

## Sefton Faith Forum Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting



Thursday 15 April 2021

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### Present:

<b>Pete Spiers</b>	Archdeacon Knowsley & Sefton
<b>Rebecca Gommersall</b>	Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure
<b>Patricia Jameson</b>	Christians against Poverty
<b>Jess McGlynn</b>	Compassion Acts
<b>Doreen Iddon</b>	Liverpool Rd Methodist Church
<b>Luke Smith</b>	Methodist North Circuit
<b>Annette Booth</b>	Salvation Army, Bootle
<b>Lesley Muir-Taylor</b>	Salvation Army Friendship Café
<b>Alison Hutchings</b>	Salvation Army, Southport
<b>Simon Cunningham</b>	Shoreline Church, Southport
<b>Sarah McDonald-Howard</b>	Southport Methodist Circuit
<b>Selwyn Goldthorpe</b>	Southport Synagogue
<b>Beth Anderson</b>	St Nicholas Church, Blundellsands
<b>Debbie Statter</b>	St Oswald's, Netherton
<b>Andrew Stott</b>	St Phillips, Litherland, Team Rector Litherland & Orrell Hey Team Ministry, Area Dean Sefton South
<b>Romils Mathew</b>	Syro Malabar Catholic Church
<b>Ravi Sangra</b>	Team Vicar Litherland & Orrell Hey Team Ministry
<b>Kate Eaglestone</b>	Together Liverpool – Social Action
<b>Peter Lyth</b>	URC North Sefton
<b>Liz Smith</b>	Waterloo United Free Church
<b>John Smith</b>	Waterloo United Free Church
<b>Sue Williamson</b>	Waterloo United Free Church
<b>Claire Morgans</b>	Y Kids
<b>Gemma Boardman</b>	Living Well Sefton
<b>Angela White</b>	Sefton CVS, CEO
<b>Jan Campbell</b>	Sefton CVS
<b>Kate Petrie</b>	Sefton CVS
<b>Maggi Aslet</b>	Sefton CVS, Group Development
<b>Nigel Sharp</b>	Sefton CVS, Group Development

### Apologies:

<b>Maria Parker</b>	Birkdale Catholics
<b>Steven McGanity</b>	Christ Church, Southport, Area Dean - North Meols Deanery
<b>Richard Owens</b>	Compassion Acts
<b>Hayley James</b>	Formby Methodist Church

<b>Tony Slingo</b>	Heart Stone Catholic Parish Ainsdale
<b>Monica Gannon</b>	Heart Stone Catholic Parish Ainsdale
<b>Ian Roebuck</b>	Hope Community Church, Aintree
<b>Jean Washbourne</b>	Iraeus / St John's Church Ainsdale
<b>Ian Roxburgh</b>	Old Road Methodist Church, Aintree Community Trust
<b>Munzi Ali</b>	Sefton Muslim Centre
<b>Paul McHenry</b>	St Peter's Church, Formby

### **Welcome & Introductions**

PS and MA welcomed and thanked all for attending and supporting the Forum, and following a brief recap of the previous session (24.2.21) there were introductions from those new to the Forum.

### **Emerging and Existing Community Needs (Gemma Boardman, Living Well Sefton)**

[This presentation is available as a separate attachment]

GB provided a brief introduction to the Living Well Sefton (LWS) programme at Sefton CVS and the delivery partners LWS engages with to support issues affecting health and wellbeing throughout the Borough.

LWS and partners responded to Covid-19, adapting services to meet new demands including the provision of a shopping, prescription delivery and hospital discharge services. The LWS Community Resilience Grant provided support for group recovery and it is notable that the pandemic has shown group versatility and adaptability.

Emerging needs include:

- Mental Health
- Physical Health
- Social Isolation
- Loss of confidence
- Financial Insecurity

Those groups particularly affected:

- Older people
- Young people
- People with existing mental health problems
- People with long term health conditions or disabilities
- Minority groups

The impact on particular groups has related to a wide range of issues including digital exclusion, bereavement, unemployment, housing and domestic violence. In some cases existing conditions have been exacerbated, with those already vulnerable disproportionately affected.

