

NEW DEAL: NEW HORIZONS

Charity Number 4582937
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Minutes of an Education Theme Group held at the Blakenall Village Centre on Monday 8th May 2006 at 7.00pm

In Attendance

- Mick Taylor - Education Theme Chair / Patch 4 Representative
- Graham Morris - Patch 11 Representative
- Debbie Marshall - Patch 12 Representative
- Roy Jones - Patch 13 Representative
- Tom Perrett - Independent Chairman
- Jean Jevons - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative
- Councillor Kath Phillips - Local Councillor

Officers

- Bob Marsh - Education Theme Manager
- Paul Capelin - Programme Manager
- Joseph Cheminais - Administrator

Partners

- Sue Wedgwood - Education Walsall
- John Price - Walsall Education Business Partnership
- Kalpana Patel - Prospects Education Service
- Pauline Pegram - College of Continuing Education
- Jan Owen - ContinYou

2. Apologies

- John Jones - Patch 3 Representative

Agenda Item		Action
3.	<p>Notes from the previous meeting</p> <p>The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising from the notes</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the notes.</p>	
5.	<p>Progress Report on Community Strand Projects</p> <p><u>College of Continuing Education</u> Pauline Pegram gave the group an update on the College of Continuing Education projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targets are being met; however difficulties have been experienced in recruiting people onto the Basic Skills courses. - Adult Learning week taking place between 20th – 26th May. - College is looking to promote family learning through outings with Community Empowerment Theme using New Deal match funding. - Courses are to be run in Aldridge during the summer holidays which may be attended by people from the New Deal area. - Interviews for Learning Mentors Programme Manager taking place next week. 	

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	<p><u>ContinYou</u> Jan Owen gave the group an update on the ContinYou projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Courses have now commenced although none have been completed to date.- Three computer courses running at present.- Weekly parental drop in sessions are being held.- Referrals have been made to existing courses to ensure that those wishing to attend courses do not have to wait until they are established in the New Deal area. <p><u>'You Can Do It!'</u> Kalpana Patel gave the group an update on the 'You Can Do It!' projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Key strategies are being implemented across the footprint.- Urban Voice production staged in schools has been a success.- Millfields Nursery has been named an 'outstanding school' 05/06 with 'You Can Do It!' named as a key factor in this success.- Sunshine Infants and Nursery have had a successful OFSTED inspection. <p>It was agreed that New Deal computer labels will be attached to 'You Can Do It!' laptops to promote the fact that the projects are funded by New Deal.</p> <p><u>Nursery Plus</u> Kalpana Patel gave the group an update on the Nursery Plus projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Project ended in March and all satellites have been completed; with a DVD being produced to be shown at evaluations.- A newsletter has been produced outlining the results of project which is to be distributed to each house in footprint area.- A comparative assessment will also be undertaken using baseline data collected at the start of the project. <p><u>Learning Interventions</u> Kalpana Patel gave the group an update on the Learning Intervention projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bloxwich CofE have utilised funding from Learning Interventions project to pay for residential visits. These have proven to be such a success that the school will continue to organise these using their own funds.- Focus of the project is now on the sustainability of strategies. <p>It was agreed that the Learning Interventions and Nursery Plus DVDs should be to be shown from 6:30pm at the next Education Theme meeting.</p>	
6.	<p>Update report on Access to ICT in Schools project</p> <p>Primary schools are to receive 16 RM Mobile One laptop computers each and Nursery schools to receive 16 RM Notate Tablet computers each. Laptop computers will be distributed to secondary schools based on the number of New Deal pupils who attend.</p> <p>All the schools involved in the project have signed up to number of conditions set out by New Deal to ensure that computer use can be monitored.</p>	

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7.	<p>Further guidance on project proposals for Blakenall Virtual High School and Blakenall Improvement Fund</p> <p>Funding budgets for these projects will be based on number of each New Deal children in each school.</p> <p>A draft proposal about how decisions might be made was shared with the group who were generally supportive.</p> <p>It was emphasized that there must remain a majority of resident board members on the panel at all times.</p>	
8.	<p>Report on Projects under Development</p> <p><u>NEETS Project</u> This project is aimed to compliment other projects.</p> <p>It is scheduled for funding from January but BM is working to bring this forward.</p> <p><u>Transitions Project</u> This project aims to support transitions in a number of ways including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summer schools which are to be implemented to reinforce what is taught during term time. - Homework clubs which are hoped to be running by September. <p>BM outlined to the group proposals to establish a wireless network in the BVC to enable wireless access of the internet throughout the building. An electronic license will be required to gain access to the internet, preventing any potential security problems.</p> <p><u>14 – 19 Project</u> A series of activities are proposed to carry young people forward through the difficult transition from school into further or higher education, training or employment. These are likely to be of an informal or vocational nature and to have some focus on enterprise and the world of work.</p>	
9.	<p>Date and time of the next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Education Theme Group will be held on Monday 3rd July 2006 commencing at 7.00pm at the Blakenall Village Centre.</p>	