

NEW DEAL: NEW HORIZONS

Charity Number 4582937
A Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England

Employment Meeting Minutes held at Blakenall Village Centre on Thursday 7th December 2006 at 6.30p.m.

In Attendance

Bill Smith	Trader Stakeholder/Theme Vice Chair
Debbie Marshall	Patch Representative 12
Graham Morris	Patch Representative 11
Alan Venables	Patch Representative 17
Paul Jay	Business Stakeholder

Officers

Bob Crundwell	Economic Development Manager
Paul Capelin	Interim Programme Manager
Amy Rowley	Administrator

Partners

John Price	Walsall EBP
Anne Rudely	Steps to Work
Carol Hands	Walsall EBP

1. Apologies

Cllr Kath Philips
Charlie Robertson
Roy Jones
Jennie Booker
Louise Powell
Dave Rosser
Tamara Crutchley
Jean Jevons
Jayne Read

Agenda Item		ACTION
2.	Introductions CR sent his apologies that he would not be attending the meeting, so BS took the chair. Introductions were made round the table. There were no Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Minutes of Last Meeting These were accepted as a true record how ever BS requested that	

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	minutes 9 reflect the Bloxwich, Leamore and Blakenall Partnership. Proposed Paul Jay, Seconded Debbie Marshall and agreed	
4.	<p>Matters Arising There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.</p>	
5.	<p>PMR PC introduced the PMR process for this year. Basically they were four tasks to be undertaken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the performance over the last year. • To review the current targets. • To consider if there should be new targets • Board Members only should consider what intervention had had the most impact. <p>PC indicated the view (shared by GOWM) of the three current outcomes, only one was representative .i.e. the number of people in employment where the target for 2011 were up to achievable. There has been no measurable effect on the number of households, with no one of working age in employment. The indicator relating to NVQs shows some improvement but there have been changes in the way that the indicator is measured.</p> <p>The Mori Poll shows the number in paid work has not changed within the statistical significance of the survey technique. Mori shows a small improvement in NVQs.</p> <p>All the other themes demonstrate significant change over the period 2002 – 2006 this is not true of the Employment Theme.</p> <p>Work on the Horizon has been really successful in helping anyone who goes through the door, but there are still lots of people not being engaged.</p> <p>Three questions arise :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ? are the targets right. The theme has lots of good news, but it is not being reported and reflected in outcomes. • ? are the current projects going to make the difference that is required. • ? should we be considering other methods of engagement. <p>BS considered that the theme has be extremely successful, having done everything that was asked of it including engaging outside partners in many projects. The theme has also had to deal with things outside its remit.</p>	

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	<p>DM was fully in agreement but added that the benefits system works against us.</p> <p>AR advised that WotH had already identified a need to involve outreach and would looking at training local people who would find it easier to engage with the harder to reach from the footprint.</p> <p>PJ pointed out that some of the projects will take longer to have an impact we are trying to change long established behaviours.</p> <p>AR spoke about the Government initiative “Pathways to Work “, this will involve approximately 60% of people receiving incapacity benefit undertaking case reviews, training etc.. It is expected that 40% of IB recipients will progress back to work. Steps to Work are intending to deliver parts of the programme but it is still in the early stages.</p> <p>AR indicated that WotH was delivering 28 distinct streams but these were not detailed in routine reports. It was proposed at the next theme meeting there should be a report on all the streams so that the theme group can determine which ones work, which don’t and whether any additional streams are required. It was agreed that BC and PC would look at additional indicators relating to numbers going in to work, numbers going in to training, young people helped out of the NEET category and people in employment or facing redundancy being up-skilled.</p> <p>PJ considered that the time available to undertake the PMR process was too short, more time was required to do a proper job particularly in view of the demographic changes in the area.</p> <p>Resident Board Members considered the success of the shop, projects relating to construction and the tenacity of theme group members had the biggest impact on residents.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Project updates Reports had been circulated and were taken as read.</p> <p>BS requested a trend report on the advice project for the March Theme meeting.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Job Centre Plus In absence of the representative this item was deferred.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Any Other Business PC advised that under executive powers additional money had been committed to the KS4 project to extend the period to cover additional time. This project was widely considered to be extremely successful and therefore an early evaluation should be undertaken so that an extension of the project could go to approvals in good time.</p>	

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	<p>DM asked that request for additional money reflect larger match funding if possible.</p> <p>BS expressed thanks to PC for his hard work on behalf of the theme and wished him every success in his new job. This was echoed by all members of the theme group.</p> <p>BS wished everybody a Happy Christmas and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.</p>	
9.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <p>Thursday 18th January 2007 commencing at 7.00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday 15th March 2007 commencing at 7.00 p.m.</p> <p>Tuesday 8th May 2007 commencing at 7.00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday 12th July 2007 commencing at 7.00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday 6th September 2007 commencing at 7.00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday 1st November 2007 commencing at 7.00 p.m.</p> <p>Thursday 20th December 2007 commencing at 7.00 p.m.</p>	