

**MINUTES**

**Banstead, Epsom and Ewell (BEE) Community Learning Partnership meeting**

**The Longmead Centre, Sefton Road, Epsom KT19 9HG**

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Action points agreed at the meeting:**

- a. Paul Wilson agreed to email the Niace report on the BIS FE consultation to John Thurlow for onward circulation to the CLP members (see Item 4 below)

**1. Welcome and introductions**

The following members were present at the meeting and introduced themselves

Paul Wilson, Nescot (Chair)  
John Thurlow, SLLP (Minutes)  
Laura Devereux, Riverview School Children's Centre  
Abby Guinness, Community Archaeologist/SCC  
Laura Joyner, Assistant Community Archaeologist/SCC  
Vanessa Lygo-Baker, North Downs Schools Partnership  
Liz Kirkland, Community Partnerships, The Beacon School  
Liz Wells, Surrey Libraries  
Gemma Pawson, Leatherhead Trinity Children's Centre  
Anne Andrews, WEA  
Clare Percival, Action for Carers  
Victoria Jeffery, Mole valley Partnerships Officer  
Gill Futcher, Nescot  
Sarah Hamilton, Dorking Nursery School Children's Centre  
Debbie Harrison, Links Partnership (Voluntary Action Mid-Surrey)

**2. Apologies for absence**

These were received from: Helena Crofts, Richmond Fellowship; Sue Bull, Love Me Love My Mind/Epsom Mental Health Week; Phil Mack, 'About Us' life skills training service/SCC; Pauline Guppy, ACL/SCC; Simon Bland, RBBC; Diane Henry, SCC; Nicola Morris, SCC Partnership Officer, Epsom & Ewell BC; Andrew Eperson, Epsom & Ewell BC; Mary Gould, EEHS; Laurence Nasskau, Raven Housing; Lauren Coope, Nescot; Stella Willis, Dorking Schools Partnership; Shirley O'Donoghue, Holistic Harmony; Andrew Furtek, Mole Valley Housing Association.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011 at Nescot were read and accepted.

Anne Andrews asked whether it was intended to merge the Mole valley CLP with the BEE CLP and John Thurlow said that it was not; the meeting planned for Mole Valley in September had been postponed due to scheduling problems and as an expedient it had been decided to invite Mole Valley CLP members to this meeting. Separate CLPs will be convened for Mole Valley and BEE in the New Year. Anne Andrews' offer to chair the Mole Valley CLP was acknowledged.

#### 4. What's new, what's changed

Paul Wilson described the recent changes to FE funding and their impact on Nescot. He addressed cuts in budgets, dependence of funding on outcomes, where fee remission could and could not be applied, issues around jobseekers on active benefits and the emphasis on colleges such as Nescot having to allocate a certain amount of budgets to build capacity for coming years. In short, the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) money that Nescot receive in this area has been put into one pot, they can only draw it down if the outcome is someone getting a job and they are looking at an overall target of getting 300 people into work next year.

Paul also explained what was happening with the current BIS consultation called "New Challenges, New Chances: Next Steps in Implementing the Further Education Reform Programme" and highlighted the main issues it raised. Paul mentioned a NIACE (The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education) meeting that had been held to consider a response to the consultation and a report that had been published following that meeting. Paul mentioned some of the points that had caught his eye as follows:

- the £210m funding pot for informal adult community learning (IAL) was at risk of being absorbed into mainstream FE funding
- there are concerns over the ability of the sector to provide pathways into accredited mainstream learning
- pressure to widen the partner base to include more third sector organisations
- need to deliver to those learners most in need and whether the money should be used to fund innovation and build capacity rather than 'just put on courses'
- the very real concern about how IAL fits into the OFSTED Common Inspection Framework (CIF) approach
- the key challenge of being able to measure the impact of IAL (by showing a return on social investment)

**Action: Paul Wilson agreed to email the full Niace report to John Thurlow for onward circulation to the CLP members**

Anne Andrews added that the WEA contacted all their tutors and learners and asked them for inputs to a WEA response to the consultation.

Note added by John Thurlow for information: The deadline for responses to the BIS consultation was Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October and a submission was made by SLLP which incorporated comments from many of the organisations involved in IAL across Surrey. This response can be access via the SLLP website.

## **5. Members' market place**

### **Vanessa Lygo-Baker, North Downs Schools Partnership**

- Vanessa updated us on the funding cuts that had affected schools confederations and the effect this had on extended schools provision. Schools were now working in partnerships within very tight budgets but working hard to deliver initiatives.

