

**Minutes**

**Mole Valley Community Learning Partnership meeting**

**Mole Valley Housing Association, Regent House, Dorking**

**9<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**Action points agreed at the meeting:**

- a. SLLP to arrange a meeting of all CLP Chairs once the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on Adult Community Learning is known (carried forward from last meeting).
- b. SLLP to seek a new Chair for the CLP following James Simister's notice of his intention to stand down.

**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)  
Shirley O'Donaghue (Holistic Harmony)  
Jean Cox (Leatherhead Trinity Children's Centre)  
Anne Andrews (WEA)  
Graham Peddie (Leatherhead Pitstop)  
Liz Wells (Surrey Libraries)

Andrew Furtek was thanked for providing the venue for the meeting.

**2. Apologies for absence**

These were received from: Carolyn Anderson (Surrey County Council), Andrew Humphreys & Lauren Coope (Nescot), Pauline Guppy (Surrey County Council), Phil Mack (SCC 'About Us' Life Skills Service), Anne Haigh (Leatherhead and Dorking CAB), Gemma Pawson (Leatherhead Trinity), Clare Percival (Action for Carers) & Stella Willis (Dorking Schools Partnership).

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October at Mole Valley District Council Office, Dorking were read and accepted. The group was updated on the three actions outstanding from that meeting as follows:

- a. What's new, what's changed – to be dealt with under item 4;

- b. 'Free' spaces for learning – John Thurlow updated the group on the results of his research. He said that the notion of spaces being made available for use by local learning came out of the 'Learning Revolution' and that the 'School of Everything' website ([www.schoolofeverything.com](http://www.schoolofeverything.com)) listed venues that had offered spaces. Unfortunately in Surrey the only listings were **Onslow Village Hall, Compton Village Hall, Surrey Performing Arts Library, Dorking and Surrey History Centre in Woking**. Liz Wells further explained that space in Surrey Libraries was available to community groups for free if they weren't funded but that if a group was funded a fee would be charged (£12 per hour) for use of library space, regardless of whether there was a charge for attending the session. Liz did caution, however, that many libraries did not have suitable 'classroom' space.
- c. SLLP to arrange a meeting of all CLP Chairs once the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on Adult Community Learning is known – still pending.

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

John Thurlow circulated a short note summarising the key points in the "Skills for Sustainable Growth" White Paper (November 2010). This is currently subject to a 3 month period of further planning by BIS which SLLP had volunteered to be involved with. It drew out the key points from each of the four chapters in the White Paper, as follows:

##### **Chapter One – Skills for Growth**

- Expand numbers of adult Apprenticeships by up to 75,000 by 2014–15
- Level 3 Apprenticeship to become one to which learners and employers aspire
- Provide clear routes from Apprenticeships to higher level training including, Level 4
- Ensure that vocational qualifications reflect the changing needs of employers
- Reduce the reliance of some sectors of our economy on migration to fill jobs
- Support employers with £50 million growth and innovation fund to help address skills needs
- Provide some co-funding for training at Level 2 delivered in SME companies
- Encourage more widespread teaching of entrepreneurial skills

##### **Chapter Two – Skills and a Fair Society**

- Adults without basic literacy and numeracy to have access to state funded training
- Provide state funding for targeted provision for people on active benefits
- Engage disadvantaged people and create progression routes to move on to formal learning
- Provide grant funded training for young people to help them move from education to work
- Consult on a simplified learner support offer

### **Chapter Three – A Shared Responsibility for Skills**

- Introduce loans (2013/14) to help people finance intermediate & higher-level qualifications
- Lifelong Learning Accounts for all to bring together funding and learning opportunities info
- Establish an all-age careers service, with intensive support for those with greatest need
- UK Commission for Employment & Skills to advise employers on getting best from workforce
- Support initiatives taken by employers to build modern high-performing workplaces

### **Chapter Four – A Reformed System with Increased Freedom**

- No imposed top down skills targets
- Streamline the organisational landscape
- Simpler funding system with alignment where appropriate across pre- and post-19 systems
- Remove regulations to free colleges to deliver for their local communities
- Decisive action to tackle unacceptable performance

SLLP also circulated a table showing 'Changes to Funding Entitlements 2011/12' which sets out the new funding arrangements for adult learning for next year.

A discussion ensued which focussed on future funding of basic skills (literacy and numeracy), what exactly were 'Lifelong Learning Accounts', changes to the adult learning budget, minimum contract levels and consortium working, what benefits would qualify learners for free courses and how self-directed personal budgets would actually work out.

