

BRIDLINGTON LEARNING AND SKILLS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19th JUNE 2019 AT 9.30AM AT BRIDLINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE

- Present:** Lucy Wilkins– Aspire Igen
Andrea Nicholls -Aspire Igen
Andy Levitt – Headlands School
Cllr Tim Norman – Bridlington Town Council
Simon Thomas – Job Centre Plus
Angela Mulligan– Activfirst
Claire Thomas – CavCa
Melanie Brown – East Riding College
Michaela Blackford- East Riding College
Fiona Turner – ERVAS
Ruth Burling- Refugee Council
Rachel Earnshaw- Education Development Trust/National Careers Service
Jackie Langley- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Arfon Williams– East Riding of Yorkshire Council,
Jodie Newell – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Alison Ransome -East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Jean Jones – 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)
Sue Duke – Prospects
Adrian Brown – Pure Training Solutions
Jane Elsworth Barker- Aspire Igen
Sophia White-Christ Church

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

Minutes approved as true record.

2. **CLLD Programme Update**

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. **Bridlington Echo Article**

The CLLD article didn’t go into the June edition of the Echo but Vicky has been assured that it is being worked on and will go in a future edition.

Vicky has started to put together the CLLD directory of provision, which lists what is available locally, the hope is that the person will be referred to the best possible fit for them. Vicky has also been to see other organisations such as mental health and the social work team, she is doing presentations for them rather than just giving out a leaflet.

4. **“Getting to the front of the queue” –East Riding College, Michaela Blackford**

Michaela is the Guidance Officer at the college and she gave an overview of the training and FE opportunities at the college. They do visits to schools, Job Centre and hold outside events. The provision at the college starts at 14 up to any age. They meet individually with all clients to see what they want to do and what qualifications they need to get there. They have a bursary fund which can be used to buy materials and equipment required for the course. The courses they offer start at entry level through to Levels 1 & 2, which

equip the students with the qualifications they need for work. They may also complete a placement which cement the choices they have made and even encourage them to go onto level 3 and entry to HE courses. These can be done at either Bridlington or Beverley.

Some students are scared to get student finance and feel they may get into debt, but once this is explained clearly to them it opens many more possibilities to them. There are over 55,000 degree courses to choose from all around the country. Different universities ask for different entry qualifications so it is worth talking to them to see if what you have is acceptable. Anyone wanting to update their Maths or English can usually join on a roll on roll off basis. Whilst other courses have set start dates. Staff at the college need up to date information on benefits to be able to advise students. They work closely with the JC and will follow up on any bookings with the college. Some courses can be tailor made to suit the student if they are 19+. The college provides training for apprenticeships on H & S and food hygiene. They also run a Personal Success Programme (PSP) for NEETS and they can access the college at any time of the year to get them into Education.

Referrals can be either by contacting the college directly and asking for the Guidance Officer, or by online application.

5. Partner Updates

CavCa – Claire Thomas

CT 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 a Social Enterprise / profit with purpose is – many organisations are uncomfortable with the thought of making profit.

Claire has just run an event during Business Week aimed at social businesses. The event took place on 5 June between 10am and 2pm at Bridlington Business Centre. It attracted 11 individuals. Information was given regarding grant funding.

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

Headlands School – Andy Levitt

Year 11s are starting their final exams and Years 10s will be undertaking work experience placements over the next few weeks. The Year 9 Ambitions Day is taking place early July where each student works with three different employers to increase awareness of what jobs are available.

65 Year 10 students are taking part in taster sessions at the college.

Tour de Bridlington takes place on Saturday 29 June at the school site. Local organisations are welcome to take part.

Andy is retiring at the end of term after 41 years in education. All wished him the best for his retirement and thanked him for his hard work. Andy will not be replaced but David Stamper is the new contact.

For more information please contact david.stamper@headlandsschool.co.uk

Activfirst – Angela Mulligan

AM stated that they were ahead of profile for their CLLD funded Activ Hub project. They have also started craft and film groups which have been a result of participants wanting to engage with each other socially. The films are shown every other Thursday and the participants vote for which film is shown, then they all turn up with popcorn and snacks.

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.

For more information please contact angela.mulligan@activfirst.co.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 and is working 1 day at the BSCC but links are being developed so she has somewhere else to meet clients. If anyone can offer some space please contact Andrea. For more information please contact andrea.nicholls@aspire-igen.com or Jane.Elsworth-Barker@aspire-igen.com

Bridlington Town Council – Cllr Tim Norman

Tim 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. Development is going well and should be open in December. 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.

