

**Minutes from the North Norfolk Skills Partnership Steering Group held at
Paston College, North Walsham on 20 January 2009 at 10.00 am**

Agenda Item		Action
	<p>Present: Roger Allen (RA) – Connexions Pauline Chamberlain (PC) – Fakenham College Stephen Eldred (SE) – North Norfolk Community Partnership Tim Ellen (TE) – Paston College Jon Holt (JH) – Jobcentre Plus Rik Martin (RM) – Norfolk Learning Partnership John P Morgan (JPM) – Skills Partnership Development Officer Jan Munn (JM) – 14-19 Learning Systems Group Gill Powell (GP) – North Norfolk Business Forum Robin Smith (RS) – North Norfolk District Council Geoff Thompson (GT) – North Norfolk District Council Don Venvell (DV) – Chairman Beatrix Ward (BW) – North Norfolk Community Partnership Sue Willis (SW) – Griffon Area Partnership Julie Worrell (JW) – UEA representing HE Sector</p>	
1	<p>Introduction and Welcome DV wished everyone a happy new year and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies: Karen Hudson – Meridian East David Martin – Business Link Jason Middleton – Shaping Norfolks Future Catherine Plewman – Poppyland Partnership Su Pointer – Health and Social Care Sector Richard Polley – Learning and Skills Council Jose Socao – North Norfolk District Council Mark Stead – Easton College Steve Walker – Skills Broker, Train to Gain Pam Williams - Norfolk Learning Difficulties Service Judy Youngs – Norfolk Adult Education</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The Chairman also praised Gill Powell, the minute taker, and wished it recorded the high standard of the minutes which accurately capture what at times can be a complex subject.</p>	
4	<p>Matters Arising <i>Interreg</i> GT reported that the financial tables had been submitted and they were waiting to hear more. There is a meeting planned for mid-February in Brussels. The consultants are trying to find more partners to join the bid. GT had also attended a workshop for organisations developing Interreg bids which might prove useful. RS commented that this funding is an important supply of revenue to enable projects to continue.</p> <p><i>North Norfolk Centre for Enterprise</i> RS reported that this has been to Cabinet and they had strongly endorsed it. However, funding is an issue. RS is having a meeting with the County Council next week and Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Services to discuss funding. He also hoped to get extra money from EEDA. He will be visiting a new innovation and enterprise centre in Peterborough. RS believes the centre will go ahead but is unsure about the balance between private and public ownership. The centre will cost £5.6m</p>	

and RS would like to suppress letting space overheads so it will be more affordable so would prefer a large percentage of public ownership. The building has been specifically designed for the one acre site and has the highest BREEAM rating. Once planning permission has been received the centre could be built within 12 months. It will be ready in time for the September term 2010 when more diplomas start. Once there is a secure financial package RS will apply for planning permission.

14-19 Diplomas

JM reported that they are waiting to hear the results of their latest applications but that the Creative and Media line will start in September 2010. Aylsham will be delivering business administration and finance. The construction academy had retained a good number of students and was also being let out to other groups including those NEET. Four more bids will be submitted in November including IT and travel and tourism. The County Council was keen to support the use of local facilities like Holt Hall. It is important to work with the Business Forum on proposed new courses. JM will be speaking to Su Pointer and others in the care sector about a care diploma. It is a complicated process and requires a good network to work well.

Travel is a significant issue in this area and it is hoped to deliver many lines of learning locally wherever possible as well as make use of IT and working with local employers. The County Council are looking at this issue to try to reduce travelling. (See EDP extract at the bottom of the minutes).

Paston

TE thanked everyone for their support and encouragement at the last meeting. Planning permission has now been agreed. However, the LSC has now frozen capital projects pending a review so funding is an issue and will delay the project.

Train to Gain

JPM reported that information will keep being circulated via the Business Forum newflash.

IAG Gateway

JPM reported that this project, delivered by Learning 4 Everyone the delivery arm of the partnership, was on profile regarding finances and outputs. He had circulated a copy of the report to NNCP. He had prepared a business plan for liC and was doing a self-assessment review on the project in order to move towards sustainability. This opportunity was being taken to look at the way advice is delivered and it has been decided to focus on North Walsham as this is the district's largest settlement and insufficient people were being reached. It is important to focus their activity. PC suggested putting banners in local supermarkets to promote the project.

VBS

This project was providing IT and business advice to new and fledgling businesses in North Norfolk. The original project, which was just for the coastal strip, ended in December and JPM will bring a closure report to the next meeting. The project is now being extended to district-wide, albeit with a limited budget.

JPM had circulated copies of the Project Closure Report for Sheringham Learning 4 Everyone for information. He reported that the Government Office had confirmed that all was in order and the final payment was being made.

RS commented that IAG and VBS were part of the Intergr8 picture, ingredients of the cake mix, and it is important to develop a single market place so any size of business can tender for public spending as well as the centre for excellence to encourage risk taking.

