

## **Work and Equality, NEtWorking for Change**

Steering Group Meeting  
Metropolitan House, Swalwell  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2007

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Mark Cheetham, Sheelin Kilroy, Martin Wilson, John Dobie, Carolyn Clayton, Stuart Linden, Brenda Joyce, Margaret McFee, Liz Reay, Tricia Collins, Joanna Lee, Samir Mahic

**Apologies:** Janet MacLean, Amy O'Donnell, Mark Wright, Paul Johnstone, Liaquat Latif, Karen Evans, Val Milnes, Peter Smith, Tim Bird

#### **1. Previous minutes and Matters Arising**

There are amendments to the previous Minutes, as follows:

- Page 3 – there are no issues relating to funding the toolkit.
- Item 6 - SK has published applications for posts in Tees Valley

Matters arising:

- Chris Roberts has agreed to speak conference at the conference on 14<sup>th</sup> March.
- Law review is not pressing ahead as planned as it is too weak. Equalities Minister Harriet Harman is issuing draft clauses of the Bill for consultation in January. Amendments will then be made, however it is expected the Bill will be passed through the 2008 legislative programme.
- LR thanked the Steering Group for the Good practice examples they'd sent in and asked members to continue sending them in
- The Equality & Diversity Conference and Exhibition, From Education to Employment event on 14<sup>th</sup> March TC handed out hard copies of the leaflets.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec event postponed until the New Year - there were a number of other high profile events on the same day and we need to investigate further a potential joint project with Vision Sense.
- JL / TC have been investigating potential Lottery funding.
- Successful LSC funding bid – £18k to support Learning

<p>Providers. This will be a dedicated section within the NfC site, two launch conferences and some smaller sub-regional events.. One of the outputs is to gain 100 extra members to register on NfC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £500 North East Employers Network have sponsored the Removing Barriers events.</li> <li>• At the previous meeting VM had mentioned potential funding from Gentoo – awaiting information.</li> <li>• At the previous Steering Group meeting Robin Beveridge gave members information regarding an Open Day which has been booked for 21<sup>st</sup> January – press release is due out soon.</li> <li>• New chair NEEDP chair – Ranjana Bell</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Activity Update</b></p> <p>400 members. Marketing for more members, Autumn programme of events are completed. Religion (versus?) Sexuality, Migrant workers and Age events attracted over 90 people. In 2008 there are more events planned and are looking for sponsorship to increase the number of seminars and workshops. Members asked to help seek sponsorship</p> <p><b>LR / TC</b> attended a conference in London. LR fed back from the conference; her report is attached.</p> <p>NEEDP – LR gave brief overview / recap of Robin’s presentation and NfC’s role within the Wider Partnership. Members were asked to volunteer to join a task group. The Evidence Task Group convened by NERIP held an event on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November at the Centre for Life to collect baseline evidence. The event was attended by 136 people, more than expected. ENE as Secretariat publicised the event and used the NfC. LR has a place on the Executive Board as Chair of NfC. NfC Action Plan needs to reflect NEEDP, however it must also reflect what NfC want.</p> <p>Steering group members have the opportunity to join the task groups. Anyone interested please contact JL/TC</p> <p>There has not been a great deal of activity regarding mentoring. Need to decide if we want to continue and does it fit with the Action Plan.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>

<p><b>4. Action Plan</b></p> <p>The Steering Group split into two groups to discuss the NEEDP Action plan and look at how the NfC strategy should be shaped. The workshop feedback is to be developed by LR and TC and a draft Action Plan produced for discussion at the next steering group meeting.</p> <p><b>5. Members Activity Update</b></p> <p>JD – Chair NE International Networking Club - 800 organisations in North East export. 10% have joined the organisation which has been running for 4 months. The idea is to join together migrant workers with export companies to assist them with background information on country they export to. RB and ONE, Trade and Invest UK and others are involved. Have had the first meeting which had positive feedback. Fit with Evidence Task Group?</p> <p>CC thanked TC for workshop at the TUC conference on Flexible Working Practices. There was good feedback from the conference TUC Regional Integration Framework – responses have been reflected in strategies.</p> <p>SK – getting accredited training off ground. Need to speak to ENE. Would like E+D to be a more integral part of training. Prison Governors and Colleges interested.</p> <p>SL – Interfaith Project – drafted initial report, LSC feedback. Complete report soon. Barriers faith FE/ issues. Some expected outcomes. No mainstream support. Lack support and training. SL will share final report.</p> <p>Muslim learners. PM asked LSC to investigate how engage Muslims. A report has been commissioned. There will be an event in January – SL will send details. Araf Din working with Muslim learners.</p> <p>Network for Black Professionals. Phase 2 support. Not expanded – continue to work.</p> <p>Women's project – N'land, ESF visited and drafted a report, more work to do. Will share final report.</p> <p>Employer megaquiz event - Percy Hedley and Employers Forum on Disability at St James' Park, before April. This event is the second of its kind in the country.</p> <p>LSC Discrimination Support Program. Single Equality Support</p>	<p><b>SL</b></p> <p><b>SL</b></p>
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<p>Program survey – LSC providers event in January in Bristol, London and Leeds.</p> <p>MC – Jasvinder Sangira, runs a refuge in Derby, her regarding forced marriage training is recommended. April 2008 all Connexions services delivered by Local Authorities.</p> <p>LR – If I Can You Can funding from LSC. Deliver training to teachers. Title has changed slightly to If We Can You Can. Build capacity of practitioners. Mick Towers – Curriculum Development Co-ordinator – JL to pass details to Christine Shanks.</p> <p><b>6. ONE NE Corporate Plan feedback 2008 – 11</b></p> <p>Members had little opportunity to respond by the meeting date. Instead members were requested to send any comments directly to Robin Beveridge has asked the Steering Group if they would like to feedback. Document was sent out with the agenda. Feedback by end December.</p> <p><b>7. AOB &amp; Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008 10-12pm. RCN Offices, Avalon House, Sunderland.</p>	<p><b>JL</b></p>
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