

ECHF Forum Meeting Thursday 5th November 2020 via Teams

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| Chair:  Catriona Windle (Health all Round)  Attendees:  Alex Perry (PCHP/ECHF)  Biddy Kelly (Fresh Start)  Brenda Black (Edinburgh Community Food)  Bridie Ashrowan (Space)  Brock Lueck (One Parent Families Scotland)  Charlie Cumming (ELGT)  Dorothy Simpson (Currie Day Centre)  Emma Cormack (The Health Agency)  Grace Mackenzie (ECHF)  Helena Richards (CarrGomm)  Magda Czarnecka (Feniks)  Marion Findlay (Volunteer Edinburgh)  Maruska Greenwood (LGBT Health & Wellbeing)  Ruth Maclennan (C4C)  Stephanie-Anne Harris (ECHF)  Victor Chlebowski (Murrayfield Dementia Project) | Guests:  Catherine-Rose (Matter of Focus)  Liz Simpson (NHS Health Promotion)  Maria Arnold (EVOC)  Stef Milankovic (EVOC)  Apologies:  Dawn Anderson (PCHP)  Alison McGhee (Health in Mind)  Anne Munro (Care for Carers)  Danielle Campbell (The Junction)  Josh Barton (Upmo)  Louise Turner (The Welcoming) |

1. **Introduction**

Catriona Windle welcomed all to the meeting and read apologies. Previous minutes were approved.

1. **Food Coordination (EVOC)**

During April -September, EVOC worked in partnership with 30 third sector organisations and the CEC to support access to food for vulnerable people. The Food Fund was intended to be short-term crisis funding for support required as a direct result of COVID-19 and yet it has highlighted the issue of food insecurity more broadly. CEC are keen to work with the third sector to address this in the longer term. There was a large scale event via the Poverty Commission. It would also be good to hear any other views at a grassroots level in terms of looking forward; in particular given upcoming winter pressures and a potential further lockdown.

Members had discussion regarding the use of prepaid cards vs. vouchers, being trusted with funds, being able to buy equipment directly such as washing machine through the Scottish Welfare Fund. They acknowledged gaps and a patchy approach in some places and the abrupt ending of the Food Fund. They were open to completing a survey via EVOC or having a short phone call if this would assist the collation of feedback. Feedback can also be forwarded directly to [maria.arnold@evoc.org.uk](mailto:maria.arnold@evoc.org.uk) or [stef.milenkovic@evoc.org.uk](mailto:stef.milenkovic@evoc.org.uk).

Thanks was given to EVOC for their coordination role.

NB. The helpline number (0131 200 2306) established at the beginning of lockdown, remains open and after staff from Social Care Direct will be signposting to a range of statutory and third sector services.

1. **Evaluation (Stephanie-Anne and Catherine Rose)**

Catherine Rose (Matter of Focus) introduced herself to the Forum, she has come from a caring background and was enthused to become involved in the work with us. She shared the final COVID-19 response report which can be found here: <https://www.echf.org.uk/responding-to-covid-19-echf-report/>

She also outlined the next stage of support which will begin on 10th December. [Full details are available here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xDZljgOmJuwwR9zGlIEwgqE__1vOpoTj/view?usp=sharing) and please contact [grace@echf.org.uk](mailto:grace@echf.org.uk) to register interest in a place. There is no limit on numbers who can attend and the cost is met by ECHF. Alex Perry will be able to provide a support role as required as he is extremely experienced with the OutNav software.

1. **ECHF Update**

We will be hosting more drop ins and scheduling some 1-1 time with members over the coming weeks. There is a board of trustees meeting scheduled for 17th November so any feedback, suggestions or comments are welcome. Suggestions for the December meeting agenda are also welcome.

1. **Next meeting**

Tuesday 1st December (Zoom link available closer to the time)