James Simister urged members to use SLLP to disseminate any information or updates in this area, which they came across, to the whole group.

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

### **James Simister, SHOL**

- James announced that he would be standing down in the Summer as Chair of the CLP. A short discussion followed on recruiting a suitable replacement and it was agreed that SLLP would seek a new Chair.

### **Liz Wells, Surrey Libraries**

- 11 libraries in Surrey are to become community-partnered libraries with the stock, buildings and IT still to be maintained by SCC but community groups recruited to run the services in place of the current staff. See the relevant SCC news page for more detail:  
[http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/SCCWebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE\\_RTF/Council+to+look+into+forming+community-partnered+libraries?opendocument](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/SCCWebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RTF/Council+to+look+into+forming+community-partnered+libraries?opendocument)

- Feedback/comments on the proposals should be sent to [library.pvr@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:library.pvr@surreycc.gov.uk)
- The 11 libraries are Ewell Court, Warlingham, Tattenhams, Lingfield, New Haw, Stoneleigh, Byfleet, Bagshot, Molesey, Bramley, Virginia Water – none located in Mole Valley.
- The mobile library service is also to be ended.
- The IT contract has been renegotiated and this means that WiFi will be available in all branches from November.
- The Children’s Book Festival was held in the east of the county this year and the 35+ events have been a great success.
- Flyers handed out for the ‘Reminiscence Collection’ which is held at Redhill Library and is aimed at carers and families of dementia sufferers.
- Flyers also handed out for Health and Wellbeing Workshops, ‘Read Yourself Well’ and ‘Author Events’

#### **Graham Peddie, Leatherhead Pitstop**

- Graham updated the meeting on the drop-in facilities for vulnerable adults provided at Leatherhead Football Club and all the free courses that were offered - some in partnership with the WEA and, more recently, with ACL Family Learning. He said that he was seeking new partnerships as some funding for courses had now disappeared and that they had plenty of space to run courses.
- Graham would be grateful to learn of any new funding opportunities for more courses, trips or activities.
- Particular mention was made of the 5-a-side football team and the use being made of Chelsea’s sports facilities in Chobham.
- Also mentioned the new day centre operating at Epsom Baptist Church one day a week for around 20 people from the Ewell area.

#### **Anne Andrews, WEA**

- The WEA is continuing with its current programme of courses to the end of this year but has agreed that the partnership with East Surrey College will become more focussed on offering accredited courses and employability from next year.
- Further that the WEA will undergo a big restructuring from September.
- One area of uncertainty currently is whether in the future only job-related benefits will link to eligibility for funded courses or whether this will change.

#### **Jean Cox, Leatherhead Trinity**

- Jean told the group about the funding cuts affecting Children’s Centres over the next few years.
- Also, about the ‘clustering’ of Children’s Centres and how this would happen in Leatherhead with Trinity effectively taking over Bookham, Fetcham and Effingham as ‘outreach’ centres.

- The changes to the South Dorking centres were also discussed with the main centre and the rural centre effectively becoming one but with no actual closures.
- Adult education is continuing at the Trinity in partnership with both the WEA and the Pre-School Learning Alliance but with the emphasis now on offering more accredited courses.

#### **Shirley O'Donaghue, Holistic Harmony**

- Shirley introduced Holistic Harmony and their community theatre initiatives in the Redhill area culminating with performances at the Harlequin Theatre.
- Also, about new partnerships or consortium working, for example with 'Liveability, where the focus was on getting people back to work.
- Shirley has 28 volunteers with a wide range of different skill sets – setting up business, therapy, motivation etc – and would welcome talking to CLP partners about opportunities for offering courses.

#### **Andrew Furtek, MVHA**

- Andrew provided an insight into the work of the MVHA in terms of education, training and employment.
- Particular mention was made of joint-working with the WEA and the current emphasis on 'financial awareness' among children and young people.
- MVHA have offered placements funded by the Future Jobs Fund which turned into full-time posts.
- They will also be looking to recruit volunteers in April to support events for Neets in North Leatherhead and South Dorking.
- Also mentioned the 'Dream Scheme' which encourages people to become involved in community projects.

#### **John Thurlow, SLLP**

- Handed around copies of ACL Family Learning's update on the activities they were currently running in east and mid Surrey.

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

There was no other business.

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

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June at 14:00. Andrew Furtek has kindly arranged the use of the Board Room at the Mole Valley Housing Association offices.