

Present

Rich Hurst, Craig Kaye, Colm Doyle, Lynne Ackland, John Maddison, Alison Clark, Jane Pringle, John Harpin, Darryl Gregory, Kevin Patrick, Margaret Bell, Julie Rimmer, Mike Tones, Tony Milan, Jeanette Chapman, Alisdair Nicholas, Ian Porteous.

Apologies

Jenny Hathaway, Fiona Wilson, Andrew Wilson, Rachael Richardson

1. Welcome from John Harpin & Mike Tones

2. Focus of Meeting

- Strength of regional partnership
- Need a strong bid to access diploma gateway
- Centres of expertise located across the region
- Range of courses partners have to offer is vast which will enable vast experience to be gathered across the region

Issues

- Need to be clear what authorities are buying in, to deliver from Sept '09. Some can lead but not all have to deliver immediately (MB)
- Access for as many students as possible (MT)
- Askham-Bryan' is bidding for Redcar & Cleveland, Hambleton, Richmondshire and York. Split into area learning partnerships. In each case need a lead organisation and organisations/partners backing it.
- Bids that are winning are bids with smaller cohorts, seen as too ambitious (15 pupils as smallest)
- Need to prove resources are there not what could be there.
- Need employer engagement involved in writing bids
- Large partnerships don't need large numbers of cohorts. Part of the issue is the developing expertise to deliver through the partnership
- MT → what we do have is expertise and resource across the region. Perhaps it could move/be flexible across the region
- Jane Pringle → would this NE RD group back smaller bids which would be written by smaller partnerships
- MB → use NE RD as over-reaching strategic body, smaller writing groups to apply to deliver
- Northumberland/Kirkley Hall are meeting in September to discuss ideas
- Need to ensure any bid/partnership is inclusive, avoid competitiveness.

- Kevin Patrick (Lantra) → NE region relatively compact. Real opportunity to develop the partnership beyond the rural to be relevant in urban environment. Is a big challenge but employers once at local colleges may be passionate about their time at college.
- Engaging employers has to be successful. Houghall College has good links with arboriculture & horticulture, but less so on animal care.
- Regional NFU should be sat around the table
- Kevin Patrick → menu of employer support
 - Block of experience
 - Day work experience
 - School industry days

- Business advisors
- Visiting experiences
- Monitoring
- Provision of venues
- Shadowing
- Support for PD of teaching staff

Previous applicants receiving a grade 3 score have received £18k to fund development to resubmit the bid.

Applications have to be with DCSF by 3rd December '07.

Good quality self assessment is required. It needs to be very clear and succinct
Bidders will receive a response in March/April 08.

Action: MT to discuss issues/ potential with DCSF colleagues when in London

- New guidance promotes opportunities across LA borders
- No guarantee of funding to support bids
- DCSF guidance is expected for September '07
- It was agreed that this group will act an umbrella group for the sub regional bids.
This NE RD partnership is open to new partners to maximise expertise across the region.

Sub Regional Applications

This group is aware of 2 groups applying to the Gateway
Durham/Tees Valley.

- A venue is booked for 30th August at Fyndoune to begin writing self assessment for Durham Partnership. All are welcome to this event from across the region. For more information and to confirm attendance contact j.harpin100@durhamlea.org.uk

Tasks for 30th August at Fyndoune CC

- Investigate the Self assessment criteria
- Action planning for each section of self assessment
- 5 key areas of self assessments
- Employer engagement
- **Action:** Margaret Bell will contact all LA 14-19 Coordinators across the region to pass on info and ask if they wish to join
- No problem with duplication across both sub regions
- Lantra is developed a network which could support/facilitate a regional bid
- Advice, information and guidance section of bid could be written by Connexions (Jim Dickenson is regional support for Connexions)
- May need a specific sub group to oversee diploma. Will develop as bid is written, may form itself
- MT → need to keep a strategic coherence for school improvement

Northumberland/Newcastle

- Colleagues from Kirkley Hall/Haydon Bridge are meeting in September to discuss the way forward.

Event on 12th September at the Education Development Centre at Spennymoor organised by Durham 14-19 Partnership to inform bid writing teams.

- 12 noon Lunch
- 1pm Briefing
- Anyone interested in attending please contact Margaret Bell @ m.bell@countydurham14-19.co.uk

Agree common ground, have meeting of two application groups. Pitfalls/way forwards
Tutors go away and write drafts and then meet up again

Rural Dimension Events

- 10th October Federation of City Farms & Community Gardens. Northern Region Workshops at Fyndoune Community College organised by Ian Eggington-Metters. For more information contact: ian@farmgarden.org.uk
- 11th October → SSAT Rural Dimension workshop at Fyndoune Community College. For more information contact j.harpin100@durhamlea.org.uk
- Possible overnight stay at Lumley Castle on 10th October. NB: SSAT has corporate rate at Lumley Castle
- Charges for SSAT event → £95 + accommodation

Any Other Business

New Draft SEF

- Specific reference to Sustainable Schools and Learning Outside the Classroom
- ‘Get your Hands Dirty’ pack. **Action:** MT to acquire 30 packs

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 4th October 2007, 3-5pm at The EWE Centre, Esh Winning.