**Wellspring West Sussex**

**Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday 19 September 2018**

**Present**: Lizzie, Bernie, Debbie, Chris.

Welcome to Nick and Lesley from Fit Well and Connected

**Apologies**: Adam, Carole, Lorna

**Minutes of last meeting - Agreed**

**Matters Arising**

Funding from CLA Charitable Trust and John Wiley not yet checked out

Madehurst Cricket Club not yet checked for accessibility.

**Financial and Funding Reports**

Bank account balance £13466.04

Lizzie - £320.95, Wheely Wonders (WW) - £1745.21, Adam - £2000, Chris - £1000 and Reserves - £8399.88

Thank you to Nick from Fit Well and Connected for his help in securing funding of £9900 from Awards for All. This will pay for music sessions with Adam, poetry workshops with Chris and equipment to help with these sessions plus a laptop for admin and a roll out wheelchair track.

Further funding has been received from the Shanly Foundation (£1600) to pay for 4 WW activity days and the Friarsgate Trust (£2000) to pay for 2 WW activity days and core activities.

The Yapp Charitable Trust were unable to help, they did send a nice letter with apologies for not being able to assist.

No contact from the Archer Trust in response to our application.

**Awards for All Funding – Music and Poetry projects**

Nick explained briefly about Fit Well and Connected, he is a retired professional fundraiser who now looks to help charities and community groups access funding, primarily from Awards for All but also from other sources, he writes the applications in consultation with the groups and aims to get computers and other equipment that enable the groups to run more efficiently or as in our case to provide more access to creative arts. Lesley works with him to identify the groups, although this is proving to be the difficult part, many groups are run by volunteers and getting a response is not always easy. We are very grateful for the help to get the funding from A4A and this money will enable Adam and Chris to provide music and poetry sessions across the county.

A meeting will be arranged with Adam on Wed 24 Oct to discuss the project.

Chris presented his outline for the project which will be ‘Lifting Poetry off the Page’. This will be a sensory adventure for disabled children aged 8 – 11, with an emphasis on inclusivity, a range of materials will be used to illustrate established poems and poems that the children create during the sessions. He has identified a range of schools across West Sussex who may be interested in the project.

**Wheely Wonders**

Lizzie presented a short report on the success so far of the activity days at the smallholding. The project started in May 2017 and there were 5 activity days in that year with funding only for the afternoon craft sessions as part of Lizzie’s Craft Club. The activity days have proved very popular with families and a further 5 days have taken place in 2018 with 3 more planned before the end of the year. So far 43 different children have enjoyed the forest school and craft club activities and families come from as far as Surrey and Portsmouth. Lizzie explained how amazing it was to see the children be able to relax in the natural surroundings, try different activities and challenge themselves, while enjoying family time with parents and siblings.

**Newsletters**

Issue 2 Transition – Lizzie has contacted several groups and contacts for information and is waiting for responses. These include Funtastic Futures a Worthing based group, The Sand Project, Reaching Families and Chailey about their new Futures project. Chris mentioned 2 advocacy services Impact Advocacy and Children’s Advocacy West Sussex. There are a couple of articles from young disabled people about their experiences of going through the system, some comments may be regarded as controversial so we must ensure that it is made clear that any comments are solely from the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Wellspring. As anticipated this is a huge subject and may be followed up in Issue 2 of 2019.

Issues 1 – 2019. It would be good to cover the creative arts projects and WW activity days with a focus on outdoor activities.

**Review of Policies**

New Financial Controls Policy – this was agreed.

General Data Protection Regulation – A new Privacy Policy has been drafted and this was presented. The mailing list has been reduced to comply with this new regulation, ensuring that those on the list have specifically asked to be added. A prominent message will be in each newsletter so that recipients know how to get their details deleted from the list if they no longer need the newsletter.

**AOB**

Nick thought the cost of our printing was quite high and mentioned a couple of printing services that he uses, Solopress and Instant Print. We explained that the cost comes from the finishing and not just the printing but will look at these options and get some quotes.

Next meeting tbc

DN

19/09/18