

NORTH EAST RURAL DIMENSION PARTNERSHIP MEETING NOTES

The EWE Centre, 05th December 2006

Present

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| Mike Tones, Rich Hurst | North East Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Schools |
| Andrew Shaw | Specialist Schools and Academies Trust |
| John Maddison | Wolsingham School |
| Jeanette Chapman | Sunderland Training & Education Farm Ltd |
| John Harpin | Fyndoune Community College |
| Jane Pringle & Keith Cook | East Durham and Houghall College |
| Trevor Suckling | Kirkley Hall, Northumberland College |
| Gwyn Jones | Roseberry Sports and Community College |

Apologies

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| Sally Hudson & John Laird | East Durham and Houghall College |
| Mick Marsden | Federation of Community Farms & Gardens/ Soil Assoc |
| Jenny Hathaway | Continyou |
| Mr Dowler | Haydon Bridge School |
| Karen Summerbell | Pupil Referral Unit, Durham |
| Bill Kirkup | North East Centre of Excellence |
| Lynne Ackland | Sedgefield Community College |

Background to this Meeting this Meeting

- ❖ RH gave a presentation on the structure of the North East Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Schools (NESPSS). Its aim is to build capacity, share expertise, provide an initial point of contact for schools/school support agencies on ESD issues.
- ❖ MT, nationally the drive has been to influence the DfES to link a number of initiatives that could be seen as marginal to make them a powerful school improvement strategy.
- ❖ The national DfES Sustainable Schools Framework is an excellent document, the supporting website also has a number of tools linked to it that can help schools such as the new S3 Self Evaluation tool which is designed to be used in conjunction with the SEF. www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools
- ❖ The soon to be launched new SEF will also have a section on outdoor learning which schools will need to be able to prove.
- ❖ The Year of Food & Farming takes place from Sept '07-July '08 (regional approaches to promote activities are being considered)
- ❖ The pilot of the new land base diploma will happen in 2008 and roll out nationally in 2009
- ❖ LANTRA want 50% of diploma on applied work

Specialist Schools Trust

- ❖ Rural Dimension status is approx 3 years old. Schools are at three levels:
 - Have RD status
 - Are applying for it
 - Interested in Rural Dimension process but not formally
- ❖ The Trust provide:
 - Support for teachers and schools delivering the RD & examination courses
 - SSAT has the contract to deliver the PD for the new land base diploma
 - Vehicle for exchange of good practise
 - Raise profile
 - Feedback for national team
- ❖ The Diploma & 14-19 is a key focus of the work of the Trust

- ❖ The Trust wish to appoint a coordinator in each region to drive forward collaborative working on the Rural Dimension.
- ❖ The Coordinator will get:
 - 3 days cover a term (9 days in year) from SSAT
- ❖ The Coordinator will:
 - Maintain and develop a database
 - Conduit of knowledge
 - Support events
 - Increase accredited schools
 - Meet the National Team
 - Report back termly
 - Promote the National RD Conference 5th & 6th July
- ❖ John Harpin from Fyndoune agreed to be the Coordinator initially. Mike Tones offered admin support from the EWE Centre if helpful, particularly with database development.
- ❖ It was agreed the Partnership would be called the North East Rural Dimension Partnership (NERD)
- ❖ A web presence will be expanded upon within the NESPSS site at www.sustainable-schools-ne.org.uk
- ❖ RH will send initial contacts spreadsheet to John Harpin and Andrew Shaw ***RH to action**
- ❖ A Shaw stated that Colleges etc should get affiliated to SSAT. Andrew to find out affiliation charges for colleges & partners etc ***AS to action**

New Activity

- ❖ Mapping of Existing Provision:
 - Northumberland - Kirkley Hall
 - Sunderland - Sunderland Training and Education Farm
 - Durham - Houghall
 - Tees Valley - Askham Bryan College, Guisborough

Need to identify gaps in provision and schools who may be engaged. RH suggested using existing structures, eg Fed of City Farms members, Continyou's Cook-It Programme etc

- ❖ Suggestion for a taster day to reach schools across region through possibly Video Conferencing from key locations for a half day seminar (end of Feb - early April)
- ❖ AS would attend along with LANTRA who could highlight details of the diploma which will be agreed by Spring '07
- ❖ Seminar to focus on 2 or 3 topics, to have a tight focus
- ❖ MT highlighted that linked to the Year of Food & Farming there are developing Regional industry groups of food and farming. Do we know of one in the NE?
- ❖ Additions to the website: links to:
 - LANTRA
 - Yr F F & F
 - Colleges etc
- ❖ SSAT looking to run a second workshop day for schools perhaps in the Durham area (2nd round of National Workshops) to be delivered in the region in perhaps Oct '07

Next Meeting

- ❖ Will look to have another meeting on a Wednesday in Jan/Feb 07. **JH to Action**
- ❖ Andrew and Mike thanked everyone for attending and their interest and support