

BRIDLINGTON LEARNING AND SKILLS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17th APRIL 2019 AT 9.30AM AT BRIDLINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE

- Present:** Lucy Wilkins– Aspire Igen
Adrian Brown – Pure Training Solutions
Mike Heslop-Mullens – Bridlington Town Council
Simon Thomas – Job Centre Plus
Neil Murray – Activfirst
Claire Thomas – CavCa
Ruth Burling- Refugee Council
Rachel Earnshaw- Education Development Trust/National Careers Service
Dawn Redfern– East Riding of Yorkshire Council,
Jean Jones – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Local Growth Team
Rachel Wardle – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Local Growth Team
Vicky Bolton – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Local Growth Team
- Apologies:** Jools Thompson – Workers Education Alliance (WEA)
Andy Levitt – Headlands School
Fiona Turner – ERVAS
Melanie Brown – East Riding College
Sue Duke – Prospects
Anne Wright – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Ann Colling- East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre

1. **Minutes of last meeting/matters arising**

Minutes approved as true record.

2. **CLLD Programme Update**

So far 6 projects have been approved for ESF delivery in Bridlington:

Christ Church Community Services – Healthy Lives
Activfirst – The Hub
Aspire Igen – Lone Parent Mentor
ERYC – Brid Works
Pure Training Solutions – Passport to Employment
ERYC – Active Steps (formerly Parents into Work)

There are more details on each project under partner updates. All of these projects are up and running and taking referrals, other than Active Steps, which will be starting soon.

There are limited funds left for the Employment and Training side of CLLD within Bridlington. Around £100,000 is left in the pot and this will not be available to bid for until later in the year.

There are still funds available for both capital and revenue on the business support, ERDF, side. If anyone would like to find out more about what this money can be used for please contact Vicky.bolton@eastriding.gov.uk

3. **Individual Project Content Overviews**

A template has been produced for programmes to complete. This asks for key details about each of the projects including referral routes and key objectives. It will act as a cross referral tool for organisations working in the town.

The intention of the template is to be used as an information tool to promote what provision is available and provide details in order to refer participants to the most appropriate support for their needs.

The group discussed the form and made suggestions for improvement.

It was felt that the overview should be bullet points –Who, Where, How to focus the content. It should also include examples of support provided and how to refer. It is key that the form is easy to understand and complete but provides the relevant information.

Action: VB will amend the template and send it out to all contacts.

4. **Planning for Bridlington Echo Article**

An article is intended for the June edition of the Bridlington Echo promoting the additional resources provided through the CLLD funding.

Talks have been had with Simon Kench, the Echo's editor, and he is very keen for the article to appeal to local people and for it not to be too formal, he suggested a quote for each project from a participant. East Riding's press office will assist with the wording of the article. Simon will contact each project to arrange to come along individually to capture a project photo to accompany the article.

Each project was asked to complete the overview template by 12pm on Friday 26 of April so that it can send to the Echo.

It was queried whether a photo consent form needs to be completed. It is good practice to do so and organisations can either use their own or request an ERYC form.

Mike Heslop-Mullens asked if it was possible to provide a condensed version of the article for use in the Town Council Newsletter. Sheila Finlay is responsible for producing this and it was suggested to send the article over to her once it had been completed.

5. **Partner Updates**

Activfirst – Neil Murray

NM stated that they were ahead of profile for their CLLD funded Activ Hub project. It is expected that numbers will increase as their BBO funding has finished so clients will be referred to CLLD instead.

Activfirst also have an ERDF funded CLLD project, Activ Business, which is looking to improve productivity for businesses and reduce time taken as sick leave. The project is going really well and they have engaged more businesses in 4 months than they had profiled for the first year. The project also includes low level mental health support.

They are already seeing positive outcomes, for example one lady has lost weight after trying the free badminton sessions and changing her lifestyle as a result.

Activfirst are also delivering apprenticeships nationally and have an Adult Education Budget which needs to be spent.

For more information please contact angela.mulligan@activfirst.co.uk

CavCa – Claire Thomas

Claire works on a CLLD funded project looking to support and encourage social enterprises in the Bridlington area. One of the biggest barriers found so far is the lack of cultural understanding as to what Social Enterprise / profit with purpose is – many organisations are uncomfortable with the thought of making profit.

She recently organised a trip to a social enterprise fair in Hull which was a great success with 575 people attending. Claire is keen to bring this learning back to Bridlington and is running an event during Business Week aimed at social businesses. The event will take place on 5 June between 10am and 2pm at Bridlington Business Centre – to book a place please contact Claire.

