

# Big Local Gateshead

## Teams Youth Network

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 4pm, Zoom: 838 6895 2251

### 1. Welcome and introductions

Chris Folwell (BLG), Danielle Kock (DoE student), Mikaela Crocker (DoE student), Rachel Anderson (DoE student), Brenda Clelland (Councillor), Stuart Angus (Side by Side Arts), Joshua Gibson (Northumbria Police), Jon Niblo (NE Youth), Lynne Greenwood (The Soundroom), Sharon Macinnes (BLG), Christine Frazer (NHS/CIA).

Apologies – Tracey Craggs

### 2. Member updates and opportunities

**Christine Frazer** – Looking to establish a women’s group in the area at Dunston Community Centre, also working with young people in the area who have historic employment or crime issues. She would like to be in touch with the DoE students to engage them with her work.

**Action - Chris to facilitate this.**

Easter egg hunt set up in Dunston and Teams in local businesses, charities, and services, a sheet to fill in will be available from the Big Local Bungalow from Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Christine has been talking to young people, particularly men, issues highlighted by them include safe spaces for them to use, play sports, and the abundance of drugs.

**Joshua Gibson** – would usually do outreach work to schools and other community centres but that hasn’t been possible in the last few months. Also works with the police cadets in Gateshead, though they are only meeting online at the moment.

**Brenda Clelland** – has plans to do a tour of the local hotspots with Josh and Jon once COVID restrictions allow. These spaces will be the focus of the new youth worker to help young people who are likely on the fringes or at risk. The group will also be open to other young people.

**Jon Niblo** – plans to connect to several members from the group and gather intel, youth work will likely start after Easter, and will focus on supporting young people and planning projects they are interested in. Has been commissioned separately to deliver youth sessions over Easter at Redheugh.

**Jen Raey** – Joined the meeting at 4:22, Jen is a councillor in the ward of High Fell and part of several community-focussed charities. She is a new resident in Teams and is looking for projects to get involved with.

**Stuart Angus** – continuing to offer online music tuition, though some face-to-face tuition has restarted. Currently moving base to the wellbeing centre next to St. Chad’s church. Stage school in the Soundroom has been on hold, they will look to restart as soon as possible.

Band in a box project is still in planning but will hopefully be launch once groups are able to gather in groups larger than 6.

**Danielle Kock** – interested in art and drama opportunities, had planned a summer activity similar to Jon Niblo’s Easter project at Redheugh, suggested a final trip or excursion to reward participants.

**Rachel Anderson** – also interested in music and drama, volunteers at Dunston Activity centre but doesn’t currently run anything for young people.

**Mikaela** – enjoys sports, has previously played at Redheugh, interested in helping with any projects in the area.

Christine invited the young people to become young leaders supported by she and Big Local Gateshead, Jon Niblo also interested in being a part of that conversation and can offer youth work training.

**Chris to facilitate this group**

**Lynne Greenwood** – celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> year. The Soundroom is a community music venue and operate rehearsal spaces and a recording studio. Music focussed youth session normally meet on a Thursday evening, they would like to expand this to a Monday and Thursday. Their funding application for a music practitioner has been successful, this post will be advertised soon. A new project being considered is a young producer session focussing on use of the recording equipment.

Lynne is very interested in a youth work partnership to link the Soundroom and other organisations, volunteer support can only go so far. Could this group support youth workers to engage across the area? Jon is very supportive of the idea, he works with Youth Focus NE as part of the NE Youth Alliance.

**Action – a follow up group will be organised to discuss establishing a youth work partnership including Brenda, Jon, Lynne, Christine - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of March at 4:30 pm – this meeting to be circulated to the group**

Churches in the area would make excellent venues to support a youth partnership, Ed Nichols suggested as a candidate in invite to that meeting.

**Action – Chris to invite Ed Nicols to join the conversation.**

**Sharon MacInnes** – Has received many referrals for the parent and toddler group and has enough interest that they might have to run 2 sessions a week. She has submitted a funding application to this network group for consideration.

### **3. Network funds / project proposals**

£10,000 available this year for projects in the area

#### **a. Parent and toddler group application**

A grant has been submitted for around £900 for start-up costs for a new parent and toddler group, ran by local people who will be offered training and support to run the projects and plan their own sessions.

Brenda has recommended a disinfecting fogging machine that makes cleaning equipment and space very efficient - costs expected to be £50-£150. We can expect covid regulations to be in place until this time next year.

The group will have to meet outside in small groups to start, and volunteers will learn how to manage and assess risks as part of their training.

The Soundroom has offered the use of their space and have a great selection of early years music equipment.

**This group is supportive of the project, on the condition that the budget includes a fogging machine**

### **4. New members for this network**

Primary school children, perhaps through teachers - have previously been invited but struggled to find time.

Pastoral care at primary schools might have more time to attend than primary teachers.

Youth Assembly Gateshead.

### **5. Any other business / next meeting**

**Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April at 4pm**