



# Youth Services Forum Minutes

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019  
10am to 11:30am  
Woollahra Council**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>1. PRESENT &amp; APOLOGIES .....</b>               | <b>2</b> |
| <b>2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES .....</b> | <b>2</b> |
| <b>3. GUEST SPEAKERS .....</b>                        | <b>2</b> |
| <b>4. INFORMATION SHARE AND SERVICE UPDATES .....</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS .....</b>                    | <b>5</b> |
| <b>7. NEXT MEETING .....</b>                          | <b>5</b> |

# Youth Services Forum

held on

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 10:00am**  
**Woollahra Municipal Council Chambers**  
**536 New South Head Road**  
**Woollahra NSW 2028**

## 1. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Present:

|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Michelle Plant         | Woollahra Libraries      |
| Michal Shoham Polonsky | WAYS Youth and Family    |
| Loren Maddams          | WAYS Youth and Family    |
| Laura Dimento          | Carers NSW               |
| Paul Kelly             | Beaches Outreach Project |
| Kira Brandt            | Jewish Care              |
| Lynn Garlick           | Woollahra Council        |

Staff: Leah Haydon Community Development Officer

Apologies: Councillor Megan McEwen, Andi Smith, Kids Giving Back, Julie MacColl, Ascham School, Tania Krasinski (Randwick Council), James Bowles (Scotts College), Dani Saric (NSW Police), Judith Schulz (Circles of Learning),

## 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

## 3. GUEST SPEAKER – Angus Megarrity, Manager Caretakers Cottage

### Youth Homelessness

- 26,000 young homeless Australians between the age of 12-25yrs
- 42% of the homeless population in Australia is under 25 years old
- 70% left home to escape family violence, child abuse or family breakdown
- Most common way young people experience homelessness is “couch surfing”
- Over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

### Causes

- Family breakdown or unsafe environment – mental health, drug and domestic violence issues
- Disability
- Unemployment

### Caretakers Cottage Youth Refuge

- Located in Bondi, houses up to ten young people at a time between 13 – 17yrs
- Early intervention to help young people and their families restore broken relationships
- Crisis accommodation for up to 3 months
- Case management to assist clients develop plans for the future
- Aftercare and outreach to assist clients to stay on track once they have moved on from care

#### Options Youth Support

- Transitional accommodation service for young people aged 16 to 25
- Semi-supported environment, clients are assisted in building the skills and confidence to live self-sufficiently
- Up to 2yr tenancy agreements
- Case management and advocacy
- Budget, financial, educational and employment support
- Living and skill development

#### Noffs Youth Homelessness Service

- Post crisis support to keep young people housed
- Provide targeted strategies for young people exiting out of home care
- Strong focus on responses for Aboriginal young people

#### **4. DISCUSSION FOLLOWING GUEST SPEAKER**

- While Options can take referrals for young parents with children of their own, there are other services more directed at this situation. Adequate wrap around service support needs to be in place for this.
- Options have a partnership with Bridge Housing to coordinate a fixed rental price for clients. Under 21yrs of age = \$80 a week plus amenities, 21yrs and over = \$100 a week plus amenities
- Clients receive basic support to set up homes however majority of furniture needs to be purchased by the client
- Male to female ratio of clients is reasonably split 50/50
- Very flexible study vs work arrangements in place

## 5. INFORMATION SHARE AND SERVICE UPDATES

Paul Kelly (Beaches Outreach Project)

- Street based, outreach program that offers transport for young people. On average, engage with 180 young people each Friday night. Current partying trends at the moment have moved from hotel parties back to bushland raves. Drug taking trends have seen a spike in heroin and ketamine.

Kira Brandt (Jewish Care)

- Love Bites: a 1 day training program implemented into secondary schools focused on respectful relationships i.e. domestic violence and sexual consent. Training has officially finished for 2019 in all Jewish Schools in the eastern suburbs.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Program has a waitlist for clients and are currently seeking volunteers mentors. Volunteers don't need to be a member of the Jewish Community. Please pass onto your contacts who may be interested and get in contact with Kira directly.
- Parenting seminar happening Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September on anxiety and how to support your children. A few spot available

Laura Dimento (Carer's NSW)

- Carer Achievement Pathway Project is a new initiative providing support for young carers to increase their readiness to participate in employment and education and support them in their caring role. 1 in 4 children in the classroom are acting as a carer at home in some capacity.

Loren Maddams and Michal Shoham Polonsky (WAYS)

- Youth program currently offering free make up courses to young people on a Wednesday night. Saturday pool and basketball competitions on the roof. Kids yoga commencing on Thursdays and BBQ nights on the roof on Fridays. Vacation care will commence again soon.
- Counselling still at capacity since the start of the year. GP visits twice a week and a parenting course coming up in Oct/Nov.

Michelle Plant (Woollahra Libraries)

- Mock exam study and tutor support being offered on the 14<sup>th</sup> September with 2hrs of free tutoring.
- Extended library study hours will again commence on the 30<sup>th</sup> September
- Library has implemented a mental health chill out zone for young people with ping pong sessions being run daily from 12-1pm and 4-5pm.

- CV and resume writing workshop for 14yrs and overs will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2-330pm.
- Studiosity is an online tutoring subscription paid by Woollahra Library. Any young person with a library card has access to this service. Free tutoring service where students can submit a question or a piece of writing and receive feedback.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Leah Haydon will be going on maternity leave as of 12<sup>th</sup> November so will bring along a new staff member to the next meeting.

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019