

Minutes

East Surrey Community Learning Partnership (CLP) meeting

East Surrey College

9th November 2011

Action points agreed at the meeting:

- a. Simon Dann, Jobcentre Plus to e-mail their 'Awareness Powerpoint' to SLLP for onward circulation to all CLP members.
- b. The next meeting of the CLP will be at East Surrey College on Wednesday, 22nd February at 2pm.

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)
Arthur Browne – R&BVS and U3A
Paul Harvey – Catch 22
Simon Bland - RBBC
Phil Mack - 'About Us' life skills training service
Tracey Burrows - Merstham Community Facility
Kirsten Everett – Intraining
Simon Dann - Jobcentre Plus

2. Apologies for absence

These were received from:

Helena Crofts - Richmond Fellowship
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
Andrea Stutchbury - Tandridge Leisure
Gary Best - Redhill, Reigate & Merstham Confederation
Abby Guinness - Community Archaeologist
Christine Harper - Furzefield Primary
Sarah Albert - Surrey County Council
Louisa Daniels - Richmond Fellowship

Allan Hopkins - The Warwick School
Abby Guinness - Community Archaeology/SCC
Laura Joyner - Community Archaeology/SCC
Helen Acraman - Hurst Green and Holland Children's Centre
Sarah Merrick - Welcare

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 8th June at East Surrey College, were read and accepted with the following amendments or comments:

- Simon Dann asked that the name 'Jobcentre Plus' was used consistently;
- He also said that he would circulate the current version of the Jobcentre Plus powerpoint presentation.

4. Members' market place

Tracey Burrows, Merstham Community Facility

- The Job Club and IT drop-in continue together with new health initiatives including walking and smoking cessation.
- New funding is being sought as there are plans to take on another shop unit in Portland Drive to provide extra capacity. This would be mainly used by Holistic Harmony working with residents and providing self-confidence to those who weren't work ready.

Simon Dann, Jobcentre Plus

- The efficiency challenge faced by Jobcentre Plus in the 2010 Spending Review period, between April 2011 and March 2015, means it has to change the way it does business to achieve the efficiencies required. Through its Business Transformation Programme, Jobcentre Plus aims to achieve these efficiencies whilst maintaining a high level of customer service. More details can be found at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/about-dwp/customer-delivery/jobcentre-plus/publications-jobcentre-plus/impact-assessments/bt-eias/>
- Chris Nichol, the Surrey & Sussex District Manager, is leaving and his successor has now been announced as Richard Vianello.
- The new Skills Conditionality programme has started and represents partnership working with the Skills Funding Agency. This means that from day one jobseekers can see a college. If people have identifiable barriers to work then they will be referred to a college. They will be offered upskilling in literacy, numeracy and IT. This started in August this year, applies to people on JSA or ESA, and involves an initial interview with Next Step. Agreements have been made with all the FE colleges in Surrey, ie Brooklands, Nescot, Guildford, Strode's and East Surrey as well as Farnborough.
- In response to the question "what really happens" Simon summarised the Skills Conditionality programme thus:
 - If JCP refer someone to training, having identified lack of skills as a barrier to getting work;

- If they fail to attend then benefits are cut – we have the sanctions in place;
- SFA provide funding for courses;
- We are sending through a ‘dashboard’ to each college matching job vacancies to courses, broken down by local area.

At this point Gwen Hurrion said that the number of referrals from JCP was going down but that the more needy people were now being referred. The college had set tracking systems up so that if students didn’t attend this could be reported back to JCP. The new system represents more meeting of minds – JCP now understand how colleges work and how to provide the right kind of referrals – most unemployable people have low basic skills. The issue is all about the learner’s motivation.

- Finally, Simon mentioned that JCP are working with Surrey’s Drug and Alcohol Team to identify people who need skills training or support.

Kirsten Everett, Intraining

- Kirsten has taken over management of the Redhill facility which now only offers Foundation Learning, mostly literacy and numeracy but also some vocational services such as construction. It is very focussed on the needs of the learner.
- Their Working centre offers Adult Learner Responsiveness courses as well as ESOL.
- Class sizes are 10 learners and most are self-referrals.

