

Northern Suburbs Street Children’s Meeting

25 February 2015

8:30 - 11am

Durbanville Council Chambers

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Present: Peter Lourens (CCT Law Enforcement), Trevor Johnson (SDECD), Ntombiangeli Matshanyana (CDECD), J. Bester (Communicare), Wilma Pick (VRCID), Theresa Uys (CoCT), Benjamin Martin (DSD), Cassie van Zyl (BBID), Leon Brynard (VCID), Wendy Bosse (LNOC, Olympians), Jantjie Booysen (Ubuntu), Jean Hector (Ubuntu), Lucinda Valentine (Who is my neighbour?), Hewlett De Jager (Hewlin Compassion), Daniel Murray (DRC), Gillian Vugh (Sp?)(DCH), C. Fielding (DCH), T. Kopele (DSD Kraaifontein), L. Xulu (Durbanv Methodist), C.Uys (Private), Maritha Roukema (Durbanville CPF), and Janice Sparg (WCSCF).

Apologies: Elna Francke (Badisa Kraaifontein), Juanita Beukes (Badisa Trio), Vanessa Brink (Badisa Trio), Claude Phyfer (Badisa), Nick van Rooyen (Teahmo), Elmari Jansen van Vuuren (Teahmo), Badisa Social Worker from Fisantekraal, Johan Doubell (DSD),

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Recap - Aims, structure, range and roleplayers - LNOC
3. Public Awareness Campaigns
4. Meetings for the year
5. **Welcome and introductions**

Janice welcomed all present and thanked them for coming. Introductions went around the room.

Minutes of last meeting proposed by Janice and seconded by Benny Martin.

1. **Recap around Aims, Structure, Range, Meetings and Roleplayers**

It was confirmed that the focus of this Forum is on **Children**, not adults. The issues around adults on the street are quite different from those for children on the street, so we limit the discussions to child-related issues. Sometimes a child on the street is part of a family living on the street, in which case the situation will be investigated in relation to the best interests of the child.

Badisa does crisis assessments and in these cases, the child’s attachment to the parents is taken into consideration.

**Comments of Community Roleplayers**

* Hewlin Compassion – Addressing homelessness at night, heightened vulnerability of the child. Groups of children living on the street, who have left their families for good reason. Parents unemployed, on drugs, dysfunctional. Children going to the street to find other role models. Developing a relationship of trust. Early intervention and ongoing contact. Our presence is important as these children will be groomed by adult exploiters if they do not find good role models. Roleplayers need to target the adult exploiters.
* Olympians – New Drop In Centre (Adults and Children) – storing and distributing goods. Also providing sports programmes to children. Wendy: “In most cases, it is not in the best interests of the child to be placed back in the family.”
* Communicare – not only working with children on the street, but children at all levels of need - situation are different for each child. But their findings are that most children who are on the street are already at crisis level – the family has already broken down and family reunification is not going to be effective. There are no vacancies at children’s homes and these children can not usually be placed with a family (foster care). Alternative options need to be explored.
* Ubuntu – Fieldworkers are the eyes and ears of the rest of us. Jantjie volunteered to be the contact person in the event that roleplayers are unable to get hold of the ‘right’ person. He knows who is responsible. Contact No: 073 649 1323 Ubuntu will gather a Database of children on the street.
* DSD -Benny – DSD After Hours Service - 2nd Draft of Policy released: Services only up to 10pm. Also, SAPS needs to understand their dual mandate. Training at a SAPS local office level is necessary. SAPS need to know where the places of safety are.
* Trevor - Many of children on the street are those who have been suspended from Schools. They have home problems, which leads to school problems They get suspended and end up on the street. We need representatives from EDUCATION to attend these meetings.
* Theresa - City has expanded its services to Adults: An additional 70 staff members employed. Voortrekker Rd and Scottsdene Office (Liezl Lombard) mentioned. Final implementation of the Adult Tracking Tool.
* Ntombi - Local Reintegration Officers have been employed to assist Social Workers. More information will be given about this once it becomes available.
* Wilma - Info re the streets found by City Fieldworkers goes back to the City and stops there. Collaboration between City Fieldworkers and CID Fieldworkers needs to improve - better flow/use of info will improve success of all.

