

10th June 2009 @ 2.00pm

Thurrock Adult Community College

<p>Present</p> <p>Apologies</p>	<p>Maureen Wilcox Sharon Walsh Jacqui Payne Phil Warner Zara McLean Jane Babbage Mike Dawson Brian Miller Angie Holland Karen Cosans Sally Smith</p> <p>Liz Plastow Ann Halliday David Bryan Kirsten Heydinrych Carol O'Regan</p>	<p>Thurrock Learning Partnership - Chair Thurrock Adult Community College - Vice Chair Ngage Learning & Skills Council University of East London Workers' Educational Association Impulse Leisure SEEC Community Mums Community Mums Thurrock Learning Partnership - Minute taker</p> <p>NHS South West Essex Thurrock Library Service Together - Oasis Resource Centre South Essex NHS Partnership South Essex NHS Partnership</p>
Ref	Item	Action
1	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>New members provided a summary of their area of work.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 3rd March 2009</p> <p>The minutes were passed as a true representation of the meeting.</p> <p>Matters Arising not covered by agenda</p> <p>SS to forward copy of mapping spreadsheet to new members</p> <p>The TLP website has been updated to include a link to PCDL. Minutes and agendas will be uploaded onto this site, also details of events hosted by the Partnership. If any Partners would like anything included on this website please advise MW.</p> <p>MW UEL hosted an event in Adult Learners' Week around demystifying Universities for parents of students and students about to start at University. The events were not as well attended as they would have liked but those that did attend enjoyed it and will, no doubt, pass on this information to their friends and colleagues. The ECP branding was felt to have been a barrier.</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>All</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>Collaborative venture as a consequence of PCDLP</p> <p>SW provided feedback on a recent Open Arts programme that was a collaborative venture between Thurrock Adult Community College and South Essex NHS Partnership. The programme is aimed at people with mental health issues and helps them to socialise with others and give them confidence. Mentors and helpers also attend.</p> <p>Following a Economic Participation Programme (EPP) successful bid they will be running 4 courses in Thurrock. South Essex NHS Partnership has contacts with mentors etc that TACC do not have. Working with SE NHS Partnership has given TACC a different group of people to work alongside.</p> <p>This is an example of good Partnership working that has come through the networking of this group.</p> <p>MW explained there had to be an economic connection in respect of any bid to EPP. A condition of the approval is that a member of the Economic Development Working Group joins this group.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>The Learning Revolution White Paper and Transformation Fund</p> <p>SW circulated an Executive Summary of the White Paper – The Learning Revolution – Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills. Full document can be downloaded from the DIUS website www.dius.gov.uk</p> <p>Money allocated to Informal Learning has been ring fenced for 3 years. One aim of this Partnership is to make best use of limited funds.</p> <p>The Executive Summary recognises the value of Informal adult learning. One definition of informal learning is given as a course that does not lead to a qualification.</p> <p>Paragraph 8 in the Summary advises of the Department’s support for a ‘Festival of Learning’. This follows the success of Adult Learners’ Week in engaging new audience and will be held in Autumn 2009. The festival will host a wide range of events and will be supported by a national campaign to promote the benefits of informal learning.</p> <p>MW It is important that a date is arranged soon to allow time to book speakers etc.</p> <p>SW would be looking at October 2009. There are questions about who will be funding the festival. Will they be expecting every authority to contribute?</p> <p>Paragraph 9 promotes an ‘Open Space’ Movement about empowering people to organise themselves to learn. It mentions that it can be particularly hard to find low cost space locally, and that people need more expertise and tips on how to build a successful learning group.</p>	

SW advised that TACC do have a group that pays to use the centre on a social basis. The summary indicates that they want centres to open themselves up for people to use but again there is not indication of funding.

Paragraph 11 – Transformation Fund – There will be investment in creative new approaches to reach and engage new learners through a £20m transformation fund. Bids to the fund will need to demonstrate how innovative ideas and new connections will address the barriers to learning some adults currently face.

It is encouraging that the Government have recognised the value of informal learning. They will be establishing a national support package for Community Learning Champions to help them reach out to new learners, prioritising the most deprived areas.

UK Online will be extended to include a network of digital mentors.

Paragraph 22 states that they need innovative local partnerships to facilitate the provision of diverse learning opportunities. This group as a sub-group of TLP is the grouping for Thurrock.

SW circulated the prospectus 2009-10 for the Transformation Fund from the Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills. This paper gives detail of purpose of the Transformation Fund and what sort of projects can be funded.

The £20m funding must be spent by March 2010. There are 3 funding pots a) Small grants below £10,000 aimed at supporting innovative ideas from smaller organisations and partnerships, b) Medium grants of £10,000 - £100,000 aimed at more substantial projects, c) Showcase projects above £100,000.

There is an 'Early Bird' bidding scheme that will enable bidders who already have their ideas well developed to submit their proposal by 12th June. All other bids are to be received by 12th July.

The group discussed projects that they felt this partnership could bid for. Although all were popular there was no over-arching agreement nor lead partner with capacity at this time to prepare a bid by 12 July.

The group agreed that a good project for this partnership to bid for would be the creation of a Pathways website which would show journeys in learning with links between courses and providers. This website would give access to all courses and would enable them to print out a 'Pathway to Learning' that would take them through years of learning and would save having to look at numerous other websites but there were concerns over sustainability.

MD agreed that the website is a good idea but is concerned that monies have to be spent by March 2010 and then there is no funding.

MW advised that the ACE Partnership meeting to be held on 26th

	<p>June has allowed an extra hour to discuss bidding on the Transformation Fund..</p> <p>SW the Transformation Fund does not cover work that is done before the bid is completed.</p> <p>Will be attending a HOLEX Networking Conference, the Transformation Bid is on the agenda – will put forward our idea and share with others. If there is any further development will email partners.</p>	SW
5	<p>Consultation on Learning – Citizens Panel</p> <p>MW following on from the Time for Me consultation, MW would now like to put the same questions to the Citizens Panel to see how this compared with results so far. Findings to date are broadly in line with current delivery but this may be because we are not getting a sufficient cross section of the community responding.</p> <p>MW will also be asking a question around Level 2 attainment. Currently we are not achieving the targets set for this in the Local Area Agreement. MW would like to compare this with the APS data used for the Local Area Agreement.</p> <p>AH when meeting with parents for the first time Community Mums ask what qualifications are held. AH will arrange for SW to be advised of the number of their clients with qualifications at Level 2 or above.</p>	AH
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was no AOB</p>	
	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25th September 2009 at 2.00pm Thurrock Adult Community College, Richmond Road, Grays</p>	