

Minutes

East Surrey Community Learning
Partnership (CLP) meeting

East Surrey College

8th June 2011

Action points agreed at the meeting:

- a. **Simon Dann, Job Centre Plus to e-mail their 'Awareness Powerpoint' to SLLP for onward circulation to all CLP members.**

1. Welcome and introductions

The following members were present at the meeting and introduced themselves and their organisations:

Gwen Hurrion - East Surrey College (Chair)
John Thurlow - SLLP (Minutes)
Susan Willis - Intraining
Paul Harvey – Catch 22
Simon Dann - Job Centre Plus
Louisa Daniels - Richmond Fellowship
Simon Bland - RBBC
Arthur Browne – R&BVS and U3A
Jane Waller - WEA
Janet Johnson - Surrey County Council
Sarah Merrick - Welcare
Tracey Burrows - Merstham Community Facility
Jeanne Allen – Catch 22

Gwen Hurrion welcomed everyone and remarked that attendance at the meetings seemed to have stabilised and that the right 'core' of organisations were now consistently represented. She particularly welcomed the representative from JobCentre Plus saying that the CLP needed good information about local employment market needs.

2. Apologies for absence

These were received from:

Linda Smith - Kestrels Children's Centre
Bridget Stokes - SCC Children's Centre Development
Bernadine Philpott - Horley Learning Partnership
Sharon Lawrence - Woodfield Primary

Sue Cox - Tandridge Voluntary Service Council
Pauline Guppy - Family Learning/SCC
Phil Mack - 'About Us' life skills training service
Gary Best - Redhill, Reigate & Merstham Confederation
Abby Guinness - Community Archaeologist
Christine Harper - Furzefield Primary
Helen Hawkins – R&BVS
Sharon Bondonno – Earlswood School
Sarah Davison – Tandridge Confederation

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 16th February at East Surrey College, were read and accepted with the following amendments:

- On page 5, under the Tracey Burrows, Merstham Community Facility paragraph, the sentence “In answer to a question from Gwen Hurrion, Tracey said that funding for the project was being provided by Raven Housing” is deleted.
- On page 6, the first sentence of the Jane Waller, WEA paragraph is replaced with:
“Jane described how the WEA worked in East Surrey, including the joint programme of courses with East Surrey College, strong partnership working at the Merstham Community Facility and collaborations such as ‘Art Matters’ with Richmond Fellowship and with the Tandridge Confederation, working in community. “

4. Members’ market place

Tracey Burrows, Merstham Community Facility

- Tracey explained that the work continues at the Facility with a new WEA programme starting this week and the Job Club carrying on, meeting on Mondays and Wednesday evenings but that the latter could benefit from more referrals. They are looking at the way forward for the next year – one possibility being a bid for funding for a resources for people who are not ‘work ready’, including adults with mental health needs, people who have been unemployed for a long time and those with English language needs. A funding surgery was held at the Facility yesterday which proved very useful with one outcome being the recognition of the need for more partnership working.

Simon Bland, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

- Simon gave an update on the Oakley Centre, ie the youth centre located on the Merstham Estate, from the perspective of Surrey County Council giving up their delivery role and moving to a solely commissioning role. There are 32 youth centres across the county which SCC are looking for other organisations to take over the running of. Raven Housing have expressed an interest in running the Oakley Centre supported by a consortium of local

expertise. However, the Oakley Centre is used for a lot of other things by the County Council and so it may turn into something completely different from what it is now. Gwen Hurrion remarked that one idea was to turn the 32 youth centres into local skills centres.

- Simon then gave an update on Merstham from the viewpoint of it being a 'Priority Place'. The main recent activity being centred around the 'Health Needs Assessment' that the NHS had carried out as a result of the estate being deemed a priority place. 'Happy Healthy Merstham' was held last Summer, people seemed to like it and so it has been agreed to hold 'Happy Healthy Merstham II' this year as a follow-up to the NHS assessment. An opening event and a week of activities will focus on all the good things that go on in Merstham aimed at improving residents' health. The activities will take place during the week beginning 12th September.
- A regeneration plan has been under discussion for some time. 12 months ago it was realised that the finance for the original 'hub' concept was not available and so a scaled-back, but still new build, hub is now contemplated. It will not include the GP Surgery, for example. It is with planning colleagues at the moment and potential users will be consulted about space requirements.
- Gwen Hurrion asked whether there was any news on a new school for the area. Simon said that there was a shortage of junior school places in Reigate & Banstead – the Watercolours estate and infill in Redhill being some of the reasons – and that a number of sites in Redhill had been identified with one very close to the College.

Note: there was a subsequent discussion about Merstham's ranking in the new 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) figures, it having moved from third to second overall. Simon Bland explained that Merstham faced particular difficulties and it would require a generational shift to improve the life chances of the residents. Gwen Hurrion suggested that "education was the passport to employment" and said that the College had been working much more pro-actively with NEET groups, mentioning one project called Time4 in particular. This is a youth initiative started on the estate and working in new media and music production but possibly transferring to the college to exploit its state-of-the-art facilities.

