

Northern Suburbs Street Children’s Meeting

8th February 2018

9:00 – 12:00

Durbanville Council Chambers

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Present: Nick Van Rooyen (TEAHMO), Cornette Roodman (Durbanville Library), Magdalene Koch (Durbanville Children’s Home), Wendy Bosse (Olympians), Jalylene Jemane (SD &ECD CCT), Lorraine Waterboer (Badisa Scottsdene), Emma Brown (Lindelani), Colleen Brookes-Gain (WCSCF), Janice King (WCSCF)

Apologies: Stacey Doorly-Jones

1. **Welcome and introductions**. Janice welcomed everyone.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** accepted by Nick and seconded by Magdelene
3. **Current Issues On The Street**

**Cape Gate:**

* 5-8 children at Scottsdene Robot; sometimes less sometimes more (9-10years)
* Some 15-16yrs old coming to Cape Gate through Peerless Park and going back home the same way. Seems older persons were in charge of them.

**Challenges:**

* They run away when approached, so trying to assess them on the street wasn’t working.
* They recognize SW’s, then disappear from that robot, but then reappear in Bellville - a merry go-round. Kids streetwise, clever and don’t easily give up info.
* Biggest challenge: general uncooperativeness of parents/caregivers.
* **Placements:** no placement options for children in need of care and protection. Janice continue to lobby DSD wrt to the state of “no placements options**”.**

**Suggestions/Comments:**

* Compiling a **list of names** would be helpful. Build relationships with these children, so they don’t run away. Enlisting help of the newspaper guy at the robot.
* Service providers needed to work together to make this work to allow valuable info to be shared.

Collaborative meeting arranged **for Friday the 16th at 9am** …. DSD, Badisa, Child Welfare, Dept. of Justice, Economics, Health, SAPS Social Crimes unit, Pieter Lourens, Hewitt from Hewlin, Erica Crous and Law enforcement. (Juanita to coordinate)

* **Work done with Parents:** If parents not worked with or held accountable, same pattern of dysfunction and neglect will continue. Kids discharged from CYCC’s back into the unchanged home environments results in a vicious cycle. **What was done with the parents/ caregivers when their child/children were taken away?** Parents were notified and a full assessment was made. Designated SW’s used to do programs with the parents but when the budgets were cut….much preventative work was cut.

**Lindelani:**

Emma Brown (previously working at Lindelani) is now overseeing the “Hub” and says that Lindelani is still the first port of call and orgs need to continue to follow the SOP. Communication with Lindelani from the very start was key to problem solving wrt to placements. It didn’t help if children were just brought there without any prior communication as it generally resulted in chaos. Mr. MacDonald said for practical purposes, taking 3 children at a time to Lindelani was a feasible number.

If however there were more than 3 children, then communicate with Lindelani and together something would be worked out.

FYI: 6 year olds, depending on the assessment and amount of info, are usually sent to a less secure CYCC, but ages 8-10 are housed at ROAR (DeNovo) or Lindelani.

**Education.** Question posed: Who takes responsibility for children not in school/ or who has been suspended and just roaming the streets during school hours?

* Apparently, SAPS said they can only take the children if they are carrying drugs.
* Magdalena said:  **If Children were suspended for 7 days, then they had to be put into a program in SA.** (she will Janice the source of this information)
* Schools in Fisantekraal are totally dysfunctional. Trevor Manuel School was changing as the new principal was keen to work with relevant parties. There had been a company assisting previously but not anymore. Truant officers were collaborating with Trevor Manuel School and are doing follow up on the children. 2 meals are also served at the school, which is instrumental in keeping the children coming to school. Wendy had 6 children in the program at the school, it worked well.

**DIC’S:**

Good news: DSD Children and Families is re-focusing on DIC’s, envisioning a SW for every DIC.

* Any unregistered community based ‘services’ known (ie any Mama or Aunty) having groups of children drop in for breakfast or afterschool…… please send their details to Janice/Colleen. We need to support these**.**
1. **Any other business:**
2. Would be good to invite Dept. of Health and Dept of Education reps to NS meetings. Does anyone have any connections/contacts in these sectors?
3. **Next meeting: 12th April 2018**

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