

## **North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership**

### **MCMC Sub Group**

#### **Minutes of meeting held on 2009**

##### **Attendance**

Laura Cook, Education Development Officer, Educational Services, North Ayrshire Council  
Stephen McLaughlin, Manager, Volunteer Centre  
Morna Rae, Community Planning Officer (Chief Executive's), North Ayrshire Council  
Brian Cameron, Area Manager for Ayrshire, Skills Development Scotland  
Angus O'Henley, Economic Development Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Sandra Paxton, Senior VQ Officer, Personnel, North Ayrshire Council  
Alex Pettigrew, Learning Manager, Youth Services, Educational Services, North Ayrshire Council  
David Carracher, Quality Improvement Officer, Educational Services, North Ayrshire Council  
Jan Ward, Head of Service (Educational Services) (**Chair**), North Ayrshire Council  
Jim Burns, External Relations Manager, Job Centre Plus  
Anne Todd, Activity Agreement Co-ordinator, North Ayrshire Council  
Peter Moore, Psychological Services (For Lesley Arthur)  
Joyce Stirton, Student Support Team Leader, James Watt College  
Mary Docherty, Head of Service, Educational Services, North Ayrshire Council  
Christine McGuire, Headteacher, Greenwood Academy, North Ayrshire Council

##### **Also in attendance**

Shirley Caine, Community Planning Assistant, (Chief Executive's), North Ayrshire Council  
Graham Hollowell, Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire  
Christine Greig, Scottish Government

##### **Apologies**

Carol Nisbet, MCMC Manager, Kilmarnock College  
Lesley Arthur, Senior Educational Psychologist, Educational Services, North Ayrshire Council  
Alison Paterson, Principal Officer (Children & Families Residential), Social Services, North Ayrshire Council  
Rae Anderson, Depute Headteacher, Auchendarvie Academy, North Ayrshire Council  
Claire Baird, Business Liaison Officer, Ayrshire Chamber Of Commerce

#### **1. Welcome**

Jan welcomed everyone to the meeting and the above apologies were noted.

Jan also welcomed Graham Hollowell and Christine Greig from the Scottish Government to the meeting.

Jan advised that Mary Docherty, Head of Service, Educational Services, North Ayrshire Council would Chair the meeting in the New Year.

#### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

Change to Page 2 under Get Ready for Work – should read that Mary reported the 'uptake' for get ready for work was not high.

The minutes were then approved.

## 2.1 Matters Arising

### NLOD Database

Laura advised that she has sent out templates a few times for partners to complete with their training provision that is not on already on the database as it stands. There has not been a great response from partners. Laura advised that she has a spreadsheet with a list of all the entries on it and it was agreed that she would speak to partners individually at the end of the meeting to identify any gaps.

Laura then advised that the training session went very well and if partners felt that it would be useful to run another session than this would be arranged.

### Impact Arts, Inspiring Scotland

A meeting had taken place with Duncan McKechnie to share some of the issues that had arisen with the process, particularly around match funding. Another meeting will be arranged with the organisations that have not been in contact yet. Christine suggested that Duncan should be involved in these meeting to discuss match funding.

**ACTION: DAVID/LAURA**

### SLIMS

David and Angus has met to look at the SLIMS statistics, in particular looking in depth at the datazones economic and social aspects as well as employment and training. David and Angus will meet again to further discuss.

**ACTION: DAVID/ANGUS**

## 3. Update on 16+ Learning Choices:

### Winter Leavers 2009 – Offers

Laura circulated a report, which updated on the local picture with regard to winter leavers and early preparations for summer leavers. The report provided an overview of provision and identified that they are going to be between 130-150 leavers and where these leavers are expected to go. It was hoped that young people would have offers well in advance of their leaving date, but this is not happening.

The interviews process has started at the Colleges, but no offers issued yet.

Brian circulated a report, which showed a summary of Skills Development Scotland support.

Angus advised that CEIS are linking with schools and partners and there is also an option for self-referral.

Laura advised that she is going to speak to Paisley and Johnstone as they held an event recently, which was not targeted at the correct clients.

Sandra noted that there are skills seekers opportunities within the council and that the council recruit and induct every month. They have a contract with SDS and haven't reduced their numbers.

Jan stressed the importance of the interview process with young people and the information that it gathered from them, but noted that there seems to be enough provision there.

Laura advised that the young people's aspirations are that they want to work but cannot see how training opportunities can lead to employment.

Jim advised that there are jobs out there, although maybe a reduced amount, and that there is a need to advise young people that the opportunities out there might be slightly different to what they want, but still a step in the right direction.

Jim advised that in October JCP had 3500 clients leave their register for various opportunities, including work, but there has been an increase of 15% in the number of 18/19-year-olds claiming benefits, although this may be due to the change in claimant procedures.

Anne would provide an update on Activity Agreements later in the agenda.

#### Initial Planning for Summer Leavers 2010 Cohort

Laura advised that she is starting to work on this with schools, SDS and careers advisors. Work has taken place to identify all young people and provide them with a suitable offer.

Laura advised that she is on a national group to look at the guidance for 16+ Learning Choices and it is hoped that this guidance will be available in the New Year.

It was noted that there is a lot of good work happening in schools, although a number of the initial cohort from Irvine Royal and Auchenhavrie Academy are now in a negative destination. Laura has spoken to careers advisers and agreed to carry out a pupil level look at these young people to find out what happened between January and September.

**ACTION: LAURA**

It was agreed to circulate with the minute of this meeting a list of what's available locally and the timelines etc.

