

Meeting Minutes - Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Network

Location: LGPro Offices - Lvl 3, 58 Lorimer Street Docklands VIC

Date: 11 November 2016

Time: 1.00pm – 3.30pm

Topic: The engagement and participation of young people

Attendance:

Sue Hobb- Wyndham, Leonie O'Malley- Wyndham, Shirley Egan- Bass Coast, Sue Zoghaib- Moreland, Clara Yip- Boroondara, Andrea Learbuch- Boroondara, Sherryn Prinzi- Banyule, Karina Viksne- Monee Valley, David Wright- Maroondah, Sharon Lenehan- Cardinia, Terry Larkman- Cardinia, Rory White – Greater Bendigo, Kristy Bennett- Greater Bendigo, Alicia O'Brien- Greater Bendigo, Anne McGregor- Moreland, Kylie Wilmont- Greater Dandenong, Linda Harman – Darebin, Kirsty Saunders- Great Dandenong, Cath Black – Maribyrnong, Sarah Ewing- VLGA, Samantha Neville – Port Phillip.

Apologies : Ann Addinsall- Casey, Wendy Jones- Ballarat, Wendy Allen – MAV, Shelli Hardwick, Kimberley Prigg- Wodonga, Narelle Hart – Nillumbik, Leigh Cruickshank- Melton.

1. Child Friendly Cities and Communities Advisory group update:
 - Comm's and engagement plan ready to be signed off. This is effectively the groups work plan for the next 3 years. It is a working document – first one we have had so may need adjusting as we work through it.
 - Call for new member in 2017 – please forward expression of interest to Anne McGregor: AMcGregor@moreland.vic.gov.au
 - Currently 14 signatories to the Charter. A key action in our work plan is to keep encouraging Councils to sign up to the Charter in order to gain momentum and interest from State and Federal org's

2. Presentations to the new signatories. Congratulations to:
 - Moonee Valley City Council
 - City of Greater Bendigo
 - Maribyrnong City Council

Again thanks to the VLGA for providing the certificates – supports promoting within our Councils.

3. Moonee Valley shared their long journey to get the Charter endorsed at Council. Their long journey began in 2011. Key message was that persistence is required as there are often changes and competing priorities in Council. Challenges and opportunities will always be there – but the rewards and participation of children and young people well worth it. Contact Karina Viksne at Moonee Valley for more information.
4. Moreland Youth services: Engaging Young people in Moreland.
 - Oxygen Youth Committee- advisory group to Council
 - Advocate to Council for supports and services for young people in Moreland.
 - Involved in the design of the youth centre and continue to advocate for improvements and ongoing programs and infrastructure to support young people.
 - Major issues: cost of transport, wifi access, employment and training and health and wellbeing.
 - Councils Youth Plan has :
 - i. Youth led actions
 - ii. Council Officer actions
 - iii. Infrastructure actions
 - 25 young people on everyone the advisory group- not everyone attends the meetings but all have some involvement in actions and priorities.
5. Banyule Youth Services:
 - 2 young people involved in the Youth summit talked about their experiences and learnings from being involved in the summit.
 - Key messages:
 - i. Select people that have something to say or interested – not all young people want to talk to Council or want to be involved in these types of groups.
 - ii. Identify the issues and support resolution not just complaining
 - iii. Wide demographics but have key points of interest
 - iv. Having facilitators at each table that knew the topics supported a resolution focus.
 - v. Don't undervalue the voice of children and young people
 - vi. If you ask for input and feedback – provide feedback about what is happening with the information – what they have said is making a difference or informing something.
 - An outcome of the summit was the development of a booklet for all school leavers called "Life Hacks ". This was developed in recognition that all students leaving school might not have skills like banking, understanding about tax, "adult" things...
 - Youth summit recognised the problem- posed the solution- involved with Council to develop booklet- part of the celebration and promotion of the booklet and the process.
 - Great presentation from some very enthusiastic and articulate young people – thanks Banyule
6. Consultants/ research to support engagement and participation:
 - Dr Kylie Smith – Melbourne Uni

- ARACY – evidence based research – The Nest - <https://www.aracy.org.au/projects/the-nest>
- Sam Walsh – Chatterbox projects - <http://www.chatterboxprojects.com.au/>
- The workshop – Kate Wild- <http://www.theworkshop.id.au/>
- Red Road consulting- <http://www.redroad.com.au/>
- Wayfarer: <http://www.wayfarerconsulting.com.au/>
- Semann and Slattery: <http://semannslattery.com/>
- Julie Rudner : Latrobe Uni
- Youth law

Resources:

- Child and Youth directory – <http://childandyouthdirectory.com.au>
- Age'n'Dem- toolkit for developing community friendly street scrapes and urban scapes. Soon to be released. Makes mention of the Charter
- Yacvic – Code of Ethic
- Yerp – consulting guidelines

7. Information sharing :

- Wyndham – doing a Middle Years consultation
 - Promoting the value of play presentations
- Bass Coast – children's week – play activity – tarp and boxes the most successful – then sending home with families
- ECA conference – Pat Jewel – inspirational speaker
- CoPP Middle Year information session – McCrindle
- Childrens week activities becoming across council partnership – yeah!
- Moreland- artist tour of Coburg – making maps of the city. Tours lead by 9-12 year old. Very successful.

8. Future planning

- Meeting dates have been set to coincide with the Lgpro meetings.
 - **Friday 24 March**
 - **Friday 2 June,**
 - **Friday 8 September**
 - **Friday 24 November.**
- The advisory group will start planning using similar topics as this year.
 - Policy/ research
 - Early years
 - Middle Years
 - Youth
- Next Advisory group December 7th – new members welcome.