

Great Yarmouth Learning Forum

Wednesday 7th June 2006
2pm

The Priory Centre, Great Yarmouth

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Present:

Name	Representing
Roger Allen	Connexions
Jo Archer	Learning and Skills Council
Derek Banks	GO-East
Roy Beiley	Social Strategy Officer
Andrew Brigham	Area Manager, Adult Education
Carol Congreve	Police
Rachel Edwards	Great Yarmouth Learning Community
Teresa Gonzalez	Next Step, Norfolk Careers Service
Adrian Grant	Great Yarmouth PCT
Charles Hall	Police (Item 5)
Alison Hopley	Excellence Cluster
Emma Hurren	Clerk
Simon Kett	Extended Schools Service
Ray Leeke	Children's Services, Norfolk County Council
Tim Leonard	Local Strategic Partnership Officer
Raychel Marcus	Community Connections
Lindsay Seward	Community Empowerment Network

Apologies:

Christine Chalmers	Community Connections
George Denby	Excellence Cluster
Linda Fisher	JobCentre Plus
Jeff Leak	Youth and Communities
Jill Warwick	Early Years & Childcare, Norfolk County Council

2. Minutes of previous meetings (13th March & 28th April 2006) and matters arising

13th March 2006 -

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

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- The meeting between Robin Parkinson, Linda Fisher and Jo Archer regarding the recruitment of employees for planned local developments such as the outer harbour had not been rearranged. Jo will follow this up. Tim Leonard advised that this had also been debated at the Economic Forum, and increasing adult employment would be the main item for discussion at the Board on 26 June. Tim invited Jo and other representatives from the LSC to attend.
- Role of Facilitator – The restructuring of Children’s Services was ongoing, however Ray Leeke advised that someone should be in post by July to undertake this role, and operational by September.

JA

28th April 2006 –

Matters Arising

Tim Leonard circulated a letter from Chris Hilliard following his visit. Derek Banks reported that Chris had enjoyed his visit and had found the meeting to be helpful. Jo Archer commented that as Chris highlighted in his letter, literacy and numeracy across the key stages was a key issue for the area. This was also an issue at 16-18, with significant funding spent on upskilling students to the level at which they should have left school. This means that such students are not accessing vocational courses. Ray Leeke added that there had been improvements at key stages, however the rate of improvement was an issue for the borough.

The order of the agenda was adjusted in order that Chief Superintendent Charles Hall could leave in time for another meeting.

3. Safer Schools Initiative - Presentation by Chief Superintendent Charles Hall and discussion

Charles presented his paper to the group, highlighting key points. He explained a proposal for Oriel High School to become part of a Safer Schools Partnership (SSP). This would provide a dedicated police presence to improve safety and security in the school, but also enable the police and pupils to get to know one another. Charles advised that the Headteacher had been receptive to the proposal. The initiative would be different to the current police work supporting curriculum, and particularly citizenship in schools, as it would provide more specific dedicated support for the learning environment. In time it might be possible to roll the initiative out to Great Yarmouth High School, however discussions had not yet taken place with the Headteacher.

Alison Hopley asked if the initiative had been used in primary phase schools, highlighting one middle school as having particular problems with vandalism. Charles advised that he would expect the neighbourhood policing team to have this relationship with schools. The criteria for an SSP was based on data such as truancy rates, as schools with these problems are likely to see the most impact.

Carol Congreve advised that in Essex work had taken place with the SSP feeder schools.

Tim Leonard asked Ray Leeke and Simon Kett how the initiative might fit in with the support schools already have for attendance. Ray advised that this initiative would be welcomed as added value, breaking down barriers between children and young people and the police. He felt it would work well alongside the current work in schools.

Simon Kett advised that work with the community was part of the Core Offer for Extended Schools, so opportunities for after school activities with families would be excellent.

Charles Hall advised that the vision was for a September start date, with a police officer in place. He advised that he was seeking funding for a community support officer to also be involved, as this would provide further resource. Tim Leonard advised that NRF had been allocated, however there was some unallocated funding remaining. He suggested that the LSP Executive should discuss this at the next meeting on 23 June. In terms of performance management the initiative targets the key areas. Tim agreed to take this forward.

