

NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

Charity Number 4582937
A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England

Employment Theme Minutes held at Blakenall Village Centre on Thursday 6th March 2008 at 6.30 p.m.

In Attendance

Bill Smith	Local Trader Stakeholder / Chair
John Jones	Patch Representative 3
Paul Jay	Business Stakeholder

Officers

Bob Crundwell	Employment Theme Manager
Paul Smith	Community Development Worker
Tom Davies	Administrator

Partners

Tony Jeavons	Chamber of Commerce / Leamore Ent. Park
Ian Race	Small Business Service
Stephanie Hammond	Work on the Horizon
Dave Rosser	CAB
Peter Whitmore	Consultant
John Brewer	Steps to Work

1. Apologies

Jean Jevons
Andrew Rumble
Graham Morris

Agenda Item		ACTION
2.	Introduction Introductions were made round the table.	
3.	Declarations of Interest Declarations were made from the following: Steph Hammond John Brewer	
4.	Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes were proposed by PJ and seconded by SH.	
5.	Matters Arising not covered by the agenda BC informed the group in Agenda item 7 of the previous	

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	<p>minutes the concern was that the users of the shop from the footprint was low rather than those from outside the footprint was high and reinforced the need to attract users of the shop from the NDC footprint.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Projects Updates</p> <p>a. Work on the Horizon – A written report was presented to the group. JB stated that he felt that Project information intended for publicity in ChTatter and other publications was often overlooked by the New Deal Communications Team. PJ informed the group that he had recommended Work on the Horizon to a client and that the client had been pleased with the service provided. SH reported that 40% of the people using the Project were footprint residents and that this was an increase on the previous figure of 33%. SH explained that of the footprint residents using the Project, 46% had learnt about the Project through window displays. SH announced that two clients of the Project had been nominated for and received Lifelong Learning Awards. BC requested that SH contact the New Deal Communications Team with information on the Awards.</p> <p>b. Financial Counselling & Benefit Take-Up – A written report was presented to the group. BS stated that he had expected figures for recent months to be significantly higher. DR explained that the figures reflected the number of people actually given advice and an increase in this number was not practical.</p> <p>c. KS4 Transition – A written report was presented to the group. There were no further comments.</p> <p>d. Business Incubator – A written report was presented to the group. IR reported that three start up businesses had been passed to New Deal since Christmas and a further business was awaiting planning permission. Reflecting on these numbers, IR admitted that the Project was in need of rejuvenation. BC questioned if beer mats were still being distributed to pubs and suggested that press releases and articles in ChTatter could help raise the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SH</p>

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	<p>profile of the Project. IR stated the he would request that Mark Godson speak to Andy Bradley regarding increasing publicity. BC enquired about the situation in Leamore and TJ replied that there was no noticeable expansion or decline.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Financial Counselling & Benefit Take-Up Project Update BC explained that the Project had been approved, but on the condition that training was to be provided. BC recommended the provision of training sessions on the costs of house buying and PJ added that additional costs linked to house buying could also be included. TJ suggested that a 12 month matrix could be provided detailing all required payments.</p> <p>DR reported that CAB had been tasked with providing the training and that this did not follow the guidelines set for the Project. DR reasoned that the added responsibility of the training would also have negative affect on the service currently provided. BC explained that CAB could identify the elements of training they were able to provide and that the remaining elements could be provided by other Projects. BC enquired if staff at the YPiC had been consulted regarding the training. DR stated that staff at the YPiC had been contacted, but had shown no interest in the training. PS stated that he would discuss the issue further with staff at the YPiC.</p> <p>DR distributed a weekly schedule of CAB appointments and it was raised that there was to be no session held at Work on the Horizon. SH reasoned that having no session at Work on the Horizon would have a negative affect on that Project. PJ stated that CAB was being asked to do something that they were not comfortable with and that this would dilute a previously successful project. BC informed the group that he would discuss the issue with CAB Senior Management and DR requested to also be present.</p> <p>DR distributed a graph of CAB clients to date and highlighted that the benefits category had the largest number of clients.</p>	<p>PS</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Project Sustainability BC stated that he had researched the Continuing Development for Professional Drivers Project and provided the group with details. PJ explained that the information</p>	

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	<p>gathered by BC referred to the wrong Project and provided an explanation of the correct Project.</p> <p>BS stated that two vans were to be dispatched across the footprint on 15th March 2008 to collect unwanted household goods and dispose of them. BC agreed that this might be a viable contribution to sustainability</p>	
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>PW informed the group of an organisation called Care Ambassadors that consisted of volunteers from the care sector. PW explained that Care Ambassadors provided advice to young people seeking to join the sector as employees and suggested that New Deal could liaise with the organisation.</p> <p>BC distributed a statistics sheet for information</p>	
10.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>Thursday 15th May 2008 Thursday 26th June 2008 Thursday 21st August 2008 Thursday 16th October 2008 Thursday 11th December 2008</p>	