More positive outcomes included the partnership working which had emerged in response and LWS has launched a Community Champions Fund for groups to receive additional support.

### **Y Kids Ltd – a case study example of a faith group who responded to the pandemic (Claire Morgans)**

[This presentation is available as a separate attachment]

CM provided a summary of YKids' response – from initial assumed needs: mental health (isolation; fear; anxiety; boredom) and more practical needs (food; shopping; digital access) through the development of operational adaptation including zoom sessions, birthday gifts, activity packs (and a dedicated website).

Support included additional faith and advice, with help developed through research of needs including a equipment loan scheme for additional digital support, a community pantry, book club and ongoing online events (even a virtual walk across New Zealand!).

Over three thousand activity packs were delivered, with regular activity including Monday Night Live!

Key messages to consider:

- Authenticity is key –doesn't need to be slick
- Greater engagement
- Greater engagement with faith
- Developing deeper trust
- Lack of digital skills
- Different platforms work with different people
- Online is a great stop gap but does not replace face to face
- A future blended approach
- Community pantry levels the playing field
- Genuine community cohesion

#### **Locality discussions - how faith groups can come together and how they can meet local needs**

A breakout session invited groups to split according to locality, with most reps attending either the north or south areas.

##### **North**

###### What are the needs:

- The challenge of reopening – volunteers are often elderly themselves.
- People are fearful, they have lost confidence, they don't want to come out.
- Physical health problems and mobility problems have been exacerbated by lockdown.
- More challenges as people come off furlough.
- Loss and bereavement
- Difficult to get clarity on what is open and what is closed.
- Remember the importance of small. Small things make a big difference.
- Going back to what we were may not be possible.
- Our mission remains unchanged but we might have to find different ways of working
- We need to engage our congregations

###### How might we work together

- Start with walking meetings
- As shopping services start to close perhaps this can be picked up with buddying to go to the shops
- If we start with coffee and cake to just get people to come out.
- We can mail out to congregation send material through the letter box, reconnect.
- We need to target specific groups.
- It's better to do one or two things well than to do lots of things badly.
- Opportunities to work closely with others like Living Well Sefton and Sefton In Mind
- Possibility of working with social prescribing link workers in localities to support communities.
- Embrace technology - become 'WhatsApp Warriors'.
- A blended approach using technology and meeting in person.
- A radical approach - a virtual base for churches together across Southport?

**Central**

- Some groups active across the Borough – need to review different local needs, link with other local organisations to compare activity, understand what is being provided, identify gaps in provision.
- In addition to the LWS Covid-19 related needs, travel is a concern – anxiety to use public transport or inactivity due to physical health issues could affect community mobility with implications for service provision, volunteer capacity and a need for more local delivery.
- Could be a related demand for more outreach work.
- Minority groups in need of support include asylum seekers.
- Need to consider local impact not just on individuals in the community but also local groups – e.g. loss of income, services, etc.
- Some groups reluctant to start again, loss of volunteers an issue, different skills required for adapted delivery.
- Concern about ‘digital burn out’.
- Potential for joint work to deliver projects for different beneficiaries – e.g. community garden, community café.

**South**

- Possibility of doing a joint remembrance/ celebration event in Bootle to bring the community together – proposals for ‘Valleyfest’ in Rimrose Valley.
- Community pantry benefits. People have to be members and members have the option of saying why they use it – including to help the environment.
- Need for mental health support NHS workers and the possibility of providing support through faith groups.
- Need for intergenerational support through a café and a drop in where both older people and younger people can get support- and liked the links to the Pantry.
- What’s on in Bootle – we all talked about the best way to share this information, and what platforms might work.

**Sefton CVS Update and Closing Comment**

MA and GB provided an introduction to the Community Champions Fund and the forthcoming Meet the Funder event (22.4.21) to promote and inform about this opportunity.

AW thanked all for attending and for the enthusiastic contributions to the locality discussions.

**Date of Next Meeting**

- **10.00am Thursday 15 July [by zoom]**