

BRIDLINGTON LEARNING AND SKILLS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2017 AT 9.30AM AT BRIDLINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE

- Present:** Andy Levitt - Headlands School
Chris Matson – Job Centre Plus
Sue Revell – Shaw Trust
Adrian Brown – Pure Training Solutions
Sophia White – Christ Church Community Services
Sara Fletcher – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Education and Skills Partnership
Chris Adams – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Education and Skills Partnership
Laura Snow – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Lucy Wilkins – Aspire IGEN, National Careers Service
Fiona Turner – East Riding Voluntary Action Service
Steve Conway – Active Humber
Helena Moss – East Riding of Yorkshire Council – Adult Learning
Simon Featherstone – Scarborough Borough Council
Vicky Neilan – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Bridlington Renaissance
- Apologies:** Melanie Brown – East Riding College
Mike Singh – Humberside Police
Mike Heslop-Mullens – Bridlington Town Council
Liz Philpot – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Bridlington Renaissance

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

Minutes approved as true record.

3. **CLLD Programme Update**

There has still been no decision on the programme funding. It would appear that this is a national delay as surrounding areas are also awaiting a decision. It is expected that this delay is weeks rather than months.

Work is still continuing in the background to develop the programme. The executive group have met several times and are looking at developing a communications plan. The Local Action Group is also due to meet on 6 July.

Staff are also working with local organisations to develop project ideas in order to have applications ready to take to the executive group as soon as a decision is received.

Recognition was given to East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the decision to fund the projects upfront once the programme is in place and then claim the money back from the managing authorities.

Concerns were raised about the amount of ESF delivery currently available and how schemes would be targeting the same people which could lead to double counting and claiming. A subgroup of the executive group have already started work on identifying what

provision is available with the aim of filling gaps rather than duplicating. There is also an issue around initial assessments with ESF programmes which needs exploring.

SF suggested a directory of provision aimed at the unemployed similar to the Log On, Move On model. Her team are currently piloting something for Humber Learning Consortium. This model does rely on providers updating it on a regular basis.

Action: VN and SF to discuss in further detail once a programme decision has been received.

There was a general consensus around the table that lack of provision was not the issue. It was more the task of getting people to access the provision. This is something that must be considered by the CLLD fund as support work could be done to help people access existing provision. There is a lack of progression from Level 1 courses too which could be addressed through CLLD as job specific training or qualifications could be funded.

The group were also keen to ensure that the CLLD did not just lead to a hamster wheel of provision and that was progression in terms of personal development and actually moving people on to a more positive place.

The group asked for a reminder of what numbers the programme was looking at. Targets include engaging 5000 people with 2000 being moved into employment, 500 into training and 500 inactive into job search or training. These figures were to cover both Bridlington and Scarborough. The group discussed how the programme could support the expected Syrian refugees.

The group also discussed the potential to fund some larger projects to launch the programme which would help with meeting the objectives for the first year.

There was also discussion around a shared web base where providers could access learner data to ensure that an initial assessment hadn't taken place before they claimed the individual in their figures.

4. **CLLD Potential Projects**

Groups were asked if they would like to share details on any potential bids they were considering for the CLLD. There was some hesitation about going into detail and an agreement that the Executive Group would be able to give a future steer on gaps in provision and what was needed.

The group agreed that clear publicity materials would be needed in order to encourage bids from groups who had not been involved in the development process. It was felt that an indication of how much funding they could apply for in order to achieve an output would be beneficial. This would be difficult to state as each intervention will be different and require different levels of funding, for instance cheap engagement versus expensive personal support.

ERVAS gave details of an ESF programme they have just started to deliver. This involves recruiting volunteer buddies to help people move into employment. The buddies can help with job searches, getting people up in a morning and motivated and accessing transport. This is just being piloted in Bridlington.

The question was asked if CLLD could fund this once the pilot pot of funding has ran out. CLLD will not fund anything that is currently happening but a bid could be submitted based on the pilot scheme.

