

BRIDLINGTON LEARNING AND SKILLS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2018 AT 9.30AM AT BRIDLINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE

- Present:** Mike Heslop-Mullens – Bridlington Town Council
Lucy Wilkins – Aspire Igen
Jools Thomspn – Workers Education Alliance (WEA)
Tomasz Glinski – Refugee Council
Melanie Brown – East Riding College
Chris Matson – Job Centre Plus
Simon Thomas – Job Centre Plus
Sue Revell – Shaw Trust
Chris Adams – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Education and Skills Partnership
Fiona Turner – ERVAS
Ann Colling – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Vicky Bolton – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Local Growth Team
Jean Jones – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Local Growth Team
- Apologies:** Sophia White – Christ Church Community Services
Caroline Arnold – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Adult Learning
Tracy Kelly – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Youth and Family Support
Jan Simpson, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Project Coordinator
Anne Wright – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Andy Levitt – Headlands School
Adrian Brown – Pure Training Solutions

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

Minutes approved as true record.

2. **CLLD Programme Update**

Project initiation visits have been carried out by both DCLG and DWP. These will be followed up shortly with a feedback report – until these reports have been received we are still unable to contract with projects. Ten projects have now being approved in principle and are undergoing compliance checks. Programme officers are also working with ERYC legal team to prepare contracts ready for once full approval can be given. It is hoped that this will happen within the next few weeks.

As well as those applications which have been approved in principle another 8 applications have been received along with another 6 expressions of interest. There has been a good mix of projects for capital, revenue and ESF so far.

Recruitment for the compliance team has now being carried out. Rob Warner, previously from Activfirst, is now in post as Programme Coordinator supported by Leon Mulley, Partnership Development Officer and Jean Jones, Programme Officer. Further recruitment will take place shortly for an ERDF Business Development Officer. This post will be the first point of contact for purely business led enquiries and will cover Bridlington and Scarborough.

Further calls for projects have been scheduled throughout the year. Projects will be closely monitored to see which outputs they meet and future calls may be targeted as a consequence.

Once we are in a position to contract it is anticipated that the Learning and Skills Forum will be updated on what expressions of interest and full applications have been received. A spreadsheet will be shown at the start of each future meeting.

LW asked if the programme was looking to just reach the ESIF outputs highlighted in the strategy. She was informed that it was an ongoing discussion at the executive group and all projects would be encouraged to aim for more sustainable outputs and would be subject to a social value evaluation.

3. **Partner Updates**

Education and Skills Partnership

The final version of the employability passport has now been printed, copies were passed around for the group to see. Five schools have signed up for this academic year and the team has secured funding for an online version which they hope to roll out to more schools next year. The passport helps create CVs, contains information on local apprenticeships etc.

There will also be a Humber Skills Event on the 5/6 March 2019 with training providers and businesses exhibiting. All schools in the Humber will be invited and the event will run into the evening for those unable to attend during the day.

WEA

JT is working with Tomasz from the Refugee Council. They are running taster stress management courses at Emmanuel Church and hope these will generate enough interest for a full course.

They are also actively recruiting and training tutors to deliver community interpreting courses which they hope to start in September.

WEA can offer accredited courses at level 2 and 3, fees can be waived for those on benefits.

A summer brochure of the full offer is being prepared which will be ready for the July meeting.

Shaw Trust

They are in the final month of delivery for the Work Programme. There are a handful of people left who will receive support up until the end of the programme.

ERVAS

ERVAS have recently lost the voluntary support contract from East Riding Council, this has been awarded to Humber NHS Foundation Trust. The Trust will take over from 1st May and some staff have been offered the option to TUPE over.

ERVAS will continue. They have other funded contracts and will continue to look for ways to generate income. They are currently working with a range of partners exploring options for a community centre in the town. If anyone is interested in space within a community centre now is the time to speak to Fiona as any funding bids will be supported if they can evidence a range of need.

East Riding College

The college are looking to develop a clinical skills room as part of the Health and Social Care Academy, an EOI has been submitted to the CLLD pot.

The engineering project with Headlands School is still ongoing.

There is an open event at the college the week commencing 23 April.

The college are keen to work with CLLD projects and assist with onward progression paths for beneficiaries. They are also meeting with Job Centre Plus to develop more paths for progression.

Job Centre Plus

The new Work and Health Programme is due to start. The main contract has been won by Reed in Partnership and the local provider is Inspire to Independence who are currently advertising posts. The new programme will be voluntary for disabled clients and mandatory for those on job seekers.

For those entering the programme voluntarily, they have to want to be in work. There is a selection tool for entry and the higher the score the more likely a client is to be accepted.

Once accepted on the course it is for a period of 456 days, around 18 months. Whilst on the course clients are not eligible for any other ESF funded provision. They cannot access ESF provision for the full period even if they drop out of the programme.

The Work and Health Programme is the first referral mechanism for any clients via the job centre.

Staff are also busy preparing for the change to Universal Credit which happens in July. All claimants will have to access this online which will bring a myriad of problems.

The new Premier Inn has provided lots of local jobs and is in a second stage of recruitment. There is a national shortage of chefs which is also seen locally. There is a definite shortage of people with catering skills in Bridlington.

There is still a huge problem with the lack of and expense of public transport.

Aspire Igen

Deliver the National Careers Service in Bridlington and have a representative in Bridlington Job Centre every day of the week.

They are working closely with Children's Centres, Activfirst and Christ Church. If anyone wants to enhance their provision with careers support please contact Lucy.

They are also actively involved with CLLD and are looking forward to linking with future projects.

Children's Centre

Handed out spring and summer programme.

Are waiting for a start date for the new build multipurpose centre where they will be located. This is another project which has bid into CLLD.

Refugee Council

Is grateful to attend these meetings as they have made some good contacts.

Have recently run a series of awareness raising session re refugees and asylum seekers.

Have developed good links with both Christ Church and Emmanuel Church on projects which support the refugee families to resettle in the area.

There is another family of four arriving in Bridlington today. Six individuals are currently volunteering with Kingfisher Café. More volunteering opportunities are needed so please contact Tomasz if you have any opportunities.

On 18 June there is a big lunch for people in Bridlington prepared by the refugee families who will cook traditional Syrian food. All are welcome from 12.30pm at Christ Church.

They have also organised a bike ride from Cottingham to Sewerby Hall on 19 June in partnership with East Riding Council. Anyone is welcome to take part.

7. **Dates for 2018**

It was agreed to cancel the meeting in May and meet again in June.

20 June 9.30am

18 July 9.30am

19 September 9.30am

17 October 9.30am

21 November 9.30am

8. **Any other business**

No other business was raised.