Sarah Merrick, Welcare

- The Welcare Home Playlink workers were being made redundant at the end of July but Playlink itself will carry on but in partnership with Red Oak Children's Centre and the toy library run from Merstham library will continue.

Arthur Browne, Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Services

- R&BVS have been supporting Merstham for some time but had perceived there to be similar problems in Preston so Arthur explained that they would be increasing the amount of support they gave to that area. He also advised that Helen Hawkins who had been supporting their work at the Merstham Community Facility was leaving R&BVS to work elsewhere in the third sector.

Jane Waller, WEA

- The WEA is still recruiting well on its courses at the Community Facility and at the Red Oak Children's Centre. They have recently developed stronger links with JobCentre Plus who have made referrals onto their 'Starting with helping in schools' course. Their future focus will continue to be on developing courses involving more work-related basic skills but they are experiencing problems with take-up on these courses.
- Jane mentioned that the WEA worked in partnership with Richmond Fellowship on the 'Art Matters' project. She also emphasised that the WEA only worked with over 19s. Also that the Betchingley Centre closes in July and that the East Surrey WEA will be moving into the old College building which will be developed into an adult education centre.
- The WEA still see the 'leisure' aspect of adult learning as very important, especially for the elderly.

Louisa Daniels, Richmond Fellowship

- Louisa told the meeting about a new 6 week programme for the Merstham Estate being run jointly with Surrey Wildlife Trust.
- Richmond Fellowship are also running a 'Women's Wilderness Day' in Gatton Park at the end of August. Gwen Hurrion asked how they got their clients and Louisa said from GPs and via self-referrals. In the Redhill office they have Employment and Community Links workers.

Simon Dann, JobCentre Plus

- Simon is based in Weybridge but his role covers the whole of Surrey. Chris Nichol is now the District Manager for Surrey and Sussex. Simon started by explaining that every JCP office had target areas and provided workshops to support job seekers from those areas. JCP have partnership managers and local employment managers. The Redhill office has undergone recent changes in management but now Ros Roberts and Ginnie Gray are in place with the latter looking particularly at local provision.
- In terms of training provision, JCP's focus is on basic skills, job skills and IT based around a 'District Provision Tool'. Plenty of training for job seekers and claimants is currently available in the Redhill area. From September there will be a mandatory work activity involving a work placement but with childcare and transport costs supported.
- In terms of very local provision and needs, Simon recommended the use of the new Surrey I (www.surreyi.gov.uk) website where, on a weekly basis, a 'dashboard' will show the top 10 jobs advertised and the top 10 jobs being looked for in each area.

Note: At this point John Thurlow circulated copies of Surrey Economic Partnerships 'Economic Prospects: A Surrey Snapshot – May 2011' which details claimant numbers and the number of young people not in employment. A discussion ensued about the long-term unemployed who are the 'real problem' as lots of people who become unemployed quickly get jobs again but the

numbers of people who have been unemployed for 12 months or more is falling very slowly.

- The problem of unemployed 18-24 year olds was also discussed and Simon introduced the 'Get Britain Working' initiative and explained how this would operate. Simon also told the meeting about new JCP initiatives around work clubs, enterprise clubs and the enterprise allowance (where Surrey will get its money in August).
- Simon mentioned the work experience programme and explained that the employment adviser at each job centre was responsible meeting the placement targets but that there were plenty of opportunities in the Redhill area.
- Finally, Simon offered to provide details of any of these areas to members of the group – the WEA said they would like details of the Enterprise Allowance. Simon said that JCP had an awareness Powerpoint covering all the initiatives which he would provide via SLLP for onward circulation.

Arthur Browne, U3A

- The U3A is having great success with all its initiatives – local conference, Summer school and Autumn seminar. All are fully booked or over subscribed.

Susan Willis, Intraining

- Currently they run two programmes in Redhill – their Foundation Learning programme caters for up to twenty 16-18 year olds while their adult programme also caters for twenty. However, the latter programme ends in July and it is unclear whether the 'FL' programme will be expanded to forty or whether they will also run a numeracy/literacy 'work skills award'.

Paul Harvey, Catch 22

- Also run a Foundation Learning programme for 16-18 year olds at the Methodist Church with the focus on functional skills, PSD and vocational skills. Some Merstham youth have attended their courses.

Note: It was also mentioned at this point that Surrey Care Trust's 'Steps Ahead' programme also offers this type of support and so, together with the programmes available at the College, NEET and young unemployed people have quite a lot of choice in the Redhill area.

Gwen Hurrion, East Surrey College

- The new 'taster' session approach at the College is intended to get over 19s back into learning and there are still opportunities for providers to run free courses at the College, say, on Saturdays. The Colleges' programmes will be recast for next year and particular emphasis will be on college leavers unable to find employment, who thus become JCP clients. Also the NEET group. There are a lot of opportunities in the Redhill area for choice, competition and collaboration and she sees the need for really good intelligence, hence the reason why it is very helpful having JCP representation at the meeting.

She remarked that there had perhaps been a lack of sharing of data in the past.

5. Any other business

- There was no other business.

6. Time and venue of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at East Surrey College on Wednesday, 28th September 2011 at 2pm.