For more information please contact Claire.Thomas@cavca.org.uk

Aspire Igen – Lone Parent Mentor

Aspire Igen run a CLLD funded Lone Parent Mentor project. Andrea Nicholls is the contact and she has been in post for several months now. The project is getting lots of referrals from the job centre but would welcome referrals from other organisations. Participants so far seem really keen to get back into work.

Andrea is currently working outreach but links are being developed so she has somewhere to meet clients. If anyone can offer some space please contact Lucy.

For more information please contact andrea.nicholls@aspire-igen.com or Jane.Elsworth-Barker@aspire-igen.com

Bridlington Town Council – Mike Heslop-Mullens

Mike updated the group on the development of the Community Hub. The town council completed the purchase of the building on Marshall Avenue in December. The ground floor will be used for Town Council offices with a large meeting space.

They are now in the process of applying for lottery funding for the first floor, in partnership with ERVAS, to develop a space which will hopefully host a range of organisations and be the closest thing to a one stop shop for support in the town.

Elections are taking place in early May so the make-up of the town council may change.

For more information please contact cllr.m.heslop-mullens@bridlington.gov.uk or Fiona@ervas.org.uk

ERYC Education, Employment and Skills - Dawn Redfern

The Brid works project is getting more referrals. They have found that the Mental toughness program is required by a lot of people on their journey into work. This course is funded by ERYC and is ran alongside the CLLD project. It helps to set realistic goals and develop aspiration and motivation – participants are so far from the labour market this is required in order to make any progress. They have trialed this course in Goole and are rolling it out to other areas.

The project is also looking at employer engagement in order to provide work placements as part of the project. They are also building in a Dragons Den element as part of the project.

For more information please contact Jackie.langley@eastriding.gov.uk, arfon.williams@eastriding.gov.uk, carl.southcoat@eastriding.gov.uk

Job Centre Plus

Simon had no update since the last meeting

For more information please contact SIMON.M.THOMAS@DWP.GSI.GOV.UK

Pure Training Solutions

Pure Training Solutions are running a CLLD funded project known as Passport to Employment.

They have been running a variety of courses as part of the project including - childcare, Health and Safety, Hospitality, CSCS, Security etc.

They are on target for their outcomes but struggling to obtain evidence when clients gain employment- it is very easy to lose contact with participants once they leave the course. Other projects stated that they physically went to the employer to gain the evidence.

For more information please contact adrianbrown@puretrainingsolutions.org.uk

New Roots, Refugee Council- Ruth Burling

Ruth started working on the New Roots project in February. It is a scheme for Syrian refugees which will hopefully result in employment. The project is funded by Goldman Sachs for another year.

This project is only for those refugees who meet the criteria for VPRS(vulnerable persons refugee scheme). If they do not meet the criteria they can access support through Christ Church or other organisations.

The main barrier to employment is the language, employers are hesitant to employ anyone who doesn't speak

English well due to their lack of understanding of health and safety and the impact this has on their liability if something were to happen. Many participants will have held good positions back in Syria and have transferable skills, they just need to improve their English. ESOL training is mandatory but it is conversational English which is needed.

Most qualifications are not recognised in this country and Ruth has to contact NARIC to see if they can be transferred. This is something that Rachel from Education Development Trust can help with this.

For more information on New Roots please contact Ruth.Burling@RefugeeCouncil.org.uk

Education Development Trust/ National Careers Service - Rachel Earnshaw

Rachel explained that the Education Development Trust has the contract for the National Careers Service. They are based in the Job Centre and can support anyone over 18 either to look for work or seek alternative employment / career progression.

They can provide group sessions and sessions in other premises. They give careers advice, CV writing and interview skills training and impartial and realistic advice on job opportunities. They can also offer redundancy support.

There is an appointment system or people can pop in and be seen if free. Rachel covers Bridlington and Scarborough.

For more information please contact rearnshaw@educationdevelopmenttrust.com

7. Any Other Business

The next Learning and Skills Forum is scheduled for 15 May. It was agreed to use this meeting as Social Value Workshop for just CLLD projects. It is important that the appropriate people attend the session - namely those who will be involved in the process of capturing the additional value for each project – more than one representative can attend for each project. As the session could potentially involve up to 20 people it was agreed to look for an alternative venue.

The next Learning and Skills Forum which will be open for all to attend will take place on 19 June.

7. Dates for 2019

9.30am Wednesday 19 June

9.30am Wednesday 17 July

9.30am Wednesday 18 September

9.30am Wednesday 16 October

9.30am Wednesday 20 November