

NEW DEAL: NEW HORIZONS

Charity Number 4582937
A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England

Minutes of an Education Theme Meeting held at the Blakenall Village Centre on Monday 12th March 2007 at 6.30pm

In Attendance

- Mick Taylor - Education Theme Chair / Patch 4 Representative
- Graham Morris - Patch 11 Representative
- Roy Jones - Patch 13 Representative
- Cliff Webb - Patch 18 Representaive

Officers

- Bob Marsh - Education Theme Manager
- Claire Bissell - Administrator
- James Kelly - Interim Programme Manager.

Partners

- John Price - Walsall Education Business Partnership
- Pauline Peagram - College of Continuing Education
- Pushpa Vagadia - College of Continuing Education
- Jan Owen - ContinYou
- Sue Wedgwood - Education Walsall

1. Apologies

- Cllr. Kath Phillipp - Bloxwich East Councillor
- Jean Jevons - Community and Voluntary Sector Representative

Agenda Item		Action
2.	Notes from the previous meeting The notes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
3.	Matters Arising RJ asked if the homework club had been bought to the theme before going to approvals. BM confirmed that an earlier version of this had been to the theme and that there was little change in the project since then. BM also confirmed that the Education Theme would not be covering any of the costs for the YPiC, having been so advised by the programme manager The group were also informed about the situation with the laptops at the Academy. They were informed that they had been advertised to New Deal pupils and that there had been a low take-up. They have now been re-advertised and any that are left over will be returned to New Deal and distributed to other schools.	
4.	Project Reports <u>Access to Learning in the community</u> Pauline Peagram delivered a report from the College of Continuing Education. In addition to the report submitted PP reported that the NVQ courses had now started. The group were informed that statistics for New Deal residents on courses would be available at future meetings.	

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PP also distributed a list of courses that are available in the area.

PP reported that there had been a problems with the computers at the BiC not been put away properly and having parts missing. The BiC have now put a system into place to prevent this happening in the future. At Elmore Green there is the problem that there is no internet connection for the classes to use, to resolve this the College are sending in a technician to install a wireless link which should be ready after Easter.

BM pointed out that the age of some of the equipment is an issue that needs to be addressed. He also pointed out that the BVC is set up for wireless internet and that this would allow any laptop to access it with a password. This means the cafe and training rooms could be used for such classes.

ContinYou

JO delivered a report from ContinYou.

She reported that the crafts course at Rivers house was now oversubscribed. A DVD about the homeless produced as part of the film and media course will be shown on the BBC midland website and at Millennium point in Birmingham. A film and media course will be running at Electric Palace after Easter.

JO also updated the target figures from when the report had been written and were now meeting all targets.

BM informed the group that they were planning to hold an Adult Learners Presentation in partnership with CoCE and ContinYou. This would take place during adult learners week from 19th - 25th May 2007. MT agreed that this was a good idea.

Data Project

BM is awaiting for a copy of the booklet containing the data.

School Improvement Fund

BM reported that this had been slow to start as schools have been slow in submitting their applications.

The group were informed that at the last meeting of the School Improvement Fund Steering Group applications from Valley Nursery, Harden Primary and the Walsall Academy had been approved. There are two schools that had not applied for any funding for Year 1.

BM reported that due to the late submission of applications from schools, there would be an under spend for this financial year. This under spend would be used to fund an outward bound project with Walsall Education Business Partnership at a cost of £5000.

BM also informed the group of a project to upgrade primary schools internet connections from 4mb to 10mb, as the current connections are not suitable and the primary schools do not have the capacity to fund this themselves. BM reported that this would cost £11,500 per school with an initial 3 year life and would be installed in 10 schools. SW confirmed that each school was responsible for its own IT systems and not Education Walsall.

RJ expressed concern about projects going to approvals before coming to the Theme and also regarding under spend at the end of the financial year. MT

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	<p>said he would take this up with Paul Rowlands. JK pointed out that the under spend is only a small percentage of the entire programme budget.</p> <p><u>School Improvement Fund Evaluation</u> This is to be carried out by Wolverhampton University. This is going to be an action research project rather than an evaluation so the University can be involved. This will mean that there is still the cost of an evaluation at the end of the project. BM also pointed out that this would create a link with the University.</p> <p><u>Access to ICT in Schools Phase II</u> BM reported that computers have now been ordered and that the computers for the special schools have been adapted to better meet their requirements. Education Walsall ICT department will be installing these.</p> <p>The traveler's service at Education Walsall will be administering the laptops for the traveller's, in consultation with the traveller's forum.</p>	MT
5.	<p>Update on project development</p> <p><u>Homework Club and Transitions</u> These projects are now written and appraised and will go to approvals next week (20th March 2007)</p>	
6.	<p>Future of Education Residents Meeting BM reported that the residents group held on 26th February 2007 had agreed to not hold anymore residents meeting.</p> <p>The group agreed that this was no longer necessary.</p> <p>The group went on to discuss attendance at Education Theme Meetings and how they could generate more interest. The group discussed potentially involving young people and allowing them to have an input at meetings. It was also suggested that young people could deliver presentations to the group. It was also suggested that parents should be encouraged to attend.</p> <p>It was decided that any ideas should be bought back to the next theme meeting on 30th April 2007.</p>	
7.	<p>Any Other Business None</p>	
8.	<p>Date and time of the next meeting The next meeting of the Education Theme Group will be held on Monday 30th April commencing at 6.30pm at the Blakenall Village Centre.</p>	