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Roy Beiley further suggested that LEGI funding might be available. He advised Charles to discuss a possible bid with Peter Wright.

Ray Leeke added that schools might want to buy into the initiative directly, and felt it would be worthwhile for Charles to explore this with Headteachers and Governors.

Charles advised that the Partnership would commence in Oriel anyway, but if funding was obtained for a CSO it could be extended to include Great Yarmouth High School.

4. NEET Research – Presentation by Roger Allen and discussion

Roger Allen delivered his presentation, highlighting key points. The following areas were discussed:

- Roy Beiley commented that the research was very interesting and showed excellent analysis. He congratulated those involved. He commented that the data challenges the assumption that pupils leaving school become NEET – many do progress to further education initially. Roger Allen advised that Phase 2 of the research would look at causal factors and what has contributed to or triggered those factors. Staying on rates were the highest in the County, which shows pupils do progress at 16.
- Alison Hopley commented that research had recently been carried out showing the significant impact of parental involvement with learning. Roger advised that part of the research brief was to look at other research, and so welcomed such links from members of the group.
- Lindsay Seward asked if the problem runs in families. Roger advised that one issue was changing from scheme to scheme, such a new deal etc. One area of work would be to look at why some people from poor backgrounds etc do succeed. Researchers will engage with those who have made a successful transition.
- Raychel Marcus commented that support from families was an issue – often families do not understand why their children try to progress further than they have.
- Simon Kett asked if volunteer work counted, as it could often provide a gateway for progression. Roger advised they would still be NEET, however a report due out might change this.

5. Items for inclusion in 2006/7 LSP improvement plan

Tim Leonard circulated an interim extract from the Performance Management Framework. He advised that this formed part of the annual performance assessment of the LSP. Tim asked for suggestions from the group on items to be included in the “Moving Forward” section of the Improvement Plan.

- Teresa Gonzalez advised that when allocating NRF the subgroup had looked in detail at barriers to achievement and developed projects to support. Other initiatives were however being delivered by partners, which Teresa felt should be included in the Improvement Plan. This allows initiatives to be monitored by one group. Ray Leeke endorsed this suggestion as he felt it was important to itemise all that goes on to support schools. This would ensure work is not duplicated, but also allows schools to see what is available to them, and for the Local Authority to challenge schools on what they are doing with the support.
- Rachel Edwards said that a focus on adult learning was needed, as this was not included. Teresa Gonzalez agreed, adding that raising attainment in families has a proven impact on pupil attainment. Simon Kett said that this would link with Extended Schools, which

provided access to adult education via schools.

- Tim Leonard advised that following the LSP Conference, it was proposed that a target should be developed for parenting. The group discussed this in detail, including measurability, and agreed that the improvement plan should state “to set a target for parenting”. Tim agreed to invite Liz Drake to the next meeting to discuss.
- Rachel Edwards commented that plans such as these can focus on numbers rather than experiences, highlighting a project in Norwich which measured softer outcomes, and felt this was much more useful.

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Members of the group should email Tim with details for the “moving forward” section – what is currently working well and what extra can be done. tim.leonard@gtyar-pct.nhs.uk

All

6. NRF Projects

Partnership working with Economic Forum

Teresa informed the group of a project funded by the Economic Forum to engage with people in target neighbourhoods to give them access to in depth careers advice. The project would provide ongoing support for individuals, giving direction and support. It will also be an advice service – eg encouraging people to join clubs to make them more employable. The project will refer people on to other NRF projects, other provision such as courses at the Priory Centre.

Teresa asked for suggestion on which organisations and agencies she should contact as Project Manager to gain access to clients. Teresa was also seeking suggestions for what provision the project can refer on to. Teresa asked for members of the group to give this some thought and to email or telephone her with ideas teresa.gonzalez@norfolk.gov.uk or 07947 414962.

All

Future monitoring

Teresa suggested that NRF Monitoring should be a standing item on future agendas to ensure contact with projects is maintained, and provide an opportunity to offer help and support if necessary. Tim Leonard suggested that the group look at 2-3 projects per meeting.

7. Dates of future meetings

- **Wednesday 6th September – 2pm, The Kings Centre**
- **Wednesday 6th December – 2pm, The Kings Centre**