VRYGROND & LAVENDER HILL Child Protection Forum

16th April 2019

Village Care Centre Lavender Hill

**­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­ATTENDANCE:** Marion Thomas (KBSJSRA), Samantha Gorridon (KBSJSRA), Avril Thomas (Living Hope), Exsaviour Mutabana (VCC), Candice Domingo (VCC), Imelda April (DSD), Wendy (DSD), Lorraine Moko (Sozo Foundation), Prudence Nitshangase (WRB MEET), Janice King (WCSCF), Chery Abrahams (Learning In Reach), Valencia Lottering(VCC), Colleen Brookes-Gain (WCSCF).

**APOLOGIES:** Helga Haupt (DSD)

1. **Welcome.** Janice welcomed everyone and asked that each introduce themselves and give a brief history of their organisation
2. **Minutes & matters arising.**

Marion accepted and Lorraine seconded the minutes.

Correction of the previous Minutes:

1. New World Foundation in Capricorn has Social Workers on duty Mon- Wed, 9:00 – 14:00 Intake Only.

Action points of last meeting:

1. Marion sent the dates of the Muizenberg SAPS Forum Meetings for the year
2. Lorraine to connect with *Rene Roman Corporation* as Guest Speaker for the 11th June
3. Janice to show the FB clip with regard to the Guardian App
4. Action points for this meeting: Muizenberg SAPS email address to be on the next campaign.
5. **The Guardian App:**

Janice showed the short Advert.

1. **Reiterate the Importance of Screening and Vetting:**

**Anyone** who works with children need to be screened on the Sex offenders Register and the child Protection Register (form 29 and form 30) including gardeners/ cooks/ caretakers.

If you are found to be on these registers you may not work with children as research shows there is no real proof of rehabilitation.

To be screened against the CPR and the SOR by *The Guardian* costs R300 per person and the results are available within 10-14 days.

Depending on size of organsiation, 2 organisations can be done in one sitting - roughly 1 hour per organisation.

For transparency purposes, a Certificate of compliance is issued to the organisations who have had their people screened.

1. **Guests: DSD Metro South Designated Social Workers**

DSD has extended their services as far as Marina Da Gama. With regard to children from Capricorn being found in Fish hoek, Helga does the intake and then sends reports to Elroy Adams in Wynberg.

DSD has taken over Lavender Hill and Capricorn. The teams are still the same and the intake is still the same.

They would like 2 teams for Intake but turnover is still too high.

2 Teams are Intake & Statutory- with 6 Social workers and 3 Social Auxiliary Workers.

**Wynberg Office:**  covers Mowbray, N2, Ottery, Parkwood, Houtbay.

**Grassy Park Office:** covers Retreat, Grassy Park, Zeekoevlei, Princess Vlei, Heathfield, Baden Powell, Steenberg

**Fish Hoek Office**:

**Child Welfare** handles the areas: Pumlani, Pelican Park, Lotus River.

**Fostercare** is handled by Judy Esterhuizen at DSD Metro South: Rosmead.

Questions raised:

1. Can VCC refer a child to DSD with **behavioural problems?**

* Yes

Action: Janice to speak to TK from DSD with regard to VCC and the Isibindi early intervention program.

1. Can DSD train organisations to work with **Youth in conflict with the Law?**

* Yes, DSD can. It’s also an accredited preventative program.

1. What is ISIBINDI?What do they do and how does it work?

* Janice suggested having to someone from the Isibindi program to speak at the August meeting.

1. Where do we work and where do we stop? Do we refer to DSD knowing the case will be out of our hands completely?

* The best way to know that is to clarify your vision/ mission statement with regard to what you can do. DSD doesn’t have the capacity to deal with all the cases; so, use your discretion. Please don’t leave it until the problem becomes statutory. If you are unclear, then please give us a call.

1. Chery needs advice regarding referrals?

* She can contact Exsaviour at VCC who is willing to assist.

1. With regard to confidentiality issues at the meetings, DSD voiced their concern surrounding terms of references to be used.

* It was suggested that there be subforums that could meet and discuss the finer details.

FYI - Definitions of a child in need of care and protection are:

1. **Has been abandoned or orphaned and is without any visible means of support;**
2. **Displays behaviour which cannot be controlled by the parent or caregiver;**
3. **Lives or works on the street or begs for a living;**
4. **Is addicted to a dependence-producing substance and is without visible means of support to** obtain treatment for such a dependency;
5. Has been exploited or lives in circumstances that **expose a child to exploitation;**
6. Lives in or is exposed to circumstances which may seriously harm that child’s physical, mental or social well-being;
7. May be at risk if returned to the custody of the parent, guardian or care-giver of the child as there is reason to believe that he or she will be exposed to circumstances which may seriously harm…
8. **Is in a state of physical or mental neglect;**
9. Is being maltreated, abused, deliberately neglected or degraded by a parent who has parental responsibilities and rights or a family member of the child or by a person under whose control the child is.

(2) A child found in the following circumstances

1. **A child who is a victim of child labour;**
2. A child in a child headed household;

**A child in need of care and protection must be referred for investigation by a designated social worker.**

1. **OTHER**

DSD brought to the attention that AGAPE trains community people as safety parents. The training runs over 6 weeks.

1. **Next meeting: 11 June 2019**