

BRIDLINGTON LEARNING AND SKILLS FORUM

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

- Present:** Sue Revell - Shaw Trust
Adrian Brown – Pure Training Solutions
Lucy Thomson-Smith – Force, East Riding College
Sophia White – Christ Church Community Services
Lucy Wilkins – Aspire IGEN, National Careers Service
Chris Adams – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Education and Skills Partnership
Alison Gray – East Riding College
Simon Thomas – Job Centre Plus
Andy Levitt - Headlands School
Liz Philpot – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Local Growth Team
Vicky Bolton – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Local Growth Team
- Apologies:** Carl Southcoat – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Employment, Education and Skills
Chris Matson – Job Centre Plus
Melanie Brown – East Riding College
Fiona Turner – ERVAS
Anne Wright – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Ann Colling – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre

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

Minutes approved as true record.

3. **CLLD Programme Update**

Final approval for the programme has been received, we have been awarded the full £6.9 million. Funding agreements have been signed by East Riding of Yorkshire council, the ERDF agreement has also been signed by DCLG, the ESF agreement still needs to be signed by DWP. This will hopefully be done within the next couple of weeks.

The programme is really positive news for the area and everyone’s support in getting to this stage is really appreciated.

An open call has already been issued, the expectation was that we would receive a handful but were overwhelmed with 28. These have been through a officer appraisal to assess eligibility and strategic fit. Appraisals were taken to the PMGs last week who endorsed the officer recommendations. The majority were invited to proceed to full application, most have conditions to address at full application stage.

There will be at least one more open call, expressions of interest need to be completed by 2 January, the decision on the full application for this round will be made at the March executive group meeting. Following this round, it is expected that the calls will be more focused on meeting the gaps in provision highlighted in the strategy and will be more specific.

The 28 bids we have currently received, if all were to be successful at full application stage, will add up to more than the profiled spend for the start of 2018. We are expecting a visit with the managing authorities before Christmas and will need to ask if they will allow us to accelerate the programme spend.

There are still some unknowns around match funding – it is hoped this will be clearer following the visit with the managing authorities. HLC and the TAP are on hand to answer questions we may have at this stage, this is more general ESF and ERDF specific though as oppose to CLLD.

PMG representatives at the meeting were asked for feedback on how they found the process.

LW said she thinks it was risky to start with an open call, it is important to look strategically as soon as possible.

There was a general consensus that applications contained similar content, back to work support, but an agreement that this was not necessarily duplication but had a different emphasis or audience. Some applications were asked to collaborate with others or explain how their provision was similar.

Some applications were for a three year delivery period. If approved, these will be for one initial year and future years will be subject to a performance review.

If anyone is interested in putting in an expression of interest please contact Vicky.bolton@eastriding.gov.uk for more detail.

6. Partner Updates

Work Programme

The current work programme will finish in March 2018. Staff will continue to work with existing clients until March 2019. Shaw Trust have scaled down their office space to just one office in Hull and a part time office in Bridlington (Mondays and Tuesdays).

The new Health and Work Programme starts in January 2018. Reed in Partnership won the contract and have subcontracted the work in our area to Inspire to Independence, jobs for the programme are currently being advertised. This will be a very different programme and will be much more focused on getting those with health issues into work.

Pure Training Solutions

Are still offering short term compliance courses, often in the workplace. They are working closely with East Riding College and offering support for in work learners.

Force @ East Riding College

FORCE is the Federation of Regional Colleges for Engagement and includes colleges within the Hull University catchment area. The funding is used to target 16-19 year olds in target wards aiming to increase the uptake of higher education (double by 2020). Examples of projects include:

- Paying for careers guidance in schools
- Embedding new technology within schools
- Paying for one off target activities.

Bridlington South is one of the target wards and Lucy is working with the Youth Coalition to develop a CLLD project for NEETs.

Christ Church Community Services

Offering the same range of courses. Now also made links with the Refugee Council and working with a group from Syria providing cooking, socialising and the chance to practice English. Also taking a traveller group up to Sewerby Hall as part of the healthy eating project.

The Refugee Council are also looking for volunteers to help families learn English if anyone knows anyone who would be interested.

Aspire Igen

National Careers Service are working closely with Job Centre Plus, adult education, Activfirst and Christ church. They are keen to work with anyone over 18, provide a free service and can work with those in and out of work.

Education and Skills Partnership

HLC manage an online directory of NEET provision, Roots 4 You, which is live now. There are currently 13-14 providers with 70 courses or opportunities, mainly covering the Hull area but it is hoped to also provide details on East Riding provision too.

<http://www.routes4u.co.uk/courses/index.asp>

East Riding College

The college are offering an apprenticeship boot camp for those aged 16 and over. They currently know of 40+ apprenticeship job vacancies which are unfilled. This is often because applicants are not job ready. Following the boot camp they will progress to employment or training.

They are also trialling fast track maths and English GCSE programmes in January and have extended their distance learning offer. Most of this is 50% funded but for unemployed it is 100% funded. All distance learning has a face to face induction.

Job Centre Plus

Premier Inn is bringing big employment opportunities to the town. The building is on track to be open in February and there will be 45-50 staff recruited. The company are keen to do much of this through the Job Centre but there will be opportunities for employed people too. They offer in house training and sector based work academy. Simon is meeting with representatives next week.

There are also jobs available in factories, B Health and Dawn Meats are struggling to recruit.

Universal Credit reaches full service in our area early next year. This will work better for certain benefits and especially for part time workers and those on zero hour contracts, it is definitely better than the current system.

JCP would appreciate training linked to an employer (consideration for future CLLD applications). There is a concern that people have done training before and will continue to do so but would benefit from the motivation of an interview with an employer at the end of it.

Headlands School

There is a Year 11 mock interview day on 4 December. Andy is struggling to get trade representatives in e.g. joinery, plumbing, Electricians etc. Any help would be appreciated if people have contacts in the area.

7. Dates for 2018

17 January 9.30am
21 February 9.30am
21 March 9.30am
18 April 9.30am
16 May 9.30am
20 June 9.30am
18 July 9.30am
19 September 9.30am
17 October 9.30am
21 November 9.30am

8. **Any other business**

Sue told the group about a refugee she had been working with and how she had been interviewed for the New Statesman. Please see the link below:

<https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/uk/2016/03/second-life-one-refugee-family-s-journey-hull-darfur-tripoli-and-cairo>