

BRIDLINGTON LEARNING AND SKILLS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2017 AT 9.30AM AT BRIDLINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE

- Present:** Mike Heslop-Mullens – Bridlington Town Council
Chris Matson – Job Centre Plus
Melanie Brown – East Riding College
Sophia White – Christ Church Community Services
Andy Levitt - Headlands School
Rob Warner – ActivFirst
Anne Wright – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Laura Snow – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Vicky Neilan – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Bridlington Renaissance
- Apologies:** Adrian Brown – Pure Training Solutions
Sue Revell – Shaw Trust
Sara Fletcher – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Education and Skills Partnership
Neil Murray – ActivFirst
Julia Thompson – WEA
Ryan Reed – Humberside Police
Liz Philpot – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Bridlington Renaissance

1. Minutes of last meeting/matters arising

Minutes approved as true record.

3. CLLD Programme Development

The full stage application was submitted on 28 February. It has been indicated that a response will be received during May. Over the next few months work is being undertaken to ensure that, if a positive response is received, the programme is ready to start delivering. Nominations for the executive group (decision making body) are currently underway with a closing date of 24 March. If more than 17 nominations are received, each individual will be asked to present at a Local Action Group meeting on 27 April. If less than 17 are received, the Local Action Group meeting will be cancelled and a meeting of the executive group will be called. The executive group can then determine training needs, the calls process, grant sizes etc. A year long schedule of meeting dates will also be set at this point.

Staff from both East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Scarborough Borough Council are also working with potential applicants to develop their project ideas and encouraging groups to work together. Work is also being done to develop the application process, baseline data and scoring criteria etc.

It was agreed to change this group to the ‘Community Forum’ at a previous meeting. Once this has been approved at the Renaissance AGM this change will be made. The reason for this is to allow the forum to be a local deliverer group for CLLD. The LAG and executive group will cover the full area but there is definite benefit in local providers in Bridlington having a forum where they can discuss gaps, potential projects and ways to link in to each other’s provision. This will become the local forum for CLLD development.

As a starting point it was suggested that everyone may benefit from a reminder as to what each organisation delivers currently.

Action: each organisation to prepare a brief overview of what they deliver and send to VN by 12 April. This will then be circulated with the next meeting agenda and time given to ask further questions.

AL is unable to attend the next meeting so gave an overview for Headlands School. As part of the Coastal Community Team funding, Headlands School purchased several touch screens to display around the school and contain careers advice, job opportunities, information on volunteering etc. The school is also looking to identify students at greater risk of becoming NEET and build up their levels of skills so that they are more attractive to an employer. They are keen to encourage their students to develop a sense of direction and allow them to see that they can progress. Schemes such as students working with local organisations to provide benefit to the community whilst building their self-worth and esteem are being explored.

4. **Bridlington Employability and Skills Charter – Consultation with Businesses**

Chris Matson organised for the consultation forms to be given out at the jobs fair last month. 13 responses were received. These will be typed up and shared at the next meeting.

Feedback on the form included questions asking to identify the barriers, minimum requirements and making the questions more open. The form will be updated to reflect comments and circulated. At the next meeting an exercise will be undertaken to identify who will contact which business.

Discussions on the employability charter included the need for some form of guarantee for individuals signing up to it. For example, young people who sign up to the charter will have more chance of getting an interview, perhaps receive a certificate to say they have the basic level qualifications? Further discussion will be required as the charter is developed.

It was also agreed that when thinking of encouraging people of all ages into work it must be remembered that often it is attitude and not capability which is the barrier. Along with transport, childcare, lack of knowledge and confidence in the system and mental health these are the most common barriers. Addressing these will need to be incorporated into the charter too.

AM also raised the issue of the increased childcare entitlement from September 2017. Where people currently are only able to access 15 hours free childcare this will raise to 30 hours free per week for any working family with an income of under £100,000. Bridlington does not have the capacity to support this currently. Some organisations are looking to extend their service but many are restricted by not having the physical space in order to expand. The children's centre is keen to encourage clients to consider child-minding as an career option. There is a £500 training cost and perhaps a potential CLLD project but once qualified, there is the Enterprise! Scheme which offers a £1000 grant for new start-up businesses and the New Enterprise Allowance although this may be changing in the future. ActivFirst can offer advice on self-employment and impact on benefits etc.

5. **Partner Updates**

East Riding College

Continue to offer courses to compliment the job centre such as CCS, construction, IT and English and Maths. Have been in to speak to Year 11 students at both Headlands and Bridlington secondary schools about post 16 options. Are developing links with Bridlington School to offer information on vocational courses over lunchtimes – something which is already being delivered at Headlands School.

Job Centre

Held a very successful jobs fair last month with 35 exhibitors and 537 people through the door. Unfortunately they cannot trace how many people got jobs as a direct result of the fair but are hoping to recreate it annually.

ActivFirst

Manage 3 projects providing one to one mentoring and support to help working age people access work. They have recently converted the first floor of the old boxing club on Thorpe Street into a community hub where they can meet clients – previously all engagement was done on an outreach basis. Very happy to take referrals and would like to meet with the children's centre to develop these. There is an issue with being unable to access ESF funding more than once per academic year but staff are aware of this and will check it out.

Headlands School

Last week was National Apprenticeships Week and Headlands organised a visit to ABG for Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students with an interest in engineering. Some work experience placements came out of this. In July 160 Year 10 students will be going on work experience and in July 30+ sixth form students will. AL is happy to incorporate the business consultation form into this and ask the students to carry it out with their placement.

Bridlington Town Council

Have a website and newsletter which can be used to promote what services and organisations are offering. There is also the small grants scheme which could be used to test out aspects of bigger projects.

Christ Church Community Services

Still running a wide range of courses. They also have a jobs club open to referrals on a Monday and Wednesday morning. Sophia is still running the mental health support course until August. Only 5 people at a time take part so it is informal and friendly.

Children's Centre

Are running 10 week Family Links courses on parenting. These also recently piloted a 5 week course with young parents looking at raising self-esteem through healthy lifestyles, behaviour management, oral health, paediatric first aid and home safety. The next steps from this include basic literacy and numeracy and signposting onto the college.

Early Intervention and Prevention Project – Humberside Police

The new team have been invited to attend the Learning and Skills Forum as there are many opportunities for joined up working and signposting. It is hoped the team will be able to attend the next meeting but if anyone would like to learn more prior to this please contact Sgt Ryan Reed – ryan.reed@humberside.pnn.police.uk

5. **Dates for next meetings**

19 April 9.30am

17 May 9.30am

14 June 9.30am

12 July 9.30am

16 August 9.30am

13 September 9.30am

18 October 9.30am

15 November 9.30am