

<p>Present</p> <p>Apologies</p>	<p>Maureen Wilcox Alison Campbell John Burton Tiffany Bright Gerry Cook Rick Sparks Brian Miller Angie Holland</p> <p>Sharon Grimmond Jules Easlea Debbie Brisco Sally Smith</p> <p>Kirsten Heydinrych Sharon Walsh Karen Cosans Liz Plaistow</p>	<p>Thurrock Learning Partnership - Chair Thurrock Council Environmental Strategy Team Thurrock Library Service Learning & Skills Council Thurrock Mind Thurrock Mind South Essex College Community Mums – on secondment to Healthy Choices Programme Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corp Royal Opera House Thurrock Learning Shop Thurrock Learning Partnership - Minute taker</p> <p>South Essex NHS Partnership Thurrock Adult Community College - Vice Chair Community Mums South Essex NHS Partnership</p>
Ref	Item	Action
1	Welcome and introductions	
2	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 25th September 2009</p> <p>The minutes were passed as a true representation of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters Arising not covered by agenda</p> <p>MW due to unforeseen circumstances we will have to postpone Agenda item 5 NHS SE Trust Open Arts Project update until the next meeting. One of the key aims of this project is to help people with mental health problems get back into work. Will contact Sharon Walsh to meet with Jules Easlea to provide details of the project.</p>	MW
3	<p>Thurrock Learning Shop Update</p> <p>DB provided the Learning Shop update. For newcomers it was explained that the Learning Shop is a one stop shop for local people to find out about education and training opportunities in Thurrock.</p> <p>The Learning Shop has now been open for 6 weeks. The number of people coming into the shop has increased from an average of about 20 per day to around 45. There are a number of free courses being run</p>	

	<p>from the shop by the ACE Partnership.</p> <p>The Saturday events have been particularly well attended. The Health and Well Being event attracted over 70 people.</p> <p>There are 3 more Saturday events planned:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Thurrock Learning Shop Photography Competition on 20th February • Advanced Technology (Twitter, Blogs etc.) on 27th February • Arts and Crafts on 27th March <p>There is also to be a celebration of the International Women's Day on 13th March.</p> <p>The Arts and Crafts event has been requested by local residents as the first event of this kind was so well received.</p> <p>If any Partners would like to run any events from the Learning Shop please contact DB.</p>	
4	<p>New Opportunities for Informal Adult Learning</p> <p>AC part of Thurrock Council's strategic planning is to look at land being a valuable asset rather than how much building can be put onto the land. On a policy level the Council has stated that land should have a purpose and a meaning (i.e. given over to wildlife, community food production or a community orchard). It would be good for them to work with this group and link into work also being undertaken with Groundworks.</p> <p>MW advised of the Royal Opera House 'Grow a Plant' project run by Maggie Pollock. The project encourages people to grow and nurture a plant to be planted at the Royal Opera House Production Park for its opening in November this year. This is a wonderful idea and will help everybody to get involved.</p> <p>AC this is exactly the kind of project that they would be interested in becoming involved with. The 'Grow a Plant' could lead to a Community Nursery. Funding could be looked at to turn this into an ongoing process.</p> <p>MW the ACE Partnership has a Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Community Fund. This is used to give individuals the skills they need to be successful in their communities. This is a relatively small fund but we may be able to look to this although the programme for this year has already been planned.</p> <p>GC Thurrock Mind already has a nursery project named 'Stepping Stones' providing people with the necessary skills who have an interest in gardening. This is available and funded. They have two large poly tunnels and two allotments. There is a shop on site which sells plants</p>	

