

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS
Minutes of a Education meeting
held at the Blakenall Village Centre
on Monday 29th October 2007 at 6.30 p.m.

In attendance

Mick Taylor - Patch Representative4/Theme Chair
Graham Morris - Patch Representative 11
John Jones - Patch Representative 3
Cliff Webb - Patch Representative 18

Officers

Bob Marsh - Education Theme Manager
Kelly Mayo - New Deal Administrator

Partners

Sue Wedgwood - Education Walsall
Jan Owen - ContinYou
John Price - Walsall EBP
David Taylor - Education Walsall
Pauline Pegram - College of Continuing Education

Guests

Beth Alvey - New Deal Sports Officer
Jessica - Summer School attendee

Agenda item		Action
1.	<p>Introductions MT welcomed everyone and introductions were made round the table.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest None were declared.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meetings These were accepted as a true record. Proposed: Graham Morris, seconded: Mick Taylor.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising BM spoke with reference to page 3, wiring up of the BVC. This is now complete and a press release has been drafted including a quote from Mick Taylor. People are now able to access wireless internet and will require a password which can be obtained from BVC reception. MT asked if any of the young people's courses would be making use of this. BM explained the homework club have</p>	

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

	<p>used the internet.</p> <p>BM also went on to mention the delay with the Telewest Surveys. All schools are now hooked up.</p> <p>MT asked if any feedback had been received. BM responded by stating that the schools are very pleased and grateful to New Deal.</p> <p>JJ asked if the broadband was limited i.e were there any security measures in place. BM stated that all users have to register with reception and that the laptops go through Walsall-1 which has a good filtering system. He also explained that each individual could be traced through passwords used and details registered.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Project Reports It was decided to re-arrange the agenda slightly as Beth Alvey was not due until later to give the Summer School Report. MT apologised for this and BM apologised for the changed date of the meeting.</p> <p>Access to Learning in the Community PP presented her report and explained that Pushpa Vagadia has now left. Cate Robinson who was the learning mentor has unfortunately been taken ill.</p> <p>She then went on to explain that a number of new courses have been set up in the New Deal area and a list of these were included in the report.</p> <p>She also spoke of funding she had received from the Big Lottery Fund and New Deal to enable a project called Boxes Project. This would involve a number of learning boxes being handed out to local schools and focusing on age ranges 0-3, 3-5, 5-7.</p> <p>She also spoke of working with families to help improve the skills of parents and to give them an opportunity to gain qualifications.</p> <p>Outreach and Basic Skills JO presented her report and told the group that they had had their first 5 people gain their NOCN qualification. Another 5 were working towards this but JO had no news on their qualifications yet.</p> <p>She spoke of free IT courses that were being offered and that 15 people had shown an interest in this. Originally only</p>	

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

	<p>JJ asked if these 2 schools had received the New Deal laptops. BM explained they had.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on Summer School BM introduced BA and explained that he felt it would be useful for people to see what New Deals' money is helping to achieve rather than just be told.</p> <p>DT also gave a brief update of the Homework Club that had taken place over the Summer. 15 pupils from primary schools attended and 10 pupils from secondary school. He also spoke of having to re-move to the BVC due to being in competition with the YPiC. They were also looking at running other sessions over the half terms and next Summer as feedback had been good.</p> <p>BM also explained that he had received a DVD and report from BA regarding the Summer School and found that the parent's comments were impressive.</p> <p>BA gave the presentation and explained that 20 participants aged 8-13 took part. Week 1 involved dance and drama over 3 days with a show on the final day. She asked Jessica, one of the participants, present with her father, how she felt performing on stage. She replied she felt different and found it scary.</p> <p>The 4th day was Family Day and this included swimming in the morning and a visit to the Blakenall Community Association in the afternoon. Brothers, sisters and parents were also invited.</p> <p>On Friday they all went to Dudley Zoo and attended several workshops. The first workshop involved what it was like living in the older days. The second workshop involved weapons and armoury and the third involved cooking. The afternoon was spent going around the zoo and seeing the animals.</p> <p>Week 2 was a residential visit to Osmington Bay, near Weymouth, and everyone took part in lots of activities, including kayaking, raft building, quad biking, climbing, abseiling, rock climbing and zip wire. All the children had fun and it was a great way of increasing confidence. They were accommodated in rooms of 4 and 4 members of staff also attended.</p> <p>Week 3 involved a trip to Walsall Campus of</p>	

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

	<p>Wolverhampton University on Monday and included a tour of the building. Tuesday to Thursday was based at Sheffield and included IT sessions in the morning involving Powerpoint and yoga and healthy eating in the afternoon. Friday was a treat day and they were taken to Drayton Manor.</p> <p>BA went on to explain that the parents and children were given evaluation through out the week. All involved enjoyed the experience and felt it was helpful. Jessica’s parent ended by saying that he was impressed by how well it was organised.</p> <p>It was also noted that this would take place again but for no longer than 3 weeks. BA ended by saying this was a good way of building a relationship with the young people and helps to raise their self confidence.</p> <p>JJ congratulated BA as Chair of the Sports Strategy, and suggested that the DVD be sent to all the Board Members so they can all see the good work that has been done.</p> <p>BM thanked BA and Jessica for the presentation.</p>	<p>BM to action</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Update on Valley Nursery Playgroup closure BM stated this that this had been funded for 3 years and this came to an end in April 2007, although they had had an extension. Playgroups may cost more than people can afford, as is the case with the Valley Nursery provision.</p> <p>He explained he had had a useful meeting with the senior staff members of the Early Learning Service to understand the needs of pre-school children. These needs could be met by training parents to enable them to set up their own groups.</p> <p>A discussion then took place regarding creating home packs for children/parents of playgroups to take home. These would include such things as scissors, paper, paints etc to enable the work to continue at home. These could also incorporate New Deal branding.</p> <p>MT asked how many schools have nursery plus extensions. BM spoke of 5. It was also asked if these extra rooms were being used. BM explained they are well used by parents for learning and meetings.</p> <p>BM explained he would report further on this item at the next meeting.</p>	

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

8.	Any Other Business JP spoke of an Outward Bound Trip to Aberdovey that was due to take 35 New Deal residents on 12 th November and would include similar activities to Summer School. This was being funded by New Deal and Mid Counties Co-Op. JJ stated he would like all board members to be aware of this trip. BM explained that he had arranged for a photo to be in an edition of the Chtatter. PP suggested it may be an idea to set up trips similar to this for primary school pupils. It was stated that a week may be to long and that a weekend could be better. BM said this was a possibility and that he would take it into consideration.	
9.	Date of the future meetings Monday 10 th December 2007	