), David Pearce (Welsh Government), Claire Hutcheon (Cwm Taf), Sally Ann-Jenkins (Newport), Marissa Moon (Barnardos), Emma Saunders (Caerphilly)

1. **Welcome and introductions**

WW welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

The purpose of this meeting is to facilitate an opportunity for the Children First Pioneers and Non-Pioneers to hear and learn from the experiences of the Wallsend Children’s Community.

WW explained that there was a need to reorganise the agenda in order to ensure that the Wallsend party would be able to make their onward travel connections.

The Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care is visiting with Deb Job in North Wales on 1st October.

1. **Wallsend Children’s Community workshop**



PM gave an overview of the approach of the Wallsend Children’s Community which focussed on lessons learnt around governance, impact and evaluation.

PM gave the group an overview of the background to Wallsend.

* PM, EP and YM are employed by Save the Children.
* The Children’s Community was established in 2016.
* It is based on a Schools partnership of 13 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and 2 special schools.

The focus of the work in Wallsend, so far, has been in addressing a Local System Change Framework and a culture of local systems change.

Their methodology has involved:

* Building relationships;
* Identifying influencers;
* Relationship mapping;
* Identifying typical behaviours;
* Working with the Mayor and Cabinet;
* Setting their work within the context of the local area;
* Beginning with the end in mind;
* Think about the work in relation to the 19 year old who is not yet born.

Their framework focusses on behaviours, how services behave, how users behave, how they behave.

Their Framework includes

* Clarity about the big picture –children’s wellbeing is part of a set of truly adaptive, complex systems.
* Deciding our intent as we set out to improve the system –how have we defined our role, and the system?
* Deciding what principles and practices will we adopt?
* Seeking to enquire into the system –see, understand, look for strengths and opportunities. This guides our interventions, which provide rich learning

The group session asked groups to discuss their respective experiences in the context of one of the ten items on the framework.

Key to the Wallsend approach is having PM, EP and YM as a core group who are not part of the system in terms of delivery.

They need to consider how the team or system is future proofed.

They recognised the importance of a strong governance structure. PM implemented a Governance review to try and address the question – Particularly questioning ‘Why good governance?’

They have focussed much of their attention on process evaluation, especially how systems have changed as a result of children’s Community activity.

PM gave an example in terms of evaluation around a project on oral health. They believed that the evidence Health Needs Assessment was telling them to address poor oral health. They set up a seedcorn funded project with Public Health. YM described how evidence gathered could contradict the assumptions which had be made and demonstrated that there had been an improvement in oral health outcomes unrelated to the project.

1. **Welsh Government Update (Pioneer Areas only)**

**Action:** Any comments on the minutes which have been circulated previously please send to SMe.

* All of the Theory of Change (ToC) workshops have now been completed.
* Next steps are for Welsh Government to feed the individual ToC’s to a Welsh Government ToC.
* WW and SMe gave an update on the SEED funding bid. Welsh Government asked for clarification on some of the bids. We have received two out of the five amended bids.
* Once all of them are received we will be taking a decision quickly and will hopefully feedback the decision asap.
* WW questioned how the Pioneer meetings should be conducted going forward and whether the leads found them useful to share practice between themselves and bring in other experts as necessary. For example Welsh Government has invited the Wellbeing of Futures Generations Commissioner and Children’s Commissioner for Wales to the December meeting. The leads agreed with this as a good approach to making the most of these meetings.
* Discussion took place about a repository to store best practice, share learning that could be accessed by Pioneers and Non Pioneers.

**Action:** Create a community of practice by sharing contact details for Pioneers and Non-Pioneers – SMe.

**Action:** Circulate the respective ToC’s to all Pioneers and Non-Pioneers – SMe.

**Action:** Set up a repository to share and access best practice, shared learning that could be accessed by Pioneers and Non Pioneers – LG and SMe.

1. **AOB and Finish**

None

**Dates for next meeting: 4 December 2018 in Ysgol Pen Rhos, Llanelli**