	<p>and vegetables grown on site. They have also made links to the new Production Park. Would be happy for Partners to visit the garden. SS to forward GC's details with minutes for Partners to arrange visits as required.</p> <p>GC At the moment this resource is under utilised.</p> <p>AC we could look into fully utilising this and duplicating it elsewhere.</p> <p>MW will forward a copy of the PCDL mapping exercise to AC showing what training etc. is available in Thurrock.</p> <p>BM advised that there will be some Eco courses run on Saturdays from the new Thurrock Learning Campus. In Southend these courses normally cost £65 for a 3 week course. To get them underway at Thurrock it has been agreed to offer these courses at around £40. They could look at putting a link into the training programme to show support for Thurrock's green agenda. This would add kudos to this page in the prospectus.</p> <p>AC & MW felt that it would be desirable to have a common branding for Thurrock's "green agenda".</p> <p>MW we have been advised that there is currently a shortage of people trained to do the new HIPs required for the house sale pack. Thurrock is looking at ways of obtaining funding to offer the unemployed training in this field to get them into employment.</p> <p>BM Southend has tried to do this in the past. They were unsuccessful - encountering problems with the high registration fees set by the National Institute of Chartered Surveyors. Will forward their findings to MW.</p> <p>TB to AC it would be useful if we could have details of the areas in Thurrock that could be put over to wetlands etc.</p> <p>JE there is to be an orchard at the new Production Park. Is sure that there are ways that this can be linked to community projects.</p> <p>SG there is £25k of funding available to be used on the vegetable garden at the new Production Park.</p> <p>AC will look to pool opportunities of working together on projects at the ROH Production Park.</p> <p>MW Thurrock's Next Top Boss is a competition which will give teams of young people access to local businesses and support as they negotiate some real life business challenges. The project is for 1000 young people in Thurrock to enter the competition (age range 17-19). They will be working in groups of 10. The top 4 teams will present their findings and there will be a winner from one of these teams as Thurrock's Next Top Boss.</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>MW</p> <p>AC</p> <p>BM</p> <p>AC</p> <p>AC</p>
--	--	---

	<p>BM to MW will feed these comments back to South East College and TACC respectively.</p> <p>JB for the first time on 24th April Grays Libraries will be running Living Library event where people can borrow a person for 30 minutes. Good cross sections of people have engaged with this project and are happy to speak about their lives. One of the aims of this project is to get people over their prejudices. Those participating include immigrants and ex offenders. There will be press releases nearer to the event. There are to be 3 Bedtime Story evenings arranged with 50 spaces available at each:- Chafford Hundred Library on 22nd February, Belhus Library on 23rd February and Corringham Library on 5th March.</p> <p>SG currently working on the Mardyke Bridge Project. Opening event to be on 27th March. All welcome. A Community Video project has been filming the whole process. Recently visited Peterborough Council to look at a Community Allotment on disused land. This project had been funded by EEDA and was providing support for women. The area had been turned into a very pleasant place where they are selling their own produce.</p> <p>JE this could be part of the WRAGs (Women Returning to Agriculture) project. Will forward details to MW to circulate to group.</p> <p>BM there will be a celebration of 'International Women's Day at South East Essex College, Southend on 5th March. All welcome. DB will also be holding an event at the Learning Shop on 13th March.</p> <p>MW Natalie Warren, Community Development Manager, Thurrock Council may be preparing an event for International Women's Day. It would be good to link up these events. MW to contact NW.</p> <p>BM Pleased that the adult courses at the Thurrock Learning Campus are attracting more applicants. Would be happy to link in with the Photography event at the Thurrock Learning Shop by making a lecturer available to provide advice on the day. In return would like the Learning Shop to advise those attending of the availability of the courses available at the Campus. DB very interested. BM and DB to discuss.</p> <p>BM the Lakeside Training Centre is currently under utilised. This is another good venue to run courses from and also benefits from free parking.</p> <p>GC Rick Sparks is now in post and will be helping with interviewing techniques etc to help those with mental health problems back into work.</p> <p>JE ROH is now engaging with Secondary and Primary schools to give pupils the opportunity to be part of the opening of the Production Park by being part of a spectacular opening performance. ROH is keen to get local people involved in this event, any age and any skills welcome. Workshops are being held every Saturday from 23rd January – 20th March at Purfleet Primary School (excluding half term).</p>	<p>BM/MW</p> <p>JE</p> <p>MW</p> <p>BM/DB</p>
--	---	---

	<p>Asks that Partners to encourage any groups that they are working with to become involved.</p> <p>The Royal Opera House is looking to offer work placements to young people from Thurrock at ROH Covent Garden, Matt Lane will make funds available to meet their travel costs etc.</p> <p>On 8th March the Royal Opera House is staging a Royal Ballet Uncovered event at the Thameside Theatre, Grays. The event will include 2 male dancers with their coaches and will speak about the history of ballet and how they prepare for the performances. Tickets are £7.50 adults and £5.00 for children with discounts available for groups. Partners to speak to JE if money is an issue for any of their groups who would like to attend. This event is quite intense and as such is not suitable for children. Complimentary tickets are available for Partners. Please contact JE</p> <p>AC the Environmental Strategy Team will be doing a series of 12 energy reduction events. Will forward information to Partners.</p>	<p>All Partners</p> <p>Partners</p> <p>AC</p>
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was no AOB</p>	
	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday 19th April at 2pm in Room 13, Thurrock Adult Community College, Richmond Road, Grays RM17 6DN</p>	