Gwen Hurrion recommended that Intraining be represented at the College’s ‘Neet Group’ as there may be the possibility of cross-referring learners.

Paul Harvey, Catch 22

- Catch 22 have new ESF funding for a programme called ‘Opt-in Plus’ which is very flexible and aimed at 16-18 year old Neets who aren’t ready to join a group and so can be offered one-to-one support.
- Their ‘First Steps’ offer aims to keep the young people engaged, the course includes drama, trips to places such as High Ashurst, First Aid, basic CV writing and peer mentoring. This is not Foundation Learning so is not in competition with other local providers; in fact, learners may progress onto Intraining or ESC courses as well as apprenticeships or volunteering.

Phil Mack, 'About Us' life skills training service

- Phil’s team work in adult social care, mainly providing picture-based life skills training to adults with physical difficulties and some with LDD.
- They also work with SCC staff with learning disabilities in order that they can achieve qualifications while working, mainly at Entry and Level 1,
- They are piloting a ‘lunch buddy’ scheme where Employability recruit volunteers to help one-on-one with lunches thus providing experience and a qualification.

Simon Bland, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

- Simon said there was no news yet on progress with the Surrey contract for youth centres.

Gwen Hurrion commented that East Surrey College is newly involved at the Horley Centre where a Skills Centre is operating within a Youth Centre and providing learning to 10 young people. This will serve as a model for other centres.

- The Council continues to offer work placements for young people carrying on the programme previously supported by the Future Jobs Fund but now self-funded.
- The Redhill regeneration will include the creation of a number of new supermarket thus creating employment opportunities and the requisite training needs have to be met.
- In Merstham, progress on the community-led hub should happen relatively quickly. Also in Merstham, Surrey County Council have asked RBBC to bid for a Neighbourhood Budget pilot (one of only two in the country) to provide wrap-around services for mental ill-health sufferers.

Arthur Browne, Reigate & Banstead Voluntary Services

- Des Shepherd had said there was nothing specific to report from the voluntary services. However, in response to a question from Gwen Hurrion, Arthur said that the numbers of volunteers was being maintained or even increasing (probably due to the number of people out of work who didn't want any gaps on their CVs).

Arthur Browne, U3A

- Arthur reported that the seventh Summer School at Chichester University was very successful according to the feedback, with 11 courses and 182 students. Forty of these came from Surrey. The 2012 event is now being planned.
- In October a seminar was held for U3As in Surrey, Sussex and Kent on 'U3A Growth: the Roles of Publicity & Community Activity'. Arthur gave a 10 minute talk about the Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership and how SLLP was a route for the U3A to get into other organisations and attract more groups and members.
- There are over 272,000 members in 820 U3As and membership is increasing at over 8% per annum. This represents about 2% of the retired population.

Gwen Hurrion, East Surrey College

- Gwen announced that the embargo had been lifted today on the excellent news that the guest of honour at the official opening of the new college building on Friday, 18th November would be HRH Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip.

- The whole college is now Matrix accredited which means that IAG support is available in all programmes.
- September was very busy with enrolments, 16-18 targets have been met but still recruiting as looking to future. New programme start in January in areas such as construction, creative & media and customer service. These programmes are aimed at 16-18 year olds who have dropped out.
- There is now more adult provision but haven't fully recruited and filled all courses but the Saturday IACL has been very successful.
- New courses including a vocational element with the intention of getting people into employment include ESOL & Care, ESOL & IT, ESOL & Motor Vehicles and ESOL for Homemakers.
- The ESC offer is being refurbished based on the market needs. HE provision is being expanded with 100 students now on courses.

John Thurlow, Surrey Lifelong Learning

- SLLP have new funding (from Nominet Trust) for a county-wide 'digital inclusion' project and invite partners to get involved.
- Brochures and booking forms for SLLP's annual conference on 29th November were circulated.

5. Any other business

- Gwen Hurrion asked member for comments on the impact of the 2012 Olympics and a general discussion on the opportunities and issues ensued.

6. Time and venue of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting at East Surrey College on Wednesday, 15th February 2012 at 2pm.

Note: it was realised after the meeting that this date was during half-term week and so it is proposed to hold the next meeting at East Surrey College on:

Wednesday, 22nd February 2012 at 2pm