JPM

	<p><i>NNCP Thematic Group – Better Jobs and Prospects</i> JPM had sent an email asking about projects which were being undertaken locally which NNCP did not know about in order that they could be mapped. These are being collated and presented to a meeting of the thematic group on 22 January. An action plan will then be developed linked to the other thematic groups, quality of life and housing. Three 'wish lists' from these groups will then be presented to the NNCP Board for consideration. SE commented that it is important to all work together in partnership, especially in these challenging times.</p> <p><i>LMI Tables</i> These had been circulated for information. DV felt they were very valuable.</p>	
5	<p>LSC Roadmap As Richard Polley was absent, this was not discussed. TE reported that the way funding was allocated was changing and that the LSC will cease to exist next year.</p>	
6	<p>NNSP and NNBF Response to Current Economic Position It had been agreed to arrange an economic summit and DV requested that the voluntary sector should be invited, which was agreed. RS was very concerned about the number of business closures and wanted the District Council to discuss what could be done to mitigate the effects of the recession. This summit will be held in March after the results of the local government review are known. SE was disappointed at the delay but hoped the Council would devise an action plan. It is important to spend plenty of time over this and prepare for the summit in advance so as much could be achieved as possible. It was agreed that this partnership should have an extra meeting where issues to be brought to the summit could be discussed. It was agreed that JPM would arrange a date in February for this meeting.</p>	JPM
7	<p>NNSP Action Plan This had been circulated prior to the meeting. It had been based on the original action plan which JPM had updated so it relates to the current Local Area Agreement national indicators. David Martin had suggested that the formation of the group be removed and future actions included. It was agreed to keep the action plan refreshed.</p>	
8	<p>Issues to be Raised by Individual Members RM reported that the Norfolk Learning Partnership had become a victim of the recession and that the Board had disbanded. The projects would continue but he was unsure about his post and that of Andy Hodgson.</p> <p>RA informed the group that the number of young people out of work since Christmas had risen and vacancies halved compared with this time last year. Very good relationships have been built with providers which was encouraging. They were looking at work tasters if employment was not possible.</p> <p>DV commented that it was important that people out of work retained their skills, possibly by working in the voluntary sector.</p> <p>JH reported that Jobcentre Plus has been swamped with people becoming unemployed. There has been a 50% increase compared to January last year which has put huge pressure on their staff so Jobcentres are recruiting. A large number of companies are making staff redundant and they need help with IAG, training etc. The most redundancies have occurred in Norwich with Breckland district coming second. JH was not sure how much the new Government proposals will help.</p> <p>DV said there appeared to be optimism in the tourism sector as more people will take holidays in this country but RS commented that even though bookings were up, tourism businesses were still closing and lack of hotels was a big issue locally. SE remarked that it is important that quality is sustained.</p>	

	<p>SW informed the group she has been working for the Griffon Area Partnership for nearly three years and felt it was the role of the Partnership to inform the local community on all aspects of their lives. They have been running a project called Voyager which seeks to get together those in the community who are isolated in any way. Those attending the group vary widely in age and ability and there are new people every week. Information is given on services and how to get help when needed. It has been very successful. It has been suggested that there be a day and evening event on how to get help in the credit crunch including mortgages, rents, financial help and healthy eating on a budget. It was agreed this was a good idea. RM commented that many organisations had already done projects on, for example, healthy eating, and could provide expertise. SE suggested similar events could be run across the district and he would be willing to put this proposal to the NNCP Board for funding. PC suggested taking the event out to village halls rather than just to the main towns. RS was concerned about staffing for this number of events.</p> <p>JW commented that it is important to connect institutions with individuals to provide a perspective and to develop new ideas.</p> <p>PC reported that they have some funding for a food hygiene course, which is over-subscribed. She is also working with Adult Education on a first aid course. On 26 March there is to be a big Well Being event.</p> <p>It was commented that Children's Services should be represented at this meeting. JPM has and will continue to follow this up.</p> <p>RA was concerned about the viability of the NEET group using the construction centre in Fakenham.</p> <p>JPM reminded the group about the project mapping exercise for NNCP.</p>	JPM
9	<p>AOB There was none.</p>	
10	<p>Date of Next Meeting The next meeting is scheduled for 10 March 2009, however there will be a meeting to discuss matters to be raised at the economic summit during February at a date to be agreed.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 12.00 pm.</p>	

Signed:

Dated:

FEARS SCHOOL BUS COSTS MAY ROCKET

Category: Education/industry/community links

Item
No.
12071

School transport costs in Norfolk could rocket because bussing teenagers around for the new 14-19 diplomas is costing up to five times as much as the usual average pupil. The county council is paying £20 per pupil, per day for minibuses to get youngsters from school to school to study the new qualification in the rural north, west and central parts of Norfolk.