

BRIDLINGTON LEARNING AND SKILLS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 2016 AT 9.30AM AT BRIDLINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE

- Present:** Sue Revell - Shaw Trust
Mike Heslop-Mullens – Bridlington Town Council
Andy Levitt - Headlands School
Helena Moss – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Education, Employment and Skills
Adrian Brown – Pure Training Solutions
Sophia White – Christ Church Community Services
Julia Thompson - WEA
Liz Philpot - East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Bridlington Renaissance
Vicky Neilan – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Bridlington Renaissance
- Apologies:** Chris Matson – Job Centre Plus

1. **Minutes of last meeting/matters arising**

Change requested by Sarah Fletcher under Partner Updates – minutes updated to reflect this.

2. **Community Led Local Development**

An initial workshop to look at the formation of the Local Action Group was held at the Evron Centre in Filey on 24 May.

Invitations were targeted at those who had attended the initial workshops in September and a range of groups and organisations that would represent relevant sectors on the Local Action Group.

The session was made up of two presentations and a workshop activity. The first presentation focused on what a CLLD programme would involve, the journey so far, how the area had been agreed upon and details of the funding. The second presentation focused on what the role of a Local Action Group would be and the next steps. Both presentations can be found at <https://www.hlc-vol.org/partner/humber-technical-assistance/news> The workshop asked participants to think of strengths and opportunities which could be addressed through the programme.

The next stage is to develop a Local Development Strategy (LDS) by the end of August. If this is approved there will then be a 3 month window to submit the second stage application with an expectation that the programme would go live in Spring 2017.

Scarborough Borough Council have agreed a sum of money as an initial source of match and it is likely that East Riding of Yorkshire Council will do the same. This is not necessarily for 100% funded projects but more to help get the programme started.

It is expected that there will be a member of staff who will be responsible for working up projects in a similar way to the FLAG programme. The role will be to help groups navigate their way through the process so it is important that the person is immersed in the local community and not someone new to the area.

CLLD Open Discussion

Applications for apprenticeships in the area are very competitive – most employers ask for at least a C grade in English or Maths before they would consider a candidate. Could CLLD find a way to equip people with this in time to apply for an apprenticeship? Work also needs to be done around the perception of apprenticeships.

One suggestion was to target potential NEETs to help them gain work ready qualifications such as food hygiene and first aid at work – a programme could be run alongside GCSEs.

HM explained the Employment, Education and Skills service are designing some financial capability courses looking at how to avoid and manage debt etc to be targeted at the unemployed which will be starting in September – the housing strategy team currently give out debt advice to tenants and this will be incorporated into the courses.

There needs to be a focus on entrepreneurial skills as well as finding jobs.

SR explained that there was a need for better communication – they are often kept out of the loop as organisations do not always pass on details of opportunities and new activity.

4. Partner Updates

Employment, Education and Skills Team (ERYC)

Following a restructure of the team including a review of premises, the service will now be ran out of 4 centres – Bridlington, Beverley, Cottingham and Goole. All centres in other areas will be closing. Delivery in these areas will take place in partner buildings or community venues. The service will also be withdrawing from most Level 3 and above courses and focus on courses for those furthest from the labour market.

Workers Educational Association

Julia Thompson is the new officer for the East Riding and is keen to work in a complimentary way with other providers. She is currently running a volunteering course free of charge and a helping in schools courses for parents which is accredited. The WEA are keen to look for progression routes for their learners.

Pure Training Solutions

Are continuing to run a portfolio of short compliance courses. Keen to talk with HM to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts.

Shaw Trust

They are in the last year of the work programme and have low numbers remaining. The next programme will be a health and work programme targeting those on Employment Support Allowance.

Christ church Community Services

SW has lots of courses running alongside a job club. There is also a minor mental health scheme running up until September.

Bridlington Town Council

There is a vast amount of skills available within the council which can be called upon. There is also a regular newsletter and a small grant fund which opens again in August.

Headlands School

There is an Ambitions Day in July for Year 9 students. A range of employers have already signed up to take part but there is a gap of practical skills and IT. Also looking for a work experience placement for two potential NEETs in construction.

The career portal touchscreens from the Coastal Community Fund will be up and running for September. AL is happy to do some joint publicity around this in September. Simon Featherstone from Scarborough Borough Council is keen to come and take a look – he will contact AL direct.

BAM

Carol Shaw sent a summary of the leisure centre project to be circulated. She also sent her apologies as she will not be attending anymore now that the leisure centre has been handed back over to East Riding.

5. Dates for next meetings

Wednesday 29 June 9.30am – a network and information session to look at a skills analysis, gaps and opportunities.

Wednesday 13 July 9.30am

Wednesday 21 September 9.30am

Wednesday 30 November 9.30am