

Minutes

Banstead, Epsom and Ewell Community Learning Partnership meeting

NESCOT College, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom KT17 3DS

21st June 2011

Action points agreed at the meeting:

(There were no actions agreed at the meeting)

1. Welcome and introductions

The following members were present at the meeting and introduced themselves

Paul Wilson (Nescot) – Chair
John Thurlow (Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership - SLLP) – minutes
Anne Andrews (WEA)
Pauline Guppy (Family Learning, Surrey County Council)
David Russell (Next Step)
Abby Guinness (Community Archaeologist)
Laura Joyner (Assistant Community Archaeologist)
Andrew Eperson (Policy & Partnerships, Epsom & Ewell BC)

2. Apologies for absence

These were received from: Alex Russell, Epsom and Ewell High School; Sue Bull, Love Me Love My Mind/Epsom Mental Health Week; Phil Mack, 'About Us' life skills training service; Simon Bland, RBBC, Serena Powis, Epsom & Ewell BC; Helen Hawkins, R&BVS; Laurence Nasskau, Raven Housing Trust; Clare Percival, Action for Carers & Helena Crofts, Richmond Fellowship.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 20th October 2010 at the Longmead Centre, Epsom were read and accepted.

The three action points from the last meeting were discussed as follows:

- a. John Thurlow explained that the 'What's New, what's changed' paper had not been updated but he circulated a briefing note entitled "Changes affecting learning and skills in Surrey" which had been prepared by SLLP and was available from their website.
- b. The SLLP plan to convene a meeting of all CLP Chairs is still pending.
- c. The question of including Banstead with Epsom and Ewell in the CLP was believed to derive from a wish in the past to link the CLPs to clusters of

secondary schools. It was accepted that organisations and agencies split the county up in different ways and that there was no obvious way to align the boundaries of the CLPs; in fact, it was felt that the membership of the CLPs and ensuring consistent attendance from the 'right' organisations was more important than the geographical boundaries. John Thurlow asked for views on merging the BEE CLP with the Mole Valley CLP as there was no FE college in Mole Valley. Members had no strong view on this. John Thurlow also asked whether meeting three times per year was necessary and whether members thought this could be reduced to two meetings. Again, members had no strong view on this but suggested that it would be more useful to 'stagger' the meetings of the three CLPs in the middle and east of the county so that those agencies who attend all three would not have three meetings in the space of three weeks.

4. What's new, what's changed

John Thurlow circulated copies of a number of items containing research or analysis pertaining to Surrey in terms of employment and training, as follows:

1. SLLP's listing of the top ten areas of need in Surrey according to the IMD 2010 figures which were published in March this year;
2. A short briefing note entitled "Changes affecting learning and skills in Surrey" which SLLP had prepared;
3. The Executive Summary from the "Surrey Worklessness Assessment";
4. Surrey Economic Partnership's "Economic Prospects: A Surrey Snapshot – May 2011".

A discussion ensued on the needs in some specific areas, ie Court and Ruxley and also about the new Work Programme which DWP have now appointed prime contractors to deliver.

Paul Wilson detailed some of the changes in funding in the adult learning sector post-September, namely that courses would only remain free for those on 'active benefits' and that concessions would be withdrawn for those on income support-type benefits, eg lone parents.

Andrew Epperson asked whether Surrey County Council were the 'lead accountable body' on adult education in the county and Paul Wilson explained that there were not and it was not known whether they would adopt this responsibility in the future.

5. Members' market place

Pauline Guppy, Family Learning, SCC

- Pauline listed the courses that Family Learning were delivering at Children's Centres and schools in the area.
- Also the partnership working with WEA where progression opportunities are possible – for example, the 'Helping in Schools' course leading onto literacy and numeracy courses.

Anne Andrews, WEA

- The WEA are providing plenty of opportunities to elderly learners at the Longmead Centre covering IT, arts & crafts and exercise.
- Also working with Children's Centres in Epsom and offering courses at Epsom and Ewell High School.
- Partnership working with Next Step is developing – WEA provide IAG themselves on short courses but for longer courses are bringing Next Step in to perform this element.

David Russell, Next Step

- In the Epsom area work within either the Connexions Centre or the Job Centre.
- David circulated a handout which detailed the group sessions they conduct covering CV Essentials, Succeed at Interviews, Hidden Jobs and 50+ Jobseekers.
- Also the sessions they run for Lone Parents and sector specific areas such as Care Work, Retail and Customer Service.
- Next Step are looking for new venues and new business and developing more partnership working with ACL, WEA and SLLP.
- The Next Step service is open to anyone over 19, whether unemployed or in employment.
- They can see people up to three times face-to-face.
- Also offer a telephone and web-based service.

Abby Guinness, Community Archaeologist

- Abby told the meeting all about the Preston community dig and circulated a flyer about this. The group meets once a week just up the road from Epsom Downs.
- Working in partnership with Family Learning in primary schools.
- Other projects across the county and BBC "Digging for Britain" project being held in libraries around the county in October. Event at Bourne Hall in Ewell on 29th October.
- Plans for a community dig by submitting a bid with Raven Housing Trust to the HLF.

Paul Wilson, Nescot

- Paul passed round handouts covering Nescot courses, mainly under their 'Upgrade' branding covering:
 - Free courses in Maths or English
 - Computer training (basic, intermediate and advanced and work-related)
 - Work skills, interview technique and CV writing
 - Employment prospects and confidence
- Nescot work with Surrey Care Trust on a programme aimed at lone parents and young people at risk of becoming NEET.

- Also working with local Epsom schools on a NEET prevention project over the Summer for 14 to 19 year olds.
- Their big priority at the moment is apprenticeships which now requires a new model as there are many more would-be apprentices than there are placements. David Russell asked Paul about the referral process for apprenticeships.

Andrew Epperson, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

- Involved on fringes of transforming youth services and who's to provide NEET support beyond next April.
- Surrey target of zero NEET – become 'PEET' ie 'Placed in Education, Employment or Training'.
- Ginni Smedley (Policy & Research Manager) leads at Surrey CC on child poverty. Each borough has been allocated money to carry out more study on, or work with, high needs families , eg on anti-social behaviour. Andrew would welcome firm ideas on how to use the money in Court & Ruxley. The money must be spent by March 2012.

John Thurlow, SLLP

- The older IT learner is very well served in North Epsom. The WEA and Nescot deliver IT courses at the Longmead Centre, Nescot also delivers at Kings Church on the Longmead Estate. SLLP have just started delivering at the Wells Centre. However, all three are talking to each other to check there is no overlap and the offerings are mutually compatible ie one offers progression onto the other.

6. Any other business

Paul Wilson told the meeting that his colleague Andrew Humphreys would be leaving Nescot in August for a role in another sector but based nearer to where he lives.

7. Time and venue of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 13th October at 2 pm. John Thurlow is to organise the venue.