

**West Lancashire Local Strategic Partnership**  
**Employment, Learning & Skills Thematic Group Meeting**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 10.30am**

**West Lancashire Investment Centre**

**Attendance:**

Cllr Adrian Owens- Portfolio Holder Regeneration and Estates (Chairman)  
Greg Mitten- West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service (WLCVS)  
Greg Swift – (WLCVS)  
Ann Boocock – Lancashire Adult Learning  
Philip A Russell– Lancashire County Developments Ltd (LCDL)  
Maureen Fazal – Exsel  
Peter Scott- LSC  
Dawn Lord- Skills Academy for Health  
Ismail Karolia- YPS/ WLCVS  
Alice Grieve – West Lancashire Borough Council (WLBC)

**1. Apologies**

None submitted.

**2. Minutes (9<sup>th</sup> December 2009)**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising;**

The following updates were provided;

Fleetwood Pilot: PAR reported that the pilot is now being progressed by Lancaster.

NHS Skills Academy: DL reported that due to financial matters the pre-employment programme would commence with interviews in July and placements starting in August.

Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board (LBTB): Councillor Owens advised the group the application to fund membership of the LBTB submitted to the second homes fund had been successful and funding had been given for a 12 month period.

#### **4. LCC update on LAA - Working Age Client Group and Business Start up**

PAR explained the data sets provided to the group prior to the meeting as well as providing additional data (attached).

N152 and N153 indicator update; the group noted that although numbers of claimants are increasing the rises are smaller than envisaged. Proposed 2010/2011 targets have been submitted to GONW detailing a 2.5% reduction in the Narrowing the Gap indicator.

N171 indicator update; that there has been a drop in the level of enquiries and conversions to new businesses. Proposed 2010/2011 targets submitted to GONW detailing an increase to 49 registrations per 10,000 residents.

The group discussed concerns over the data supplied being 7 months old but agreed this was the most comprehensive data set available to meet their needs.

PAR commented that West Lancashire's representation at the recent LAA Economic Theme meeting was welcomed. Councillor Owens requested WLBC ensure attendance continues.

#### **5. Skelmersdale Vision: Connecting People to Jobs Project Update**

The group noted the update paper.

MF provided feedback on the training/work experience project delivered by EXSEL (INT) CIC (West Lancashire Community Recycling Service), which delivered 10 'individuals into training' outputs. To date of the 10 individuals accessing the training/ work experience 2 have proceeded to the Construction College, 4 have found employment and 2 are continuing in volunteering positions at WLCRS. The group noted the value of the activity.

#### **6. LSP Performance Reward Grant Update (PRG)**

Councillor Owens provided an update that Louise Dawson (Skelmersdale College), acting as lead for this area of work, submitted a Project Initiation Document (PID) to access funding from the PRG. This was considered at the LSP executive meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

All PID's submitted were returned to the leads with more time being given together with a suggestion of leads working together to consider common areas of activity to ensure best value for money is obtained from this funding.

Group requested that the refreshed PID be circulated prior to re-submission.

It was fed back that West Lancashire was in a good position having already developed draft proposals.

Councillor Owens assured the group that progress would be made in this area of work during May 2010.

## **7. Skills and Worklessness Strategy & Action Plan**

The group commented that this document provides a working document detailing the gaps and barriers in the Borough and indeed has already informed the PID for the PRG.

Action to keep the item on the agenda for the group.

## **8. Presentation by West Lancashire CVS re: Asset Based Community Mapping Project.**

GM explained funding from the group, together with a contribution from the Childrens Trust Board who are looking to develop a Youth Facilities Centre, had enabled the mapping of the Community Assets within Skelmersdale to be carried out by CVS.

Ismail Karolia, who has carried out this piece of work, presented an overview of the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) using a PowerPoint presentation (attached).

The report relating to this piece of work is due to be signed off shortly and will be circulated to members of the group once complete.

GM raised that ABCD has provided a valuable tool as it has enabled consideration of human, financial and environmental factors. He explained there are mechanisms to develop the human element through the third sector, opportunities to enable environmental (space) usage but there are issues around financial flexibility.

CVS has been approached by other regional and national organisations as a result of their work on ABCD and have seen the benefits this work has offered through the sharing of best practice.

CVS plan to return to the group to obtain ongoing support for this model of work.

Councillor Owens endorsed the comment and praised the work carried out by CVS and Ismail.

## **9 Any Other Business**

1. GS advised the group that Cllr Doreen Saxon had passed away yesterday.
2. GS asked the group to thank Pete Trewin for his good work and support to the group. Councillor Owens endorsed the comment.
3. PAR advised the group the Mid-Lancs MAA was due to be 'signed off' imminently. Councillor Owens highlighted that discussions were still ongoing regarding the particular model that will be utilised.
4. GM advised the group that Lancashire has not committed all the Future Jobs Fund allocations leaving a second tranche. Members of the ABCD working group will work to develop the Boroughs offer for second allocation. Concerns were raised by the group regarding the top slicing being witnessed of Future Jobs Fund funding and praise was given to the Countys offer.

## **10. Next Meeting**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010 at 10.00am at the West Lancashire Investment Centre.