



VALE OF GLAMORGAN IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES BOARD MEETING

19th November 2015
Board Room, Dock Office, Barry

Present:

Marcus Goldsworthy (Chair) (MG) –
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Chris Perkins (CP) - Vale of
Glamorgan Council
Rachel Connor (RC) – Vale Centre for
Voluntary Services
Jayne Tilley (JT) – Careers Wales
Clare Hughes (CH) – Department of
Work and Pensions

Paul Kift (PK) – Cardiff and Vale
College
Ben Hughes (BH) – Cardiff
Metropolitan University
Janet Jones (JJ) – Cardiff Metropolitan
University
Jamie Grundy (JG) – Cardiff
Metropolitan University

Apologies:

Bob Guy - Vale of Glamorgan Council
Andy Whitcombe - Cardiff and Vale
College
Kay Martin– Cardiff and Vale College

Nicola Campbell– Cardiff and Vale
Community Learning Partnership
Paula Ham - Vale of Glamorgan
Council

	Action
<p>1. <u>Welcome and introduction</u></p> <p>Members of the board were introduced.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Apologies were given.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Minutes from last meeting and matters arising</u></p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Widening Access – Cardiff Metropolitan University</u></p> <p>BH introduced JJ and JG from the university's widening access team. The project seeks to widen access to users who may not traditionally attend further education or gain additional qualifications after leaving school. The courses which are free where possible seek to reduce the barriers to learning for those both out of work and who suffer from in work poverty. JG continued adding that progression was a key part of the project and offered a range of credit modules to allow access for as many as possible. Health and</p>	



<p>Social Care were popular courses and links had been built with service providers to offer career paths for those who took part in the training.</p> <p>The project is now established in Cardiff and Newport and has worked well where partnerships have been developed with locally based groups. JJ added that it was hoped that today's conversation would lead to the widening of the project into the Vale. The University will provide the training, the major costs are room bookings and there has also been support for child care provision from some existing partners. JJ highlighted that the project had worked particularly well in Communities First areas.</p> <p>MG responded by thanking JJ and JG for coming today and hoped that links could be made in the Vale as soon as possible. CP added that he would pass on contact details and have a discussion with the Vale's Communities First Manager as a first step. MG also highlighted the potential for Housing Associations and English Language provision to become part of the scheme.</p> <p>CH also offered assistance with rooms at Barry Job Centre and hoped that the projects could align with the provision offered by DWP.</p> <p>JJ thanked partners for their offers of support and reminded the group that further details could be found on the website.</p>	<p>CP</p>
<p><u>5. The Needs of Local Employers, Tracey James, UK Recruitment Manager, 118 118</u></p> <p>PK informed the group that unfortunately Tracey had given notice that she would be unable to attend on the previous afternoon. This short notice had not given time for an alternative contributor to attend although there are several organisations who are interested in attending future meetings.</p> <p>The group agreed that attendance from representation from local employers was vital to success of the group and it is hoped that there will be attendance at the next meeting.</p>	
<p><u>6. Community Strategy Annual Report</u></p> <p>CP presented the Community Strategy Annual Report to the group. The report highlighted the ongoing work across the LSB and its subgroups in delivering the Community Strategy. CP added that this was a significant document and showed the enormous amount of work that partners were undertaking to improve the lives of people in the Vale.</p>	



<p><u>7. The Community Strategy Delivery Plan 2014-18 – Progress Report Draft</u></p> <p>CP informed the group that the next progress report documenting activity against the Community Strategy Delivery Plan was due for submission to the Local Service Board in December. Several members of the group have already given updates against the actions outlined in the plan and CP asked if the group could submit additions to the report over the next couple of days so the final report could be drafted ahead of submission to the December meeting of the LSB.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p><u>8. Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>CP presented an updated Terms of Reference for the group. These reflected the change in membership and an additional focus on regeneration as discussed in the previous meeting.</p>	
<p><u>9. Any Other Business</u></p> <p>PK reminded the group of the work of the Enterprise Zone in the Vale and informed the group he had had conversations regarding increasing the linkages between the IOB and the board that supports the zone. Discussions are ongoing about how best to achieve this. PK will explore further and update at the next meeting.</p> <p>MG added that another partner may be Karen Higgins who is leading on the LSkiP project at the WLGA, the objectives of the project align with those of the IOB and it would be useful to link in. CP agreed to contact Karen regarding attendance at the next meeting. All of the group were keen to build on the progress made over the last 12 months and use the IOB as a focus for as many relevant projects as possible to offer a joined up approach.</p> <p>JT updated the group on the work of Careers Wales to link businesses with as many schools in the area as possible to offer training and create routes to employment.</p>	<p>PK</p> <p>CP</p>
<p><u>10. Date of Next Meeting.</u></p> <p>Meetings are yet to be arranged for 2016, CP asked the group if there was any preference for arranging the meetings. CP will arrange and circulate dates and times as soon as possible.</p>	