

## NEW DEAL : NEW HORIZONS

Charity Number 4582937  
A Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in England

### Employment Theme Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2006 At Blakenall Village Centre Commencing at 7.00 p.m.

#### In Attendance

Bill Smith	Stakeholder - Trader
Paul Jay	Stakeholder – Business
Graham Morris	Patch 11 Representative
Charlie Robertson	Patch 14 Representative/Theme Chair

#### Officers

Dr. Bob Crundwell	Theme Manager
Paul Capelin	Interim Programme Manager
Diane Jones	Minute Taker

#### Partners

Dave Rosser	CAB Lead Advisor
Peter Whitmore	Regeneration Manager Learning Skills
Ann Ruddy	Steps to Work
Roy Jones	Work on the Horizon
John Price	Walsall EBP
Jenny Booker	Job Centre Plus – Local Partnership Manager

#### 1. Apologies

Cllr. Kath Phillips	WMBC
Alan Venables	Patch 17 Representative
Jean Jevons	Stakeholder - Voluntary/Community Groups

Agenda Item		ACTION
2.	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b> Amendments were made to last minutes, Debbie Marshall should be patch 12, Bill Smith should read Stakeholder – Trader. The minutes were then agreed as a true and accurate record. BS stated that stakeholder’s positions of which group they were representing should be on all minutes in future. This was agreed by all present.	
3.	<b>Matters Arising</b> There were no matters arising.	
4.	<b>Projects Updates</b> a. Work on the Horizon RJ gave a brief summary of the report sent out with the papers. The shop had had 1298 new users, 358 were from	

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	<p>the New Deal footprint. 1266 repeat users of which 418 were from the footprint. The shop is well up on the target set for the 1<sup>st</sup> year.</p> <p>BC asked if more employers needed to be encouraged to use the shop more and what they had to offer employers. RJ replied that they already had contact with SSWW, TK Maxx and Homeserve. This was seen as an area of activity that could be expanded and in response to a question about using BVC for events this was encouraged.</p> <p>Addaction now holding a surgery on a regular basis at Work on the Horizon, started 12<sup>th</sup> April. BS stated that people would not visit this as the shop was on the High street. This was a temporary arrangement until their new premises were finished.</p> <p>RJ stated that there was more cross theming with Health and he had also had a meeting with George Jevons – ContinYou. He also mentioned that the Steps would be represented at the Blakenall Shops event on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April.</p> <p>The group noted the report.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Workwise –is due to end in December although funding is being sought to extend the service.</p> <p><b>c.</b> Financial Counselling &amp; Benefit Take-Up – Still pretty slow, they have contacted various agencies and dropped leaflets in the footprint. The Monday morning session in the BiC is quite successful with 4 – 5 people per week. They have seen 1 in the Work on the Horizon shop in the session run on Thursday morning. Pinfold Clinic is still running sessions and BS wondered if that was affecting the shop figures. The project may also run a session at the Harden Road Health Centre although concern was expressed as to how many ND : NH residents use this facility. It was agreed by the group that an article goes in the next Chatter with the CAB advert. Sessions at the BVC health centre would be arranged.</p> <p><b>d.</b> KS4 Transition – The face to face sessions with the chosen pupils have started and have been positively received. On the whole the project is progressing well and making plans for the next wave of beneficiaries.</p> <p>CR raised the issue of career advice generally within schools and following discussion it was agreed to put an article in Chatter to advice residents of the support available at the Work on the Horizon shop in this regard.</p>	BC
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	AR pointed out that there were computer packages available for school leavers at the shop and Steps to Work in Walsall.	
5.	<p><b>In Work Training</b>                  This provision is not well advertised.</p> <p>11 residents from the footprint have been assisted by being up skilled while in employment ranging from training in CLAIT to HGV class one with an average cost of £381. 80 spent on each resident.</p> <p>The group agreed to more marketing material going out into the footprint area together with posters and advertising to let residents know about this project and it was also agreed that the staff at the shop would have discretion over the level of financial support to a particular level and afterwards decisions should be shared with the Theme group.</p> <p>Training must be employment or work related, not for a hobby or leisure.</p>	RJ
6.	<p><b>Frank F Harrison School</b>                  The school has achieved Engineering Status and a report and plans had been sent out with the minutes. A payment of £25,000 has been made by ND : NH with regard to costs of refurbishing a building to support this.</p> <p>BS asked where the fire escapes were on the plans as he had not noticed any. BC will check on this with the school. BC informed the group of an open event to be held at the school on the 18<sup>th</sup> May to visit the engineering block and view the progress on it.</p>	BC
7.	<p><b>Construction Training</b>                  WHG are negotiating to buy Hollemeadow Centre and turn it into a construction skills centre. This will give opportunities for young people to learn building, plumbing, woodwork etc. and also to fill gaps in basic skills.</p> <p>The group welcomed this scheme.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Incubator</b>                  BC would like to run another business incubator and include informal into the formal economy transition. A draft tender had been circulated with the meeting papers. The group agreed this should be sent out to Business Link, Breathing Space and the Princes Trust.</p>	BC

