

BLSP Learning and Skills Sub-Group

26 July 2005

1.30pm – 3.30pm

Employment Skills Centre, NNC

MINUTES

Attending:

Fran Walker (Chair)	North Nottinghamshire College
Gillian Blenkinsop	Bassetlaw District Council
Chris Carrington	Notts Learning & Skills Council
Jackie Collins	Sure Start WB / BCVS
Nicky Corbett	North Nottinghamshire College
Janet Coyne	Bassetlaw Training Agency
Julie Dallinson	North Nottinghamshire College
Virginia Darby	SI of the Dukeries
Jonathan Dawson	NRCC
Janet Duke	Connexions
Helen Goldsbrough	Notts County Council, ACLS
Malcolm Kesterton	NCC Education
Victoria Seth-Kosoko	Bassetlaw PCT
Bob Wallace	Notts County Council
Celia West	Next Step Information & Advice
Jo Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council

20 Introductions and Welcome

Fran Walker welcomed members to the meeting.

21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Vicki Bacon, Jobcentre Plus; James Busher, Jobcentre Plus; Cllr Barry Bowles, BDC; Eddie Burgess, NCC Youth Services; Bob Hill, Notts Fire & Rescue Service; Stuart Hood, Wilkinson; Shona Neill, Connexions; Michael Newstead, BCVS; Janet Northover, NNLP; Rob Packer, NCC Youth Services; Cllr Michael Pugsley, BDC; Steve Walker, Valley Comprehensive School; Robin Woodhead, Priory CofE Primary.

22 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

- 22.1 Re 3.2 BLSP Learning and Skills Key Targets:
GB requested volunteers to meet to re-visit the action plan.
Group to meet as soon as possible.
- 22.2 Re 4 Specialist Status – Valley Comprehensive School:
FW reported on events which had taken place since the visit to Valley School.
SW to provide further update at next meeting.
- 22.3 Re 7.4:
FW commented on the various avenues currently being pursued for additional funding for adult education within FE and ways in which the group could assist in accessing future funding streams.

23 Local Area Agreements

GB explained that LAA is a national government initiative to help local partners to work together to create greater outcomes. In addition to the 21 current pilots, a further 66 were recently announced, one of which relates to Notts County Council. A project plan for Nottinghamshire was required by the deadline of March 2006. Various themed discussions were taking place throughout the County, led by Notts County Council. The Bassetlaw Local Strategic Board would focus on 4 main strands:

- Safer & Stronger Communities
- Children & Young People
- Healthier Communities & Older People
- Economic Development

Members were requested to consider each of the 4 strands (Annex D) and prioritise areas where education would feature and therefore the group could focus on.

Members to feedback educational links to JW/JDallinson

MK tabled a paper containing suggestions for inclusion in the LAA. He reported that the PFI Project Agreement and associated contractual documents had been signed by all parties on 12 July and therefore works had subsequently commenced. The report included Government targets for Extended Schools and details of funding. A Stakeholder Steering Group for Extending Services in and around schools would be established from September 2005.

24 BLSP Conference Report

FW outlined issues raised at the Conference and requested group representation on other Sub-Groups in order to progress issues and linkages.

A task group would be established to commence arrangements for Bassetlaw Skills Week activities. Volunteers were requested.

JC reported on the Friends of Langold Lake County Park project, which had

been established to promote awareness of the park and review the services offered to the community. Various events would be taking place throughout the summer involving local people.

25 Update Report on Learning Communities

FW gave a verbal update stating that the core grant funding for the year had been received from Government Office. The project had been established in order to help communities develop their own agendas by improving participation in Higher Education and adult learning, increasing and improving educational achievements, raising standards and skills in employment and raising aspirations in all ages. The initial Learning Communities bid was based on Sure Start West Bassetlaw and Manton, however the possibility of expansion into other areas was now being considered.

CC explained that funding would run from 1 August for one year although it was uncertain how long funding would continue for the project. Approximately £28,000 had been approved for the Bassetlaw project through ENABLE.

Possibilities for further funding were being explored through ENABLE and the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities fund. Additional support for promotion of Learning Champions and related activities was being sought.

26 E2E and Lifeskills Provision

JDuke provided background information on the Entry to Employment programme. The aim of the 20-22 week programme is for students to achieve an NVQ level 1 qualification plus training in a chosen profession. There are currently 3 providers in the area offering E2E; Bassetlaw Training Agency, North Nottinghamshire College and Acorn. The issues highlighted were:

- Some students will not be at NVQ level 1 standard by the end of the programme
- Lifeskills issues

It was reported that there were currently 80 registered unemployed 16-18 year olds in Bassetlaw, many of whom would not have achieved a GCSE at grade C.

The LSC, as the funding body for E2E, had recently increased the number of places across Bassetlaw by 40 and was currently looking to build lifeskills activities into the programme.

Update to next meeting (SN)

27 Any Other Business

- 27.1 NC reported on a consultation event on the East Midlands Regional Economic Strategy which is being updated, building on the achievements so far in the Destination 2010 document. The website gives more information on the Regional Economic Strategy and offers an opportunity for people to comment: www.haveyoursay.co.uk

- 27.2 JDawson said he would provide relevant information from the Parish Plans to the next meeting.
- 27.3 CW provided an update on the services of next step Information, Advice & Guidance for Nottinghamshire. The core funding was to offer services to adults aged 20+ with a below level 2 NVQ qualification. However further funding had been sourced to deliver additional services:
- Skills coaching
 - Working with adults with NVQ 2 and above
 - Adults aged 18-30
 - Graduate funding (currently Nottingham City only) to look at the outward flow of graduates from the City.
- 27.4 CC requested the group's support in challenging the SSP to expand their work on worklessness across the whole of the Alliance area.
- 27.5 Following a question from BW regarding the future of the Operations Group, HG stated the remit of the group would need to be revisited in order to establish its purpose and requirement. JW suggested the issue be raised at the LSP Board meeting.
- 27.6 JC reported on a visit to Sheffield Hallam University by the Sure Start Wednesday Women group. Interest in the foundation degrees had been shown, as transport was one of the key issues for the group. JC commented that foundation degrees gave local people a realistic opportunity to attend University.
- 27.7 FW requested future discussions around developing links with the Olympics 2012.
- Future agenda item (FW/JW)**
- 27.8 Volunteers for involvement with other Sub-Groups:
- Environment – JD/ JCollins
 - Health – HG
 - Economic Regeneration – HG/ CW
 - Community Safety - JCoyne
 - Social & Community Development – VD/ JCollins
 - Skills Week – JCoyne/ VD/ HG/ V S-K

28 Dates of 2005 Future Meetings

Tuesday 27 September 2005 1.30–3.30 venue TBC
Tuesday 29 November 2005 time and venue TBC