

BRIDLINGTON LEARNING AND SKILLS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2017 AT 9.30AM AT BRIDLINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE

- Present:** Mike Heslop-Mullens – Bridlington Town Council
Chris Matson – Job Centre Plus
Sue Revell – Shaw Trust
Adrian Brown – Pure Training Solutions
Sophia White – Christ Church Community Services
Rob Warner – ActivFirst
Kimberley Forsyth – Humber Learning Consortium
Anne Wright – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Laura Snow – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Helena Moss – East Riding of Yorkshire Council – Adult Learning
Vicky Neilan – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Bridlington Renaissance
- Apologies:** Melanie Brown – East Riding College
Andy Levitt - Headlands School
Sara Fletcher – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Education and Skills Partnership
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**

A decision was expected on the CLLD funding towards the end of May. In the meantime work is progressing on establishing an executive group and developing projects. The Learning and Skills Forum is intended to be the local discussion group for the CLLD and it will be a standing item on future agendas. It is hoped that the forum will be the place for groups to openly discuss their projects ideas and reduce the possibility of similar projects being turned down by the executive for not working in partnership. It was agreed that the agenda for the June Learning and Skills Forum would be a discussion group where people can talk through their potential CLLD bids and members could almost carry out an appraisal in terms of how ideas fit with what is already delivered and other proposed projects.

HM asked if the CLLD would look to address pre entry Maths and English as these were gaps the Adult Learning Service is regularly coming across but cannot service. Activ First confirmed that their bid will incorporate this on a one to one support basis.

The Children’s Centre were keen to offer their buildings as a way of engaging with parents who are a captive audience during certain sessions – they have rooms which can be used to provide sessions or one to one support.

The other gap regularly faced by the Adult Learning Team is gypsy traveller provision. RW

confirmed that they are looking into incorporating this into their bid through working with partner agencies. Christ Church are also looking to incorporate this as part of developing the existing work being delivered by the Children's Centres.

Action: VN will invite Helen Worrell to attend future Learning and Skills Forums in order to advise on Gypsy and Traveller engagement.

Activ First have some current engagement with gypsy travellers through the boxing club – some of the parents are keen boxers which has paved the way for their children to be involved too. All agreed that all engagement had to be started at sites where the travellers feel comfortable.

VN also explained that she was working on a bid to the Sport England Opportunity Fund with Active Humber. The fund is looking at innovative ways of engaging volunteers through sport but particularly from organisations which haven't done this in the past. The fund mentions the economic benefits of volunteering in terms of getting people closer to employment. A detailed expression of interest is required by 24 April and VN had contacted the fund to explain the crossover with CLLD but the difficulty with providing details at this stage. A positive response was received with the advice to submit an expression of interest explaining the situation. The fund allows you to apply for up to £150,000 for a three year project.

4. **Partner Organisation Overviews**

Adult Learning (ERYC)

The Adult Learning team at Bridlington is based on the top floor of the Central Library building. Following a large scale review, there are now only 4 centres to cover the East Riding – Bridlington, Beverley, Cottingham and Goole. The team only provides provision for up to level 2 but not pre entry level.

They are currently undertaking a consultation to see why what is accessed in Bridlington differs significantly from the rest of the county. They are looking to engage with 3 sections – those who use the service, those who have used the service in the past but do not do so now and those who have never accessed the service.

Due to a change in funding criteria, to be eligible for a free course, people have to be actively seeking work and have to be challenged to prove this.

They can provide training with smaller class numbers and offer additional support such as learning mentors but are unable to offer one to one support. They also no longer run foreign language course, family learning or courses such as food hygiene and health and safety.

The team are keen to learn who offers what and the best routes for signposting.

AW asked about Story Sacks and whether these would ever be reinstated, many children's centre clients would sign up to additional courses as a result of these. HM happy to discuss with AW and explore the possibility.

Activ First

Are currently delivering under 3 schemes – Building Better Opportunities, Talentmatch and Youth Employment Initiative. Previously worked with 18 to 24 year olds, The BBO scheme now allows them to work with 25+ too. Focused on moving people into employment and provide mentoring, employability skills and hand holding. All schemes are participant focused offering one to one support for 12 months. They try to always identify a progression path once the client has completed their 12 months. Most referrals

come in from the job centre.

Christ Church Community Services

CCS offer a range of courses including IT, cooking for healthy families, a dads club, volunteering, a jobs club and mental health support. The current provision is always dependant on what funding has been secured. The centre also offers a counselling service – this is only available to women at the minute due to only having female counsellors.

They also have a children's clothes and toys and furniture shop which provides volunteer opportunities. They still run the Doorstep scheme with food parcels available for £1. John Dixon also runs a ParentTalk and Autism Support Group from the Community Hub. Referrals to any scheme can be made by going through Sophia.

Town Council

The town council are keen to help where they can. The website and the office space is available to promote ideas or display information.

Children's Centre

The Children's Centre offer a wide range of services – a list was shared with the group of all the sessions the centre runs ranging from play sessions to baby massage to young parents groups. They also offer post natal clinics and help with a range of issues faced by parents. They have links with the college through the 'Care to Learn' scheme where all young parents are referred to the centre. Partners are always welcome to come along to any sessions in order to engage with parents.

They also offer a Family Links nurturing course and a practical parenting course. After Easter they are starting English and Maths sessions for parents wishing to learn more in order to help their children with homework. They would welcome referrals to these sessions as numbers signed up are quite low.

The centres also offer family support and supervised contact for families.

There is an Advisory Board meeting on 26 April from 10am at the Hilderthorpe Road Centre and representatives from the Learning and Skills Forum are welcome to attend.

Pure Training Solutions

Are a commercial training centre for companies. Most of what they deliver is based on compliance either statutory or legal. PTS has been running for 15 years now and delivery and demand have been quite consistent throughout that time. They have lots of repeat business through the positive relationships they develop with clients.

When they source funding to do so they also deliver courses such as Passport to Hospitality or Passport to Security. They have recently secured a modest amount to deliver some of these courses to 19+ and have employers who are needing staff so would welcome referrals for participants.

All funded courses are up to Level 2 although there is a Level 3 Award in Education and Training available from September if they can prove the demand.

Adrian is always keen to work in partnership and is happy to explore options if people let him know what gaps there are in training provision.

Shaw Trust

Deliver the mandatory work programme dealing with referrals from the job centre. They rely on knowing what other service / provision is available in order to signpost clients onto.

The current work programme has recently closed. They are taking no more referrals at the minute but deal with the clients they have for up to two years – even once they are in

employment. The next programme will not be up and running until the Autumn and this will be a work and health programme targeting those claimants on Employment Support Allowance.

Job Centre

The main aim is to get people who are claiming benefits into work. The job centre has computer available for job searches and printing CVs and can help with top tips on job searching, interview skills – mostly in a group setting but one to one support can be offered.

Universal Credit will be rolled out in this area from April next year.

The National Careers Service work from the job centre 4 days a week and the job centre has schemes to support people with disabilities to get into work and can help with practical and financial support to overcome barriers to starting and keeping a job.

5. **Bridlington Employability and Skills charter**

Everyone agreed to take away the business consultation form on what skills are required and if they find people usually have these skills to complete with 5 businesses by the time we meet in June. All completed forms can be returned to VN as and when they are completed.

5. **Dates for next meetings**

14 June 9.30am

12 July 9.30am

16 August 9.30am

13 September 9.30am

18 October 9.30am

15 November 9.30am

6. **Any other business**

The group agreed to cancel the meeting planned for 17 May and to meet again in June where the focus would be to discuss CLLD project ideas and ensure there is no duplicity and partners are working together if required.