

**BLSP Learning and Skills Sub-Group
15 October 2007
12.00 – 1.30 pm
Ceres Suite, Worksop Town Hall**

MINUTES

Attending:

Fran Walker (Chair)	North Notts College
Sue Baczynski	NEBA
Jackie Collins	Sure Start
Virginia Darby	SI of the Dukeries
Dale Dudley	Jobcentre Plus
Helen Goldsbrough	Notts County Council
Jean Haywood	LSC Notts
Meg Hankinson	Coalfields Regeneration Trust
Mike Kilrane	North Notts College
Shona Neill	Connexions
Sharon Oakton	Jobcentre Plus
Nicola Simpson	Notts County Council
Cllr Chris Wanless	Bassetlaw District Council
Lynne Willoughby	North Notts College
Jo Wilson	Bassetlaw District Council (Policy)
Julie Dallinson (Minutes)	North Notts College

1. Introductions and Welcome

Fran Walker welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Members were requested to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Julie Caley, WEA; Nicola Corbett, NNC; Glenn Mears, Notts Fire & Rescue Service; Vicki Seth-Kosoko, Bassetlaw PCT; Cllr Kath Sutton, BDC; Steve Walker, Valley Comprehensive School.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2007 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4. Presentation from Notts Education Business Alliance (NEBA)

Sue Baczynski had been invited to attend the meeting to give a presentation on current projects through the ASG and the new approach to work experience opportunities. She explained that there was now a statutory requirement for each pupil to take part in 10 days work related activity. Sue provided brief background information, stating that the work of NEBA was mainly focussed on 14-16 age groups. She outlined the activities they were currently involved in and the aims of the projects. The introduction of Diplomas would mean a huge change to the education system. Schools would be expected to work together in order to deliver the 13 lines of learning. In Bassetlaw the first diploma to be delivered would be Construction and the Built Environment. Schools would then have to put in submissions to deliver additional diplomas.

Positive feedback had been received from an event at Tuxford School on 9 October, to which local employers from each line of learning had been invited to attend. The aim of the event was to provide further information on diplomas, engage employers and show them around a modern day school. NEBA would also be arranging for teachers to visit local businesses.

5. Presentation on Train to Gain (addition to the original agenda)

Mike Kilraine, North Nottinghamshire College, explained that Train to Gain is a business-orientated initiative, which was introduced in order to improve the skills level of the workforce across England. Train to Gain provides funding for employees to help gain a first full level 2 qualification plus contributions to wage costs for small organisations could be offered. Each business contacting the help line would be assigned a highly experienced skills broker, who would identify training requirements and match these to a relevant training provider. They would also review progress and provide support throughout the programme. More information can be found at www.hotcourses.com

6. Presentation on the Family Employment Initiative

Meg Hankinson, Coalfield Regeneration Trust, gave a presentation on the initiative and provided background information on the Trust. The charity organisation had been set up to provide support to the regeneration of the coalfield communities across England and Wales. One of the major sites had been identified at Brooke Park in Shirebrook, where 3 CRT advisors were currently working on the FEI. The initiative was funded until March 2008, however alternative sources of funding were being sought in order to continue the project. A base was required for 3 staff (1 FEI worker and 2 Jobcentre Plus advisors) to work from to expand the project in to the Manton area.

7. Update on BLSP Board Priorities

7.1 Well-being and Success of Children and Young People

The event planned for December to promote opportunities for year 9 students had been postponed to the new year.

Instead the group would be supporting Connexions to deliver their event, which had a similar concept. Retford Post 16 Centre would be hosting an Aim Higher raising aspirations event on 1st & 2nd November. Year 9 pupils and parents had been invited to attend the event, which would encourage students to progress to higher education.

7.2 Skills & Worklessness

Work for this area is progressing while and the Delivery Plan is being further refined. It is hoped to run a local forum meeting with key partners similar to the events of the Nottinghamshire Worklessness Forum. A key piece of work for the group will be supporting the roll-out of the Family Employment Initiative and monitoring progress and working with Jobcentre Plus on their Local Employer Partnerships (a job pledges scheme involving large employers like Tesco), in addition to exploring how we can gain benefits from the Making the Connection initiative.

8. Future Management of Meetings

It was agreed the group would meet 3 times per year, linking with the Economic Regeneration group where possible.

9. Any Other Business

There was no A.O.B.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 18th February 2008 at 12 noon. Venue to be confirmed.