

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Education, Employment and Enterprise Team Cally sub- group

Held on

3 March 2011, 1pm – 3pm at the Cally Resource Centre

Present:

Corrine Harms	Construction Youth Trust
Georgina Bigum	Adult Community Learning
Greg Biggin	Team Cally
John Warby	Help On Your Doorstep
Mohamed Hammoudan	Team Cally Neighbourhood Coordinator
Naureen Ali	Adult Community Learning
Roz Belghrous	EDS Enterprise
Tony Thompson	West Library

1. Welcomes and apologies

Apologies from: Anna Strongman, Jeff Thomas, Sandra Wilson, Joshua Zola, Laura Mitchell, Jane Riddiford, Pascal Coyne

2. Terms of Reference of Meeting

MH outlined the terms of reference for the sub-group: to co-ordinate services in the Caledonian ward, to gain a better understanding of local needs and to share resources in order to better meet these identified needs.

JW commented that effective strategy and delivery is also based on having the right contact in a partner organisation as shown from the successes of similar community forums in EC1.

NA will soon release the upcoming Adult Community Learning programme

3. Caledonian Ward Projects

MH gave a short presentation on some successful projects within Caledonian Ward:

Job Fairs- A number of job fairs have been organised, including the recent '*Bemerton to King's Cross*' event. It was felt that this could have been more successful had a greater number of Bemerton residents attended. **JW** commented that from his experience with HOYD and EC1 it is a difficult leap for some local residents to travel to King's Cross from the local area. Measures to address this should be considered for the next events in this programme which are due to be held in May and October.

NEET Re-engagement Programmes- A number of successful skills projects have been run locally, including the Pathways to Success project at Kinross House. **MH** gave details of a more ambitious pathway project which will commence at the end of March 2011, which will be run as a partnership between BVMO, Groundwork and the Construction Youth Trust. **CH** expressed an interest in forming partnerships with an organisation that can offer numeracy and literacy to

complement the core offer of construction skills at CYT. **JW** commented that HOYD will now be the route for connecting and referring young people to projects following the large reductions in the Connexions offer. However the HOYD service is limited when it comes to targeted work for specific projects and won't replace the targeted work that was done to recruit young people that were previously done by the Connexions Engagement and Support Workers (community callers).

Somali Speakers- A group of young Somali women are involved in weekly maths classes with a crèche provided through ACL and also the sister group Al-Asharaf Women & Children's Welfare Association has received funding and support to run a childcare course.

Cally Festival- The festival is an opportunity to engage local traders and to create a forum for the development of a local trade association on the Caledonian Road.. There is a need for basic skills sharing amongst traders.

Islington Working Employment Coach - Laura Mitchell is one of two Outreach Employment Coaches in Islington and is based on the Bemerton Estate. The offer includes employment coaching, help with CVs and job brokerage.

4. **Update on West Library**

The West Library is a vital community resource not only for the opportunities it offers for core library services but also in providing spaces for use by local groups and facilitating partnerships around a number of key objectives:

- making the centre suitable for partnerships
- homework & study support
- ESOL
- health & wellbeing
- working with volunteers

The activities that West Library provides are detailed in a booklet distributed during the meeting and are based on the outcomes that West Library would like to achieve. **TT** pointed out that there is room for flexibility and **GB** suggested using gaps in the schedule to provide generic drop-in employment support and possibly a session for Cally traders to improve basic business skills.

5. **Update from Adult Community Learning**

ACL is currently offering courses primarily to those aged 19 and above in such subjects as; ESOL, Numeracy/Literacy, Family Learning, ICT & Employability support.

GB gave us an overview of where activities are taking place in the ward:

- Bemerton Children's Centre
- Kate Greenaway Children's Centre
- Parent House
- Somali Speakers Women's Group
- City & Islington College
- West Library

At present the courses run are demand-led, are subject to assessments of the beneficiaries and operate mostly in the daytime with less evening provision. There are currently 7000 users, 50 sessional tutors and 150 are on the waiting list for courses. The current offer will last until at least the end of the academic year on 22nd July 2011, however there is some uncertainty regarding a restructuring of the service due in September 2011.

MH made the point that there are many for whom English is their first language that lack confidence and basic literacy skills to be able to access employment or more skilled employment.

6. **AOB**

GB & CH discussed a supplementary numeracy and literacy course for the participants on the upcoming NEET re-engagement programme outlined in section 3 above. There is a will to form a partnership, however **GB** is concerned that 8 weeks is not enough time for a substantial programme and unlikely to lead to a qualification.

JW wants to publicise a HOYD/Peabody job fair 10 March and also made an offer to pair up on resources when planning for the next Bemerton to King's Cross event. **JW** also offered his full support to any future efforts in the area.

CH gave a summary of the mission of CYT and what will be offered in the future. CYT offers pre-professional training and support to young people aged 16-30 and access and brokerage to employment, education and training opportunities. The construction skills offer also acts as a vehicle for engagement and an attraction for young people to become involved in furthering their personal development.

An upcoming project is the mobile classroom that will offer basic construction skills and offer a solution to constraints on time and space.

7. **Date of next meeting Tuesday 10 May 2011 1-3pm**

Cally Resource Centre, Copenhagen Street, N1 0DX