### **Abby Guinness, Community Archaeologist**

- Abby told us all about the Preston Community Archaeology Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which will shortly undertake a community excavation on the site of Preston Hawe, a medieval moated manor house. The project, also supported by Raven Housing Trust and Surrey County Council, will give local people the opportunity to experience being an archaeologist at free sessions on the excavation.
- As well as the community excavation, Dig Preston 2011 offers plenty of activities and events for the local community and schools to join in. Abby circulated a flyer containing more information about the digs, courses and volunteering. Vanessa Lygo-Baker said that she would be encouraging all 12 schools in the local partnership to get involved.

### **Laura Devereux, Riverview School Children's Centre**

- Laura updated the meeting on their work with families, in partnership with the WEA's 'Engaging Communities' initiative. She detailed which courses were most successful and some of the issues surrounding which courses were not fundable at the moment.

### **Sarah Hamilton, Dorking Nursery School Children's Centre**

- Sarah told us about the efforts to work with young parents in partnership with the WEA and with SCC Family Learning, outlining the most popular courses. She said that funding was okay at the moment, that the response from parents was okay and that they were expanding their offer to include 'dads'.

### **Anne Andrews, WEA**

- The WEA works with various children's centres in the area (as already mentioned) and provides art and IT courses at The Longmead Centre. A new 'Preparing to help in schools' course is just about to start and this is always very popular and can lead onto an accredited course.

### **Debbie Harrison, Links Partnership (Voluntary Action Mid-Surrey)**

- Debbie said her partnership was working in the area of highest need with respect to learning and skills and was accessing the £6,000 'Families in poverty needs' budget that each borough had received. She talked about barriers to learning and their experiences in engaging local residents.

**Gemma Pawson, Leatherhead Trinity Children's Centre**

- Courses are being delivered very successfully at the children's centre and Gemma is looking to expand the range. She also said that they have a very nice training room that is available for community use.

**Clare Percival, Action for Carers**

- Clare described the work of Action for Carers and announced that they had just received 'Trusted Assessor Status' which means they can fund carers for up to £500 to take courses to help them get into work. This is a very new initiative and carers need to come forward and make requests. This is the same initiative under which GPs can allocate up to £500 per patient for things such as gym membership if this is felt that it would improve their health and employability.

**Liz Kirkland, Community Partnerships, The Beacon School**

- Liz has a new role in the partnership and the intention is to work more with community and get more parents involved with school. They will be finding out what parents' needs are and where they need support.

**Liz Wells, Surrey Libraries**

- Good news – three new library projects. Woking Library is to be totally refurbished but this means it will be closed for 5 months. A new library opens in Stanwell this month. And a new library will open in Dorking in January 2012 in St Martins Walk including a suite of 10 PCs for partner providers to use.
- Liz also updated on progress with negotiations with various groups planning to run the Community Partner Libraries in the area, ie Ewell Court, Stoneleigh, Tattenhams, Lingfield and Warlingham.
- Although the mobile library service closed at the end of September, a service to provide a directed, targeted service to households using volunteers is being investigated.
- There is a new IT contract in place which means all staff and public PCs will be refreshed, although the number of the latter will be reduced. However, WiFi will be available in all libraries by February next year with the idea that providers will bring in their own laptops to deliver courses.

**John Thurlow, SLLP**

- SLLP circulated details of their new 'Digital Citizens' digital inclusion project and invited CLP members to think about whether they knew of groups or organisations who could benefit from the initiative. Liz Wells said that the libraries had big waiting lists of people wanting to access basic IT courses.

### **Paul Wilson, Nescot**

- Paul said that the college was doing very well, numbers of enrolments were very good this year and they had 2,500 prospective students at their recent open days. Apprenticeships had grown by 300%. A lot of investment is being made to ensure growth for the next few years.
- The 'Upgrade' programme provides literacy, numeracy and IT skills for jobseekers but numbers of referrals from Jobcentreplus are disappointing. All Nescot need is evidence of benefits to apply full fee remission.
- The college also works in partnership with Surrey Care Trust to provide BTEC courses to around 60 teenage parents across the whole of Surrey.
- Students are being encouraged to get involved in volunteering.

### **6. Any other business**

There was no other business.

### **7. Time and venue of next meeting**

It was agreed that the date and venue for the next meeting would be arranged by email.