

BRIDLINGTON LEARNING AND SKILLS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2019 AT 9.30AM AT BRIDLINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE

- Present:** Melanie Brown – East Riding College
Simon Thomas – Job Centre Plus
Sue Skelton – Job Centre Plus
Andrea Nicholls -Aspire Igen
Ed Grady – Activfirst
Angela Mulligan – Activfirst
Chris Redford – Police Early Intervention Team
Jodie Newell – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Children’s Centre
Jackie Langley – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Education, Employment and Skills
Carl Southcoat– East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Education, Employment and Skills
Rachel Wardle – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Local Growth Team
Vicky Bolton – East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Local Growth Team
- Apologies:** Claire Thomas – CAVCA
Nicola Parker – East Riding Leisure Bridlington
Sarah Dixon – Headlands School
Sophia White – Christ Church Community Services
Ruth Burling – Refugee Council
Rachel Earnshaw – National Careers Service
Tim Norman – Bridlington Town Council
Janice Chattaway – CiTB
Adrian Brown – Pure Training Solutions

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

Minutes approved as true record.

2. **Welcome and Forum Update**

In order to improve the strategic links between the Learning and Skills Forum and the Bridlington Partnership Board it has been agreed that a representative from East Riding College will chair the forum. Melanie Brown will be the formal chair and provide regular feedback to the board.

3. **Feedback from Speed Networking Event**

Feedback from the speed networking session has been positive. An overall of comments from those who attended has been included with the meeting notes. It has been suggested to hold a similar event on an annual basis.

4. **Inactive Engagement - Job Centre Plus**

Sue Skelton, the Disability Employment Adviser from Job Centre Plus, attended the forum to give an overview of her role. Sue supports the job coaches in working with those claimants who are claiming none job seeking benefits.

Sue covers Bridlington and Hessle. In Hessle clients are invited to the job centre at specific times to engage with the support programmes available. Similar could be organised for Bridlington but many programmes already have a presence in the centre and there is no guarantee that inactive claimants will attend – there is no mandatory requirement for them to

do so.

Sue and Simon regularly remind work coaches of the programmes of support available through CLLD. They do not record successful referrals to the different programmes although the job coaches may informally have an idea of who is being supported by what programme.

The Work and Health Programme has to be the priority referral for certain clients who fit the eligibility criteria.

Community Links was suggested as a possible route for picking up inactive referrals. It was agreed to invite Yvonne Bill to future forum meetings. Another possible route was primary and secondary schools as a way to engage inactive parents.

5. **Community Volunteering Event 24 October**

CAVCA, ERVAS and East Riding of Yorkshire Council have been working together to organise a Community, Volunteering and Social Enterprise Event for Bridlington. This will be held on Thursday 24 October between 11am and 3pm at Christ Church.

The event has three key aims:

1. Networking and the opportunity for voluntary and community sector organisations to promote what they do.
2. The opportunity to promote volunteering opportunities and recruit new volunteers.
3. A social enterprise market place for groups to sell their products.

It is hoped that CLLD programmes will encourage their participants to attend. Leaflets and flyers were handed out for the event. Feedback will be presented and requested at the next forum meeting.

6. **Planning for 2020**

The Learning and Skills Forum is a working group which feeds up to the Bridlington Regeneration Board. The Board have suggested an action plan for the forum which will feed into their strategic plan.

There will be focus at future meetings on developing this plan and ensuring that it fits the aims and objectives of partners at the forum.

Future meetings will revert back to bi-monthly and the venue will move around – partners are asked if they can offer free venues.

The November meeting will take place at East Riding College and will be a slightly different format to the existing. The January meeting will be held at the Children's Centre on the Hilderthorpe School site.

Suggestions for new partners to attend included Andy Broughton from Housing and it was agreed that it was key for Chris Redford to attend.

7. **Partner Updates**

CLLD Social Value – Rachel Value

Rachel is working on end of year reports for several CLLD projects which have completed their first year of delivery. The reports can be shared at a future forum meeting.

Job Centre Plus – Simon Thomas

It is a quiet time of year for employment. Simon is promoting the employment support provision to clients regularly.

Activfirst – Angela Mulligan

Activfirst are looking to bring a counsellor in to work with participants this month. The counsellor will work 4 hours a week so there will be a need to prioritise who gets access to the service.

They are also planning a Christmas event specifically aimed at reducing loneliness around the holidays.

Lone Parent Mentor – Andrea Nicholls

It is business as usual for Andrea but she is now working out of the Activfirst Hub on a Tuesday.

Early Intervention Team – Chris Redford

East Riding are supporting the roll out of Early Intervention across the area following the success of the pilot programme in Bridlington. The team deal with vulnerable clients with a view to reducing the huge demand for crisis calls to the police and other services. The Bridlington team consists of a sergeant, a constable and 5 PCSOs.

Activbusiness – Ed Grady

Ed runs the Activbusiness project funded through CLLD ERDF providing business support. This involves looking at staff wellbeing in the workplace, mental health support, improving leadership and management of staff and developing social media skills for businesses.

The project is also looking to work with secondary schools and East Riding College on an enterprise ready project.

Brid Works – Carl Southcoat / Jackie Langley

Brid Works is nearly the end of their first year of delivery so they are focusing on their social value report.

They have been liaising with employers – retail, care homes, hospitality, factories – and now have a bank of employees which they can call on for quality work placements. They have also ran more Mental Toughness courses for CLLD participants.

Parents into Work – Jodie Newell

The project is still finding its feet as they are in the very early stages of delivery. They have had referrals but the difficulty has been keeping the participants engaged until the course starts. It was suggested that Jodie may talk through the contents of the course at the January meeting.

East Riding College – Melanie Brown

The college are involved in a tree charter project with Cllr Heslop-Mullens from Bridlington Town Council – it is a project led by Defra and on 30 November there will be a number of trees planted in Bridlington. If anyone would like to request a tree for their place of work please contact Melanie to find out how to apply - Melanie.Brown@eastridingcollege.ac.uk

The open air cinema event was a huge success with 200 people attending – it is hoped that this will be an annual event. There is an open event on 21 November.

5. **Any Other Business**

Headlands School is hosting a mock interview day on 2 December. The school are looking for interviewers to interview the students and provide feedback.

Brid Works are also doing a similar event in mid-November – speed interviewing and are also looking for volunteers to lead the interviews.

There will be a Job Fair at the college on 18 February – over 400 people attended last year's event with 40 local employers. It was suggested that a partner speed interview day could form part of this event?

Improvements were asked for a learning and skills webpage. One suggestion was a calendar which could include course dates, drop ins and events etc.

6. **Dates for 2019**

Wednesday 20 November – East Riding College

Wednesday 15 January – Hilderthorpe Children's Centre

Wednesday 18 March – Venue TBC

Wednesday 20 May – Venue TBC

Wednesday 15 July – Venue TBC

Thursday 24 September (Speed Networking) – Venue TBC

Wednesday 11 November – Venue TBC