Suggestions for the buddy programme included approaching big businesses as part of their corporate responsibility to provide staff as buddies. Placements could also be sought from the businesses. Staff time could be used as the match.

There was a discussion around the need for clarity over the rate CLLD will pay as volunteer time i.e. skilled or unskilled volunteer.

Potential projects in the Scarborough area include funding to expand Scarborough Jobmatch which employs support workers wo assist people on the journey to work. This is a scheme that has been running for several years so the new application will need to see changes to the current provision. A construction skills village in Eastfield to create a shared apprenticeship scheme for construction. This led to a discussion around the need for a skills village in Bridlington and whether PBS would be interested in being involved linking to the large scale housing and NEEET' agendas. Scarborough are also looking at an ERDF bid for a pledge for construction and creating a business network for micro businesses in order to increase their chances of getting onto the supply chains for bigger projects. The final project they are looking at is working with Yorkshire Coast Homes to develop a warehouse unit into a community training centre.

5. **Bridlington Employability and Skills Charter**

Organisations have been contacting local businesses to ask them to complete the business consultation. Several forms have been returned but more would be good. Additional forms need to be returned prior to the September meeting where the findings can be discussed.

The Humber Portal were looking at developing an employment passport, we must ensure the Bridlington Charter complements and does not duplicate what is already available.

6. **Partner Updates**

Adult Learning

Adult Learning had a disappointing response to their consultation on use of the libraries. Only 173 responses have been received so far and the closing date in Sunday. So far the findings are not robust enough to base any business decisions upon. The results will be shared with the Learning and Skills Forum. Work is currently being done to plan for the September programme.

Children's Centre

The centres are currently looking top recruit breast feeding peer support volunteers. Volunteers will be required to attend a two day training course. LW suggested linking with the college to approach students on open access courses who are hoping to study nursing or midwifery.

Action: Recruitment leaflet to be sent to the group.

Job Centre Plus

The job centre are hosting a provider event on Friday 21 July between 10am and 2pm. This is aimed at clients on ESA and income support. If organisations would like to book a stand please do so via Chris Matson.

Shaw Trust

The team in Bridlington have now moved into Unit 25 at the Business Centre. They are continuing to support their current clients and are awaiting news on the work and health programme.

Christ Church Community Services

SW has secured funding for courses into next year. She has also accessed a new fund called the 'Good Things Foundation' and received funds for helping those with mental health issues.

Pure Training Solutions

There are spaces on compliance and introductory courses available up until the end of July. For more information please contact Adrian.

National Careers Service

NCS are based at the job centre in Bridlington 4 days a week and can help all adults both those in work and those out of work. It is funded through central government and free to all. NCS offer IAG and work with other providers. Lucy is the first point of contact.

There is a mentoring service for lone parents in Scarborough which is accessed by a good proportion of single dads. This is something NCS are keen to replicate in Bridlington through CLLD.

They also run Inspire Me – a mentoring project for the unemployed which offers additional support to those who need it.

ERVAS

Are currently recruiting buddies for their ESF funded buddy project. Training for volunteers will take place at the end of the month and after this they will be looking for clients. The project is funded for one year and, due to a lengthy recruitment process, is set to end in December. Clients must live in Bridlington but the volunteers can come from elsewhere.

Headlands School

Looking to expand the opportunities for students to work with employers in order to raise their aspirations and employability skills. There are 20 employers coming into school for the Year 9 Ambitions Day in July. The men in sheds are on the school site to use the allotment area, it is hoped they will link with the students to develop their communication skills. 90 students are also going out on work experience over the next couple of weeks.

Active Humber

The organisation is going through a restructure at the minute. The focus is non-traditional sports participation and they are optimistic that the restructure will not reduce in size. They currently have contracts in place with HLC to deliver RAMP project and are piloting a traineeship in the NHS in Hull to develop young health champions. They are also looking at apprenticeships.

7. Dates for next meetings

13 September 9.30am

18 October 9.30am

15 November 9.30am

8. **Any other business**

The group agreed to meet again in July and cancel the August meeting due to term time working and holidays.