For more information please contact tim.norman@bridlington.gov.uk or Fiona@ervas.org.uk

ERYC Education, Employment and Skills – Arfon Williams

The CLLD funded Brid Works project is getting more referrals. They have found that the Mental Toughness programme is required by a lot of people on their journey into work. This course is funded by ERYC and is run 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. Outcomes are on the increase

The project is also looking at employer engagement in order to provide work placements 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 Thomas

Simon stated that Britax is due to close totally now and there will be 45/50 staff members losing their jobs between now and December. Bee Health have also recently lost a major contract and will be reducing their staff levels.

On a more positive note, Dawn Meats and Country Style Foods are taking on staff. Wetherspoons have been interviewing recently in time for the reopening of the bigger site but still need more staff. They are offering 12 and 25 hour contracts. Applicants can apply on line or pop into the JC. They must have ID or they will not get an interview.

The recruitment by the holiday camps has gone smoothly this year. There is still a struggle in the town to recruit to any catering jobs.

The job centre are trying to encourage people to look further away for employment for example, there are opportunities in Driffield and Beverley but, as always, transport is a problem.

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

East Riding College- Melanie Brown

The college have been doing a lot of work with schools especially in the clinical skills unit which had some CLLD funding. The unit have been looking at job roles and has had professionals coming in to run sessions. The college are holding an open evening next week at the Bridlington Campus.

This year will also see the 10th anniversary of the site so to celebrate they are holding a film day for students and their families to attend, refreshments will be provided and it is hoped to hold it on the college field. There will also be an awards ceremony at the Spa on 2nd July. One of the big aims of the college at the moment is to get students prepared for the world of work and are looking for any employers who are able to offer work experience opportunities.

For more details please contact melannie.brown@eastridingcollege.ac.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). They have been holding employability sessions including manual handling training and food hygiene. Some of the participants have been for plastering assessments and voluntary work.

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.

The Refugee Council have just completed a bike ride over the Humber Bridge. They are also starting a choir to help with social integration.

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

Education Development Trust/ National Careers Service - Rachel Earnshaw

The Education Development Trust offer the National careers service to 18+. They offer guidance and employment support including CV's, interview skills. They work in the JC plus and have been offering support to Britax. They support other partners to deliver sessions too.

For more information please contact rearnshaw@educationdevelopmenttrust.com

ERVAS – Fiona Turner

East Riding Voluntary Action Service delivers support to voluntary and community groups. They are working with the town council on developing the community hub. At the minute the building is blank canvas but there are plans for an office space, reception, and kitchen. They will be staff on hand to signpost to a range of services for support and advice.

A lottery bid for the work on the upstairs floor which will house the community hub is being developed by a local steering group. This will go in next week and it is hoped to hear shortly after whether the bid is invited to stage 2. Initial conversations seem positive. If anyone would like to contribute to the bid please contact Fiona.

For more information please contact Fiona@ervas.org.uk

East Riding Of Yorkshire Council-Parents into Work-Jodie Newell and Alison Ransome.

They have both just been appointed to run the Parents into Work project. They will be working with parents who attend the children's centre and can provide crèche provision as part of the project. They are looking at the softer skills-learning in the home. The project will promote the opportunity of child care as a career option.

For more information please contact alison.ransome@eastriding.gov.uk or jodie.newell@eastriding.gov.uk

7. Any Other Business

Vicky is in the process of organising an event with CavCA, Sport Play and Arts and ERVAS on 24th October. The event will be to promote community work, recruit volunteers, showcase social enterprises and provide the opportunity to network. The event will hopefully be held at Christ Church. The group were asked to pencil in the date and promised further details as they confirmed.

A veteran's subgroup has been formed; extra support is available for people if they identify themselves as a veteran. It has been set up following a request from a local GP due to the number of veterans presenting themselves at practices once they reach crisis point. There is information available to help veterans convert their forces career skills and experience into civilian roles – Vicky is tracking this down and it will be shared with the group to help them better support veterans seeking work. It was suggested that the careers service may be able to help them.

7. Dates for 2019

The next Learning and Skills Forum which will be open for all to attend will take place on 11 September (it was originally 18th but Vicky is on holiday that week).

9.30am Wednesday 11 September

9.30am Wednesday 16 October

9.30am Wednesday 20 November