

# **Growing Schools North East Regional Partnership Meeting**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009 9.30-11.30am, The EWE Centre, Esh Winning, Durham

## **Present**

Rich Hurst, Regional Coordinator, NESPSS  
David Etheridge, OASES, Durham County Council  
Julia Matthews, Newcastle City Council  
Dawn James, East Durham & Houghall College  
Steve Ashton, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust  
David Thompson, FACE/Country Trust  
Liz Charles, Durham Rural Community Council  
Mike Hughes, Durham University Botanical Gardens  
Paul Flynn, Food for Life Partnership  
Anna Corbett, Garden Organic  
Andrea Carling, Groundwork North East (South Tees office)

## **Apologies**

Mick Marston, Federation of City Farms and Gardens (FCFG)  
Simon Henderson, Fenton Centre  
Joanne Appleby & Sara Caines, OASES

- The group discussed the history behind Growing Schools (GS) and the relationships between organisations (Food for Life/FACE/LTL/NAFSO/Federation of City Farms and Gardens/RHS). RH and DE stated that the opportunity for funding to support regional development had come through discussions between NESPSS and the national Growing Schools Development Group. This proposed partnership would sit alongside the other regional partnerships within NESPSS to ensure a coordinated approach.
- Growing Schools last year offered funding to organisations to develop teacher training courses, and the offer has been made again this year.
- A discussion took place around a coordinated CPD offering for the North East Region based on the request from the RHS, who are coordinating growing related CPD for GS. Animal/ livestock courses are being administered by FCFG
- Individual organisations have agreed to offer CPD (details below)
- This partnership is seen by the group as being valuable, and an outline proposal was discussed and will be sent out asap for agreement before submitting to GS

## **CPD**

- RH handed out a letter from Growing Schools/RHS. They want a response with our plans by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May!
- Options available;
  - Option 1. Administer the course yourself and make all payments as necessary (Venue, catering and delivery) and keep all the profit.
  - Option 2. RHS will administer the course for you and then you will invoice Growing Schools for £300 for delivery.
- For the 2 new modules you can also invoice GS for £250 towards adaption for delivery and for the other modules £50

## To take this forward:

The following areas will submit the following course proposals;

- Northumberland/ Tyne and Wear (via JM) plan to run 2/3 courses (using Option 2-RHS to administer)
  - Growing in the early years
  - Bricks and concrete challenge and possibly
  - Rose Primary review
- Tees Valley (via AB and SA) will run 2/3 courses
  - Food Growing in schools
  - Growing in the Early Years
  - Setting up a school garden - KS3 & 4 students.
- Durham (via OASES, Houghall and Durham Uni), 5 sessions
  - Food Growing in schools
  - Setting up a school garden
  - Growing in the early years
  - Keeping animals to enhance your curriculum course in partnership with Houghall
  - Rose primary review New Course

## Dates

- Courses are to be run between October 2009 & July 2010. Rich suggested we organise delivery before March 2010, when courses will be marketed as RHS rather than GS.

## Regional Partnership Development

### Financial responsibility

- Andrea Carling from Groundwork North East (South Tees) volunteered to take responsibility as the accountable body for the development of the North East Growing Schools Partnership for the money and the reporting back/progress reports to Growing Schools.

The group also agreed that the £5k development funding bid should be applied for as follows

- £2k towards holding 2 regional events (1 at the Durham Botanical Garden, 1 at Tees Valley)
- £1k towards core partnership expenses
- £1k towards database research, development work
- £1k towards case studies. Suggested 10 case studies are put forward to Growing Schools from the region, each contributor to be paid £100 each.

The group agreed that Rich Hurst is to prepare a draft action plan showing the main objectives and email it round for comments/agreement in preparation for the final version.

- RH needs to contact Ian Egginton-Metters re the Animals Courses deadline dates! \*RH to action