**Range of this forum**

Areas already mentioned in previous meetings:

* Belville CBD
* Durbanville CBD
* Brackenfell
* Kraaifontein
* Scottsdene – includes lots of suburbs
* Fisantekraal, Farm areas

The following areas are also included:

* Parow (including Uitsig and Ravensmead)
* Tygerberg

Must get roleplayers from these areas involved. ie. SAPS from Bellville and Parow.

**Action to be taken from here:**

Discussion came round again and again to the need for:

* a **FLOW CHART - who’s working where doing what**. Janice to contact Sam Vos of U-Turn to access their supply chain flow chart developed in recent years. This could then be sent out to all roleplayers who then fill in where they fit in. Suggestion that Badisa fills in first. Roleplayers to include the areas they work in, their role(s) and contact numbers.
* a **Database** of all roleplayers - to inform the flow chart. Including all information of roles & responsibilities, services offered, contact people and contact numbers, hours of service, etc. Theresa Uys and Hewett volunteered to coordinate the Database.
* Understanding of relevant **LAW** at our fingertips – to know it and easily quote it (ie transporting children in unmarked cars, etc.). Badisa best informed to advise on this. Balance between holding roleplayers accountable for their roles, but not blaming. Relationship building for collaboration.
* Central Point for all calls regarding children in need of care and protection. Suggestion was made that Law Enforcement get all the calls. Peter Lourens agreed, saying this will reduce the way organisations are working at cross purposes. Interaction between organisations need to be **coordinated**.

**Durbanville Local Network of Care.** Theresa had asked for the opportunity to introduce the Local Network of Care roleplayers at the meeting. This seemed logical, as often this network runs parallel to networks that work specifically with children, and this does not make sense as there is so much overlap. Organisations include:

1. Wendy (Olympians) - Chair
2. Lucinda (social development student / local church)
3. Mariek (CPF?)
4. Ntombi - DSD Reintegration Officer (City)
5. Methodist Church
6. Lions - responsible for painting new Drop In Centre House.
7. Trauma Counselling - linked to SAPS officers

The LNOC’s biggest challenge was to find a facility to work from, but this has now been achieved and they are getting the Drop In Centre up and running. This centre is also a distribution centre for those who want to give responsibly. They will solve the ‘space’ problem by moving donations quickly! Janice to connect them to the CT DIC Group.

1. **Anti-begging Awareness Campaign.**

Ntombi told us about the Awareness / Give Responsibly Campaign that is taking place this Saturday (28th Feb) in Ridgeworth, Bridgewood, Tygervalley entrance, etc. They were to distribute city pamphlets aimed at adults. They did not have any material regarding child begging, so we agreed that even though it was short notice, we would try to adapt, print and deliver the WCSCF anti-begging pamphlets to the organisers to distribute on the day.

* Lucinda - gather names, logos and contact details of local organisations
* Janice - adapt pamphlet and arrange printing and delivery to Ntombi at City

Lucinda also suggested we start a Facebook Page for the Forum. This could be used to communicate success stories, guidelines directing public involvement, etc.

1. **Meetings for the rest of the year**

Meeting day requested to be adjusted to last THURSDAY of every month. Wednesday not going to work for many due to days that Children’s Courts are open. (These dates were checked with Badisa as a significant roleplayers before confirmation.)

**Times will be 9am to 12noon**.

Dates for the rest of the year follow - please **note venue changes** for some dates:

Thursday, 26th March - Durbanville Council Chambers

 23rd April - RSC Durbanville Committee Room A&B in admin building

 28th May - Durbanville Council Chambers

 25th June - RSC Durbanville Committee Room A&B in admin building

 30th July - Durbanville Council Chambers

 27th August - RSC Durbanville Committee Room A&B in admin building

 1st October - Durbanville Council Chambers

 29th October - Durbanville Council Chambers

 26th November - Durbanville Council Chambers

Please diarise and set aside. We need your partnership in this process.

Together we can do more!

1. **Next Meeting**: Thursday, 26th March 2015, 9am - 12noon, Durbanville Council Chambers.



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