

Northern Suburbs Street Children’s Meeting

23 April 2021

10 -11:30

Zoom Meeting

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Present: Jannis Cloete (Badisa Kraaifontein), Amber Rose Foster (Badisa Kraaifontein), Danielle Arch (Badisa Scottsdene) Wilma Piek (VRCID), Nadine Samuels (Badisa Bellville), Shahida (Badisa Bellville), Lee Anne Jones (Kinculture), Daniel Murray (Handevat), Janice King (WCSCF), Rushni Collins (WCSCF)

Apologies: Anne Baartman (Badisa Tygreberg), Hewitt De Jager (The Hewlin Foundation)

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Introductions. Introductions were done around the forum, Janice welcomed everyone.

1. **Current Situation of Street Children in the Northern Suburbs**

* **VRCID and MES** work in the Bellville and Parow area. They have started a drop-in centre in Parow station arcade and are helping Bijou with a space to feed the children that she works with. The drop-in centre operates every day from 9-12. In the afternoon Bijou operates from her home.
* VRCID currently talking to CoCT who are renovating a park. Bijou could be connected with Isibindi in order to set up a safe park for the children.
* Bijou has also arranged a camp with the parents and children who utilise the drop-in centre, to build better relationships in order for the children to stay off the streets.
* In Parow at the Mike Pienaar Traffic lights there are children begging but they have started smashing and grabbing so it’s become criminal, however these are children who have grown up on the streets.
* Bellville - there are not many children on the streets, except for two children living with their families behind the MES building. VRCID Field worker, Veronica has reported it to Badisa Trio.
* Before lockdown, the organisations in Bellville spoke to people living under the Tienie Meyer bridge and asked them to return home if they had a home. Twelve children were found living there. Because of VRCID’s ‘zero tolerance’ policy, people hide the children. In Bellville the problem is more adults with children living on the street as opposed to just children living alone.
* At Tygervalley the mothers are begging with their children. Badisa also has to deal with this.
* Children who beg in Parow are usually from Leonsdale. VRCID usually connects with Elizabeth Hoorn who will help them when they get back home. Many of the children also come from the Uitsig area, Eerste River and Bellville South.
* **Badisa Trio Kraaifontein** are out twice a week but are not seeing children on the street. However, After-Hours and on weekends the children are in the area. They beg at local businesses.
* Security Guards aid in collecting children but when social workers do a follow up the names and addresses are often incorrect. These are also children who have homes but come and beg on the streets for food etc.
* Janice explained the DSD CTLO has a programme piloted with Street Children Team
* Designated, Dedicated Social Workers/Aux,
* one male and one female
* allocated to work only with children on the street (low caseloads)
* and who work from intake off the street, till the child is ‘21’
* working with child, family, school, community – whole system

This has been working well, and we want to ask DSD Prov to role it out to other areas.

* At Stikland Bridge, there about 4 or 5 families. Badisa is not sure who works in that area. The same case was reported to VRCID and it was reported to DSD Bellville as that might be their area.
* Two children were returned to their home in Wallacedene. When the social worker checked on them, they were back on the street.
* **Badisa Bellville** always get the referrals for the children at Tygervalley. Whenever the social worker does go out, they are not there. Often the children who beg in Bellville are not from Bellville, but rather from Bishop Lavis, Uitsig or Parow. The Social worker takes the child home, does an assessment and then it the case gets referred to a designated social worker at an organisation that works in the area where the child resides.
* Badisa works closely with VRCID and often ask for help when it is a mother and a child on the street. However, resources are scarce and there are no placement options to take the child when they are removed from the street.
* Janice explained the SOP – *Standard Operating Procedure for the Removal of Children on the street to a place of safety*. This was developed by Robert MacDonald in 2015 and amended in 2017, but mainly only implemented in Cape Town with the new Street Children’s Programme Pilot there. Although the document was controversial, 3 positive outcomes were:

1. The Social Worker (Office) in the area where the child was FOUND, was responsible for taking the case. (instead of the Social Worker (office) where the child was FROM.)
2. If an unmarked vehicle could not be accessed, then a marked vehicle should be used, but the child should not just be left on the street due to lack of unmarked vehicle.
3. Lindelani was designated as the standardised intake point for street children. (If a child was new on the street, taking them home and trying to strengthen family should be tried first, but a long-term ‘hardened street child’ should not be returned home again and again.)

**(The SOP document will be sent along with the minutes)**

1. **KinCulture - What they do?**

* Kin Culture recruits and assists families to become foster care parents, from the churches all over the Western Cape. They have acquired designation from DSD to do this and also to train the parents as foster parents. Previously the main training was provided by Agape (5 days), but KinCulture now offers this (2 days).
* Designated Social Workers make contact with the Kinculture Social Worker, Marisa, who then finds and works

with the family to take the child in for foster care.

* They also offer support in terms of providing goods (eg. Food, sponsored by Woolworths Checkers) and can help with clothe,s car seats, etc.
* Full foster care screening is done. Kinculture assesses the parents - Form 39’s go to a canalisation officer. Form 30’s are a problem because it takes a while for them to get the clearance. Foster parents need the form30s and the police clearance certificate.
* Kin Culture has already recruited 58 families and are looking to recruit another 20 to 30 families for the current

financial year. 5 New families were recruited, 4 placements were done and 3 new screenings were done.

* KinCulture is planning a road show to introduce their organisation to other organisations.
* World Foster Day is on 31st May. People are encouraged to draw 3 little smiley faces on there fingers and then post it on social media with the #worldfosterday in order to show support.
* 20th / 21st August there will be a foster care conference
* Kin Culture is not funded by DSD (although DSD does refer children there.)

1. **Next meeting:** 23rd July 2021