**ACTION: LAURA/SHIRLEY**

#### Partnership Arrangements

David advised that he is proposing in the New Year series of 1-2-1 meetings with partners. These meetings will be an informal opportunity for the MCMC team to understand the issues in more depth. The first meeting is scheduled for mid January with JCP, and all interviews should be completed by the end of the financial year with a report being submitted to this Group.

**ACTION: DAVID**

David also advised that it is intended to have review day in the New Year for an opportunity to have a look at the programmes that are available and assess if they are still needed and if there are any other issues arising. The review day can also be used as an opportunity to look at the current economic situation and the effect this is having on young people. David noted that a lot of the work is being done by the partnership, but things still need to be stepped up. The work that David and Angus are doing with the SLIMS data could also feed into this day.

Graham advised that Connexions provide information, advice and guidance to young people aged 13-19. It operates through Personal Advisers attached to schools, colleges and town-centre One Stop Shops run in partnership with other agencies such as health, youth and voluntary services. Connexions helps young people make sense of information on courses, jobs and training so that they can make career plans. It also advises on other issues that may be preventing young people from getting on with their lives such as exams, moving away from home, relationships with family or friends. The Connexions Service was commissioned by the local authorities of Coventry and Warwickshire through their Children's Trusts and operates as part of their Integrated Youth Support Service.

Graham has been working with the Scottish Government for the last 18 months to look at rolling out the programme in Scotland. He is working with a range of partners and in doing so has been able to break down the degree of competitiveness between providers. He is providing support and knowledge and is keen to help CPPs.

Laura advised that she went to Warwick to look at the database that is used there and asked Graham for his initial impressions with regard to North Ayrshire and using the 16+ model in a different infrastructure.

Graham advised that a good database of information is at the heart of this project. There is a need to have a robust data system in place to track and identify provision etc. But also there is a need to put the young person at the heart of the process and this may mean that partners may have to change the way they work, which has proven difficult in other areas.

Christine G advised that the Curriculum for Excellence is being rolled out nationally and local authorities should look at how they can install the skills for work. 16+ Learning Choices, which is has to be a universal learning offer for anyone of leaving school age, is the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence and not separate or an add on. This is what the young person is entitled to up to the age of 18. This will have an impact on schools, as they will need to think how they can encourage young people to stay in learning.

The Scottish Government view is to put the young person at the centre of this process and all partners work together to provide the support/training that is needed. By keeping young people in training it is easier to track them and partnerships need to work together to provide more integration, better data, and better planning and targeting the future.

Laura advised that a new education working group which will focus on "Building the Curriculum 4" – which is about the new curriculum within the senior phase of education (15-18) will deal these issues & support the promotion of 16+ Learning Choices in schools.

Brian noted the importance of re-offers for young people and better data sharing.

ChristineG advised that the NLOD will be the support driving this forward. Two members of staff from the Scottish Government that work on data sharing and gartering are coming to North Ayrshire this month. Brian noted that ongoing partnership working is taking place to assist with tracking and data sharing.

Jan noted that data is something that the group need to come back to. This may warrant a separate meeting, and although they partnership has come on considerably, there still a long way to go both locally and nationally.

**ACTION: JAN**

Laura tabled the school leaver destinations report which had also been circulated to the group.

#### **4. Review of Partnership Working**

This was covered above.

#### **5. Activity Agreement Update**

Anne advised that the Activity Agreement Sub-Group would meet straight after this meeting.

Anne advised that she came into post on 19<sup>th</sup> October and her post is to focus on providing activity agreements for young people.

Two taster programmes will be delivered before the end of the year. So far with 13 young people registered for the first one, with 11 completing the programme and 16 registered for the second.

The level of engagement has been fairly low. Originally these programmes had been developed over 5 days, being split between the Volunteer Centre and CLD, although the programme had been changed to 1 day a week for a few hours. This was due to the engagement levels of the young person.

It was noted that there is no maximum and minimum levels of engagements. The key workers and trusted professionals had a meeting a few weeks ago to look at the role of the key work and identifying young people. It was noted that there is no one-referral route; this can be done through a number of agencies. There has been a lot of contact with schools and head teachers, and there has been a lot of interest in Activity Agreements. Work is currently taking place with finance with regard to EMAs.

Christine advised that a meeting had taken place last week to look at activity agreements for young offenders. Christine noted that some people are not clear on what an activity agreement is and that every level of engagement made should be considered as part of their activity agreements. Activity agreements are about identifying specific training for young people and progression.

David noted that he is investing in developing the role of the key worker and advised that the groups they started with were the extremely hard to reach young people.

Brian noted that activity agreements are really for the hardest to reach group that can't cope with other training/development opportunities

#### **6. Update on Future Jobs Fund (FJF)**

Jim Burns advised that there 800 FJF jobs agreed across his regional area with 270 currently available. Eligibility has changed slightly with those who are 26 weeks unemployed now able to access this support (at JC+ adviser's discretion).

Jim also advised that the 'Young Person's Guarantee' (FJF is one aspect of this) will be live from January – other initiatives include, Routes into work – sectoral opportunities with financial support for employers & pre-employment training through SDS. There will also be work-focused training which may be delivered through colleges but clarification awaited. The 'Community Task Force' will come on-stream at the end of January and this will involve young people participating in community projects. Participation in one of these initiatives is going to be compulsory (from March).

Jim also advised that 'Backing Young Britain' is a call for action from employers with support for work trials, non-graduate internships etc. Details of new initiatives on JC+ website.

**7. A.O.C.B.**

Brian Cameron handed out a table of Scot Action initiatives which summarises SDS support for young people up until March 2010. Contact Brian direct for further details if required.

David thanked Jan for all her hard work and contribution to the MCMC group and wished Jan all the best in her retirement.

**8. Date of Next meeting**

This was agreed as Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009.