

Northern Suburbs Street Children’s Meeting

31st May 2018

9:00 – 12:00

Uitsig Dutch Reformed Church

**Ridgeworth**

Present: Wendy Bosse (Olympians), Amber-Rose Canfield (Badisa Trio), Janice King (WCSCF), Zellie Spinder (OSDE), Vanessa Brink (Badisa), Charmaine Plaatjies (Student), Dianna Barends (Badisa), Colleen Brookes-Gain (WCSCF)

Apologies: None

1. **Welcome & introductions**. Janice welcomed everyone & introductions went around the room.
2. **Video clip: What is a Drop In Centre?**

Janice showed a powerpoint presentation on DIC’s. DIC’s:

* are not residential.
* provides basic services aimed at meeting the emotional physical & social developmental needs of children who are vulnerable, supplying the following:

1. Food
2. Educational support
3. Laundry
4. Personal Hygiene (homework clubs, soup kitchens, are included)

(The Children’s act says that one of the 4 needs to be done, however the TPA says that you must have all four.)

* The aim of the DIC is Early Intervention and Prevention.
* A child does not need the parent’s permission to frequent a DIC. Unlike a Partial Care facility, there isn’t any agreement between the children’s parents and the DIC. Children can drop in at any time. This however limits the DIC services.
* Other programmes at DIC’s include:
* Counselling and psychological support
* Social and life skills
* School holiday and educational programs
* Primary healthcare in collaboration with local clinics
* Outreach services
* Reporting and referrals to designated SWorkers or Social Service professionals
* Norms and Standards for DIC are:
* A safe environment for children
* Safe clean drinking water
* Hygienic and adequate toilet facilities
* Access to refuse disposal services or other adequate means of disposal of refuse
* Hygienic area for the preparation of food
* **The challenges that DIC’s face are (typical to all high risk communities)**:

1. Cycle of poverty, lack of parental education, low parental motivation, dysfunctional families (abuse, neglect), gangsterism, drugs.
2. Increase in child murders and rape
3. Insufficient SWorkers and Social Services professionals in the field
4. Insufficient funds and resources in the child protection and care sector
5. Continued shortage of placement options in facilitates for children on the street and other vulnerable children.
6. Lack of community based child protection networking and collaboration between organisation and role-players.
7. The number of children coming from Kalksteenfontein is growing.
8. DIC’s are reporting increase of children coming to the DIC after school as many parents are working so there’s no supervision or food at home after school.
9. Growing numbers of younger children dropping out of school.
10. Drug usage amongst younger children is increasing, starting as young as Gr 2 (8yrs old).

NEEDED: More alternative places of safety. (esp supported Fostercare)

*The reality is that most of the children DIC’s work with are effectively living in dysfunctional homes and as a result they end up spending a lot of their time outside of their homes to escape their reality and ‘get what they wouldn’t get at home’ (i.e. money, food, attention –negative or positive) by begging on the street*.”

1. **WCSCF Feedback:**

**Dr Lesley Corrie seems passionate about Isibindi**, Diversion programmes, DIC’s and Aftercares. DSD’s are currently busy sorting out the old DIC’s before they will start considering the new ones. So a bit of patience is called for as DIC’s has 6 months to prove what they are doing and how the monies are allocated before they will receive more money**.**

1. **Current Issues on the Street:**

* Not enough learner support workers.
* Community keepers….. Are based at Alpha Primary & Trevor Manuel Primary school and only see children at the school once a week.
* A 14yr old addict doing well in the program at Bonnytoun. His report says that his disciplined and doing well at his level. Bonnytoun wants him to attend a special school. Wendy doesn’t want this boy to be let out yet because it might just disrupt all the good work that’s happening thusfar. The school laid the charge and she feels that the principal should **not** drop the charges. Considering that it’s because of the charges- that he is able to receive the assistance that he badly needed and still needs. Janice motivated that it be looked at as a great case study.
* Safety parents projects
* 3 month Program at Magdalena for girls who has just had a child.

1. **Any other business.** None
2. **Next meeting: 2nd August 2018**

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