



Minutes, Carers Communication Meeting

Business unit	DCP Central Region	Date of meeting	9/8/2019
Minutes for	Carers Communication Group Meeting	Time	10:00 am
Chair/Minutes	Kirsty/Shاون	Location	DCP Blair Athol- 350 Main North Rd, Blair Athol 5084
Attendees	<p>Present: Tessa (LCC), Brigitte (LWB), Donna (AFSS), Kathy (AFSS), Trude (Kinship carer), Kirsty (foster parent), Ben (DCP), Roger (DCP), Liz (CFKCSA)</p> <p>Apologies: Cheryl (foster parent), Michelle (LCC), Peter (AFSS), Belinda (Anglicare SA),</p>		

Topic minutes

Minutes	Actions required
<p>Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>Traditional Acknowledgement Statement said by: Kirsty</p>	
<p>Introductions</p>	
<p>Previous Minutes- 28/6/2019</p> <p><u>Communication issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion about the development of pack to be supplied to new carers, including information about DCP, trauma and other useful information. - The pack could be available online and be easy to update or add remove information - Packs could be targeted for different stages of caring. - Make sure that resources are current and up to date. - Documents available to carers who do not have access to internet connections. - Trude is willing to be part of any orientation process that is developed for kinship carers. - Shaun informed the group that work has been started on a carer portal on the DCP public webpage. Much of the discussed information could be made available on the portal. <p><u>Respite</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DCP is working to recruit new respite carers - Issues with newly registered respite carers taking on long-term placements for children they provide respite for. This is impacting on the availability of respite placements. 	<p>Shaun to keep the group updated on the progress of the carer portal.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continuity for respite is an issue as children are impacted by having multiple different placements.- The management of care concerns in a timely manner is affecting registered respite carers from providing respite care. <p>Annual reviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Workers have been inviting carers to annual reviews, however the allocated dates have not suited many carers.- Carers have reported positive outcomes when they have been able to attend annual reviews.	
<p>New Business</p> <p><u>DCP Update- Ben- Acting Manager of DCP Blair Athol Office</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Blair Athol consists of Protective Intervention, Assessment, and Support Teams.- The office is very busy with a high numbers of notifications which are unsustainable at the rate they are being received.- There are challenges found with utilising support services in different regions including western, Eastern and northern Adelaide. This is demonstrated with some referrals to Child Protection Services at- The Protective Intervention teams are focused on reunifying children and have been involved in the new Reunification Court for matters. There have been positive and challenging experiences with this process. There has not been a large enough sample size to determine overall efficacy.- Teams are trying to risk manage children remaining in the care of their parents rather than bringing them into care.- Annual reviews are being held for cases that are subject to long-term orders but have not been transferred to guardianship orders.- Ben comes with a guardianship office mindset and would like to ensure that carers and service providers are aware they can contact him or the office leadership group to provide feedback or ask questions. Ben is keen to develop positive relationships with carers and service providers. <p><u>DCP Update- Roger</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The office is allocating new cases that are being transferred in.- 97% of case plans for allocated children have been completed- 12 children continue to be placed in commercial care placements, which can be detrimental to their life direction. Roger is looking to recruit more carers by approaching schools and other services.- Roger believes that many of these children would suit a family based placement.- Discussion about the difficulty to settle children who have been in commercial care placements into family based care. Issues can be found when children are able to attend fun activities in a regular basis in commercial care, which are not as easy to provide by family based carers.- Some children have had positive stories from commercial care placements, including being able to be placed as a sibling group.	



New Business

Working with Children Checks (WWCC)

- Some foster parents have reported issues relating to requests for irregular household guests to have WWCC's when they are staying for short holidays.
- There has been a 90-day extension of the deadline for existing foster parents who have outstanding WWCC's to apply for a new WWCC.
- Discussion re different expectations in other jurisdictions including the Blue card in QLD.
- Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA is working on a WWCC fact sheet and will be seeking approval from DCP before release.
- Ben explained the process in which verbal police checks are sourced from SAPOL when a temporary placement is found
- The new WWCC's will be current for 5 years and will automatically updated if an reportable offence is committed by a WWCC holder.
- It is expected that carers would be vigilant when inviting people into their home and perform the same assessment they would for their biological children.
- There a no exceptions for adult household members who have a disability. Exemptions were previously provided in these cases.
- Foster parents will need to arrange WWCC's for their adult children or foster children who are turning 18 and will continue living in the home.
- Delays in obtaining WWCC's could be found due to foster parents having common names or due to outstanding care concerns.

CRO update

- Dates have been set for carers week/month events.
- The central event will be held on Monday 16/9/2019 at Sunnybrae farm for lunch.
- The Northern lunch event will be held on 11/9/2019
- The Southern/Eastern dinner event will be held on 12/9/2019

Connecting Foster and Kinship Carers SA (CFKCSA)

- Carer guides are being completed re WWCC's, NDIA and transitioning from care.
- CFKCSA will be attending all carers month events both in the metro and regional areas.
- CFKCSA will be attending the stall at the Royal Adelaide Show which will be highlighting foster parenting.
- The CFKCSA Recharge events will be held on 18/10/2019. There is both daytime and evening events planned. Further information can be found at <http://cfc-sa.org.au/>
- A new support group for carers who have experienced placement breakdown or a child has transitioned out of care. There is a planning day with carers being held on 27/8 with plans for the group to be running by the end of 2019. The group will be open to any carer no matter how long they have provided a placement.

Shaun to send out the dates to the group and the flyers when available.



LWB

- LWB has merged all of their offices to their office on Greenhill Road
- LWB requests that all of their carers apply for both WWCC's and National Police Checks.
- Spotlight on safety, screening questions have been added to recruitment process to highlight potential risks. Online responses can be categorised due to the amount of time it takes for people to respond.
- New support groups for biological children in placements is being rolled out. There will be a group for teenagers who often support their parents to care for children. Another group will be created for primary school aged children and pre-assessment support.
- The support groups will utilise the Berry Street model and will be similar to groups that are run in Victoria.
- The number of respite nights that therapeutic placements can utilise has been reduced to 26 nights, which is in line with non-specialist placements. The group acknowledged that this will impact some placements greatly as 52 nights was previously available.

LCC

- LCC has been contacted as a specialist care agency and will provide therapeutic and non-therapeutic placements.
- A multicultural worker has been hired to work with CALD communities.
- A carers appreciation event was held in July due to the business of carers week/month.
- The SNAICC Conference is planned for 20/9/2019. The group asked if carers were being supported to attend.

Shaun to speak with DCP communications to see if tickets to SNAICC are available for carers.

Next Meeting Date: 10am Friday 20/9/2019 at DCP Hindmarsh-153 Port Road Hindmarsh SA 5007