

## Community Champions Network Meeting

The Maybury Centre

6/12/11

### Attendees:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Clare Jones – CLC Sheerwater Children’s Centre          | CJ  |
| Fay Taylor-Hore – CLC Horsell Village Children’s Centre | FTH |
| John Thurlow – SLLP Community Learning Advisor          | JT  |
| Cheryl Brown – Family Learning ACL                      | CB  |
| Elizabeth Whiddett – SLLP Community Learning Advisor    | EW  |
| Kevin Delf – Chief Executive SLLP,                      | KD  |
| Elaine McGinty – C L C Consultant SLLP                  | EM  |

### NOTES:

EM explained that the purpose of the meetings was for CLC’s to give their views and share experiences on working as CLCS as well as to speak with people who can give support and advice on what’s available. Any new information or ways of sharing information could be explored and would help SLLP to plan for the roll out of the scheme, which would, in turn increase the resource for learner engagement.

CJ mentioned that whilst they were able to engage with parents who visited them CLC’s weren’t always aware of what was available and this could be even harder for those CLC’s who weren’t working in a professional advisor capacity as they may not know how to research the answers, or refer to the answers.

FTH advised that the proposed changes in benefits relating to children’s ages are confusing for parents. Information available online relating to the changes is not clear and at present we do not know how the changes will affect the attitude of parents to training and learning. Gingerbread is a good source of information but they will only provide information to lone parents or professionals who are enquiring on behalf of those families. An example where a family has lost benefits when accessing training was given. The family have children under the age of five and when an older sibling took up a training place the family’s benefits were cut. In Surrey several private providers are the primary means of delivering training for trades e.g. plumbing and electrical training. FTH advised the group of the agencies who have been contacted to try to assist this family so that the older sibling will stay in training.

EW advised that the Children’s Centre job clubs sometimes have problems engaging parents and cannot get people to the job clubs. Skills conditionality means that low skilled people on benefits may have to take skills classes. The good news is that the classes can be in a variety of subjects

KD suggested SLLP contact Simon Dann from Job Centre plus to ask for clarification of what changes are coming in.

EM advised of the Forum on the SLLP website where updates will be posted on information available and have asked providers do the same, also, that CLC’s share their successes and challenges as we may

all benefit from each other's experience. A Facebook group is being set up for CLC's to access online too and EM will advise when done\*. JT advised of a database listing all courses available. CJ asked if all links could be sent. EM agreed to do so. (Listed below)

CJ advised that whilst engaged in learning in the Community more than half her learners would not go to College, often due to transport issues and distance but also time, responsibilities and lack of confidence to take that extra step. EM suggested that courses outside the community are not always the referral route for everyone sometimes to gain confidence to sign up for formal learning people may need activities or 'tasters' to engage in the routine of attending outside the home and also referral for voluntary work and that these opportunities could be highlighted to each other and those wanting help.

KD been contacted about 2 members of the public who wish to help with Literacy. K will refer them, either to Colleges, ACL or WAVs.

ACL can provide family learning opportunities and CB advised that the ACL can run courses with small numbers in the nature of 6 – 10. CB made information available about what is on offer. FTH mentioned CC area targets and said that she has found individuals are often reluctant to admit to meeting the criteria to attend courses run by ACL. ACL are working with Horsell Sure Start Children's Centre via the YPOD Young Parents' Group. This group is jointly co-ordinated by Woking South Children's Centre and Horsell Sure Start Children's Centre.

CJ suggested that new CLC's be incorporated into meetings and meet providers, SLLP and existing CLC's to see there is a support network there and know they can ask for help if needed as well as share information out to potential learners.

CJ suggested that a Festival of Learning would be a good idea to engage people and CB said that new CLC's could visit a Family Learning Course also suggested a CLC referral pack containing details of all learning available where possible.

JT asked that CLC's provide information on the referrals made, it helps to attract funding to the scheme so it can be expanded to affect more communities and is a way of CLC's keeping a record of success for themselves too.

#### LINKS

<http://www.adultlearninginsurrey.org.uk>

[http://www.surreyllp.org.uk/capacity\\_building/CLC\\_channel/CLC\\_Forum](http://www.surreyllp.org.uk/capacity_building/CLC_channel/CLC_Forum)

\*Facebook page for Champions Inspire now set up go to:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Champions-Inspire/306035939426636>

EM

6 December 2012