

Minutes

Mole Valley Community Learning Partnership meeting

Mole Valley Housing Association, Regent House, Dorking

14th 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

James Simister (Surrey Hills Onward Learning - SHOL) – Chair
John Thurlow (Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership - SLLP) – minutes
Andrew Furtek (Mole Valley Housing Association)
Anne Andrews (WEA)
Pauline Guppy (Family Learning, Surrey CC)
Stella Willis (Dorking Schools Partnership)

2. Apologies for absence

These were received from: Anne Haigh, Leatherhead and Dorking CAB; Lauren Coope, Nescot; Shirley O'Donoghue, Holistic Harmony; Liz Wells, Surrey Libraries; Carolyn Anderson, Surrey County Council.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 9th March at the Mole Valley Housing Association offices in Dorking were read and accepted.

4. Members' market place

James Simister, SHOL

- James explained that SHOL would only be using one venue for delivery of learning from September, ie the Leatherhead Institute. SHOL would however be looking at using other venues again if they recruit a part-time replacement for James who would manage this aspect. Students from Dorking appear quite happy to travel to Leatherhead though. A wider range of subjects is, however, being offered next year.

Stella Willis, Dorking Schools Partnership

- The funding for schools confederations is being transferred directly to schools and being reduced. Schools can choose whether to join a

confederation or partnership and how to use the money. As a result, clusters of confederations and partnerships are merging and their role changing to become one more of co-ordination.

Andrew Furtek, MVHA

- MVHA are advertising 2 two year apprenticeships in their repair service operation – these will lead to NVQ level 2 qualifications.
- Also 3 further apprenticeships via their “improved homes contractor” for four years which will lead to higher qualifications.
- They are waiting to hear details of the new “Work Programme” which will replace the opportunities offered by the previous “Future Jobs Fund” which funded MVHA placements.
- MVHA also looking at a project on teenage pregnancy.
- Their ‘Dream Scheme’ will be operating over the Summer – this encourages people to become involved in community projects, is supported by the schools federation and will offer around 60 activities at locations in Dorking, Leatherhead, Ashted, Bookham and in villages south of Dorking. They anticipate full take-up by some hundreds of 7 – 16 year olds.

Anne Andrews, WEA

- On a national level, the WEA are looking at restructuring as a result of funding changes.
- Locally, however, there will be no real change to the WEA operations.
- The Betchingley Centre is, however, closing completely and so the East Surrey WEA must find a new base.
- The WEA do work in many locations in Mole Valley, for example at St Johns Goodwyns (Preparing to Help in Schools and ESOL), and offer IT to residents in sheltered schemes. ACL provide progression for learners on some of their courses.

Pauline Guppy, Family Learning ACL

- Pauline explained how Family Learning split the county up into areas and that her area is the eastern part plus Elmbridge.
- Activity in Mole Valley includes sessions for parents and children at the Ashted Children’s Centre.
- Many more activities take place in Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge.
- Their SFA funding is in place from September and targets remain the same.
- Family Learning work closely with all Schools and Children's Centres across Surrey but this year we are adopting a new approach and will be identifying 2 or 3 settings, where we have existing strong partnerships, and integrating Family Learning courses into their plans for the coming year. We will also be delivering more Family Learning provision in Surrey ACL centres across the county, although not in the East where ACL do not have a presence.
- They are planning to offer more accredited courses.

John Thurlow, SLLP

- John passed round SLLP's analysis of the recently published IMD 2010 figures for Surrey.
- These were discussed, especially the rise up the table of the Holmwoods in terms of education and training.
- The difficulties of engaging learners in such areas were then discussed with the WEA giving an example of leafleting 500 houses and getting just 5 expressions of interest as a result.
- It was felt that the best chance of engagement with hard-to-reach families would come via the efforts of home-school link workers.

Liz Wells, Surrey Libraries

- Liz could not be at the meeting but had sent SLLP the following update by e-mail:
- The New Dorking Library - Plans for the new Dorking Library in St Martins Walk (adjacent to M& S) have now been approved, the decorators are moving in and fingers crossed we should be in residence in late autumn ready to schedule events in January 2012. We are taking over three shops and there will be ground floor space for partners to use with a bank of 10 computers. Please let me know if you are interested in delivering.
- Circus Stars - Our Children's Summer Reading Challenge, 'Circus Stars', starts in all Surrey Libraries on Sat 9th July - it's free to take part! There are great books to read and stickers, a bookmark, a wristband and a fortune teller to collect. If children read six books they will be awarded a special medal and a certificate. Library staff are also offering their help to local schools to help engage pupils in the Challenge. Contact should be made with the local library.
- Bus Passes for Bus passes for 60+ and disabled people - From 1st April 2011 selected Surrey libraries will be the only place that you can apply for your new concessionary pass. There are 23 participating libraries. In Mole Valley Dorking and Leatherhead will offer help with first time applications and anyone changing details to an existing pass.

5. Any other business

James Simister explained again that he was standing down as Chair of the CLP as a result of his changing role at SHOL and asked if any members would volunteer to replace him. No immediate offers were forthcoming and various options were reviewed including SLLP performing the role on an interim basis or having a rotating chair. Anne Andrews of the WEA said that she would be prepared to Chair the next meeting on the latter basis.

6. Time and venue of next meeting

A date was agreed for the next meeting in mid-September and Andrew Furtek again kindly offered to arrange a room at the Mole Valley Housing Association offices.

However, Andrew (subsequent to the meeting) has advised that the date agreed was not suitable and so a new date has been proposed. The next meeting of the Mole Valley CLP is now scheduled for:

Monday, 19th September at 2 pm at the Mole Valley Housing Association offices in Dorking.