

## **ACL Thematic Group**

**Notes of Meeting Held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

**Plough Lane, Hereford**

### **Present:-**

Peter Ding	Herefordshire Council
Bruce Freeman	Education Liaison Officer
Julie Wilson Thomas	Herefordshire Literacy Project
John Hall	Pertemps
Stephen Weller	Pertemps
Pauline Griffiths	Carr- Gomm
Myfanwy Page	CSV
Christianne Wakenham	
Liz Kelso	South Wye Learning Centre
Paul Mason	John Kyrle Adult Learning Centre
William Dereham	Herefordshire Council
Craig Watson	Herefordshire College of Technology
Frances Roberts	Local Learning and Skills Council
Charlotte Davies	West Midlands Probationary Service
Meg Hughes	WEA
Liz Kelso	South Wye Learning Centre
Mary Simpson	Teme Valley Youth Centre
Mark Woodward	PCT

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from: - Gillian Scott – Lee, Helen Mapp, Sarah Chedgzoy, Chris Jones, Penny Southwood, Helen Vine, Phil Burton, George Driver, Vanessa Ford, Julia Radburn,, Kate Murray, Dave Tristram

### **2 Minutes of the Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

The meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> May was an ad hoc meeting to identify how to action the proposed PCDL mapping exercise. The minutes of the last full ACL group meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May were therefore tabled. Christianne Wakenham requested that they be amended to include her as an attendee.

### **3 Matters Arising**

It was decided that matters arising from PCDL mapping would be addressed in the main agenda item. There were no other matters arising.

#### 4 South Wye Academy

Bruce Freeman, Education Liaison Officer, gave a presentation of the proposals for an Academy, planned to open in September 2009 to be situated on the current Wyebridge Sports College. He explained that the academy is expected to cost in the region of £221 million, will be sponsored by the Hereford Diocese of the Church of England and, in being part of the Extended Schools programme, will be open from 8.00am to 10.00pm and weekends as required.

There will be a commitment to adult learning, with local adults being actively involved to share in post 16 provision. The post 16 timetable will be flexible in order to accommodate curricular collaboration with FE establishments and employers, and there will be cooperation with local regeneration initiatives and resident focussed organisations in developing adult learning provision.

An expression of interest has been signed by partners in the Academy in December 2006. Following this a feasibility study has been taking place since March 2007, which is due to be completed by the end of the year.

**PD** thanked Bruce for the informative presentation, and invited questions from the meeting.

**JWT** called Bruce's attention to the fact that adult learners engaged in courses at the South Wye Learning Centre come from a wide area outside of the South Wye and asked that this be considered in the feasibility study and future plans.

Following discussion of identifying good practice from current Academies, it was suggested by **MS** that, considering the individual nature of Herefordshire, and its rurality, that **BF** try to identify academies that are based in a similar geographical area for comparison.

In response to a question on funding for adult learners from **LK, BF** responded that there would be no funding through the academy for adult learning, but that there might be 'in kind' advantages through this arrangement.

**PD** asked how the commitment to adult learning in the education brief would be monitored to ensure that it was followed through in practice. **BF** explained that this would be the role of the board of governors, on which the diocese would not have a majority.

**BF** closed the agenda item by indicating that, should the outcome of the feasibility lead to the Academy going ahead, there would be a further detailed consultation to ensure that the interests of all stakeholders were met.

A copy off the presentation, and of the notes, have been appended to the minutes. In addition further information can be obtained by logging on to [www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/academies](http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/academies) - choosing 'Publications and Documents' from the menu

## 5 Pertemps

John Hall and Stephen Weller informed the meeting of their activities in Herefordshire.

JH explained how Pertemps are nationwide organisation, within which it delivers a range of learning activities, as well as being a recruitment agency. Within Herefordshire it delivers New Deal, Gateway to work, new deal for lone parents, literacy and numeracy skills, and work placements. It aims to support learners into work – identifying barriers to employment, and working with learners to overcome these barriers. It has a centre in St Owens Street, Hereford, within which it also provides learndirect. In addition it delivers in a number of locations outside of Hereford.

John gave details of the wide range of organisations and partnerships that it engages with to access its identified learners, and ended with an invitation to all to attend an 'Open day' to be held at the St Owens Street Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> October between 12.00pm and 2.00pm where a buffet lunch will be provided.

Stephen gave further details of the learndirect provision that Peremps is delivering, both out of its St Ownens Centre, and in other rural locations. He informed the meeting that this element of the provision has recently been awarded a Grade 2 in Ofsted inspection, and has an 88% achievement success. He was keen to work with other partners to develop progression pathways for learners

In responding to a question from **MS** on where Pertemps places its provision, he explained that a need has to be demonstrated, which will be realised in learner numbers to enable provision in a new location to be viable – 'room share' would be considered.

A discussion took place of how identified communities could be supported – in particular Kington. **SW** said that he would raise issues with his line manager.

## 6 PCDL Mapping

PD reported that an invitation to provide information to the PCDL mapping exercise had been sent out to over 30 organisations by email, and 138 organisations by mail. The exercise is hoped to include detail of courses from PCT, HALO Leisure, and private organisations – not those just receiving LSC funding.

To date only 15 replies has been received. PD asked that information be provided as soon as possible, as the LSC were hoping for information from the PCDL mapping exercise by end of October.

**MS** commented that information has been provided in the past to various organisations, and it would be useful if the current mapping tool could provide some continuity, with only occasional updates **CW** informed the meeting that the previous mapping exercise had identified that 40% of provision was

through small private providers, and that the current exercise needs to capture this.

## **7 NLDC Funding**

PD reported that a total of seven applications had been received for the NLDC funding 1st August 2007 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008. Four had been successful, and three had been asked to resubmit, of which one had done so and had subsequently been successful. The total committed funding was £84,570 out of a total of £103,100, of which £64,520 was to be met by the 75% 'skills for Jobs agenda' element.

PD informed the meeting that bids to the Herefordshire Partnership's single pot had been over subscribed, and, on discussion with the Principal Partnership Officer, it had been suggested that appropriate bids which met the NLDC aims and objectives could be funded from the balance of the NLDC funding.

MS asked that PD confirm that considered bids had fully met the single pot bidding process. Subject to this, the meeting agreed that the balance of the funding be used in this way.

## **8 ESF/LSC Co-financing**

PD informed the group of the current position with the 2007/2010 programme of ESF funding. He explained that there was to be a joint LSC/local Authority Co financed programme, and that local authority representatives, as representatives of the Sub Regional Groups, would be involved in the tendering process, and would be CFO Board members. This would raise potential conflicts of interest, and a protocol - as part of the Memorandum of Agreement between the LSC and Local authorities -was currently being drawn up to address this.

Invitation to Tender will be in mid November, bids to be returned early December, with contracts up and running mid February. Once Invitations to Tender are released, PD will liaise with members to see if there was a possibility of submitting a partnership bid.

## **9 AOB**

JWT informed the meeting that HELP was taking part in the Functional Skills Pilot, and that she was to be a Quality Reviewer for the programme. Further details are available from [www.qca.org.uk/](http://www.qca.org.uk/)

## **10 Date and Time of Next meeting**

2.00pm 16th January 2008 South Wye Learning Centre, Hereford