

# 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 12<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at 6.30 p.m.

### In Attendance

Bill Smith	Trader Stakeholder/Theme Chair
John Jones	Patch Representative 3
Paul Jay	Local Business Stakeholder
Graham Morris	Patch Representative 11

### Officers

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

### Partners

John Price	Walsall EBP
Ian Homard	Steps to Work
Stephanie Hammond	Work on the Horizons
Dave Rosser	CAB
Rebecca Floyd	CAB

### Guests

Jo Gardner	Hoshin
Phil Smith	Hoshin

### 1. Apologies

Jean Jevons  
John Brewer  
Roy Jones  
Louise Powell

Agenda Item		ACTION
2.	<b>Introduction</b> Introductions were made round the table.	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Declarations were made from the following: Ian Homard	

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	Stephanie Hammond	
4.	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>                  These were accepted as a true record.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising not covered by the agenda</b>                  BC stated that he had enquired about taxi safety as tasked to do so in Agenda item 7 of the previous minutes. BC explained that taxi licenses do not require provision of child car seats, but the wheelchair friendly taxis he had contacted do provide this. BC insisted that care must be taken should NDC advertise taxi services, so as not to give a firm an advantage over competitors.</p> <p>Amendments to minutes: Paul Jay not Peter Jay should be recorded as correct name.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Projects Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Work on the Horizon</b> – A written report was presented to the group. The group had nothing to add to the report.</li> <li>b. <b>Financial Counselling &amp; Benefit Take-Up</b> – A written report was presented to the group. DR explained that a forecast had been produced to demonstrate what is hoped to be achieved by December 2007. DR stated that the project should achieve direct contact with 800 new clients and 1000 repeat clients and that the clients were from a wide age range.</li> <li>c. <b>KS4 Transition</b> – A written report was presented to the group. The group agreed that the KS4 Transition had been successful.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>KS4 Evaluation</b>                  JG gave a detailed oral presentation on the evaluation findings to the group. She highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of the project and gave recommendations to take the project forward.</p> <p>BS asked for it to be recorded that he congratulated all involved with the project and that the evaluation demonstrated that the theme is not underperforming.</p>	

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	BC stated that an extension of the project is going to the next Approvals meeting through the Education Theme.	
8.	<p><b>Engagement</b></p> <p>BC told the group that the One Stop Shop project had demonstrated that it can help anyone but that he felt that this fact was not publicised enough. BC explained that contacts with partners were in place to get people in, but not enough people were coming in.</p> <p>BS suggested targeting the youngest members of families in the New Deal area. BC explained that individuals rather than families had been targeted before.</p> <p>PS stated that he felt that New Deal were weak in the area of targeting younger children and that children should be targeted as young as possible.</p> <p>IH reasoned that the children of unemployed families could be targeted.</p> <p>BC explained that it was important that adults gave opportunities and respect to young children.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Project Sustainability</b></p> <p>BC explained the need to look at sustainability for the projects after 2011. He stated that it has to be decided what the projects want to achieve and how it is to be funded.</p> <p>The group agreed that the presence in the community needed to continue, but probably on a smaller scale.</p> <p>BS and JJ suggested that the One Stop Shop project might become mobile after 2011 and could be operated from a van.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>SH explained that Steps to Work had received external funding for Skills for You training, but were unable to spread the money due to a poor take up in the New Deal area. They wished to spread some of the money outside the footprint and this was agreed. PJ raised concerns, however, that efforts to spend money elsewhere may result</p>	

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	<p>in people in the New Deal area being overlooked. This was noted.</p> <p>DR informed the group that the existing advice project in the Pinfold Centre was ending on 13/07/07. DR stated that the Centre would be reopened in August as an Outreach Centre from the NDC project and would be trialled for two months.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Dates of Future Meetings</b> Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007 Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007</p>	