

Economy, Learning, Skills & Employment (ELSE) Theme Group (Management)  
Meeting  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2008

CHAIR: Jane Beaver – Job Centre Plus (JCP)

Apologies – Jim Newton - Coventry City Council (CCC)

Attending :-

Jane Malbasa – JCP	Alison Orr - Voluntary Action Coventry
Jacquie Crisp - WCC	Nigel Wain - Coventry Partnership
Carol Jones - Coventry City Council,	Sarah Powell - Coventry Partnership
Lucy McGovern - NDC	Dean Marjoram - LSC
Sally Roberts - CCC Benefit Team,	Elaine Spragett - Henley College,
Kate Lee - WEETC	Kal Korja - Working Links
Geoff Hyde - CCC	Mark Gibson - Working Links,
Mandy Watkins – CCC Early Years	Aidie Fitzgerald - CSU
Maureen Lea - CCC Early Years	Malcolm Emmerson - Connexions ,
Geraldine Fisher - JCP	David Kersey - Probation Employment
Dave Sternberg - NDC	Team,
Myles Mackie - CCC	Steve Stewart - CSWP.

Minutes of last meeting & actions arising – accepted as a true reflection

Feedback from Strategic Group                      Jane Beaver  
Jane issued the terms of reference for the ELSE Strategic Group



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The Board has asked each of the Theme Groups to any specific actions they have already taken in response to the current economic climate to improve peoples lives and to identify up to 3 practical new ideas.

Suggestions from the group were:-

- Develop a Volunteering Pathway to qualifications and employment to retain engagement during recession through productive activity and provide community benefits. – **Alison ORR to discuss with Steven Bradbury of Voluntary Action for Coventry**
- Spread the good practice developed by CCC for recruitment of disadvantaged groups , within CCC and other significant public sector employers within the partnership(PCT,UHCW, WMP) and to Warwickshire Local Authorities. – **Carol Jones to work with JCP to deliver practitioner workshops.**
- Maximise the take up of (particularly) in-work benefits. This arose from discussions about unclaimed Housing Benefits(2.3 m) and Tax Credits and how these can contribute to “Making Work Pay “  
**Kate Lee and Sally Roberts to meet to look at how to take this forward**

NEETS – What can the partnership do



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Economic Downturn

Jane Beaver



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Jane discussed the content of the attached paper

ELSE Networking Event (paper attached)

Sub Group

To be held 8<sup>th</sup> May venue to be confirmed. In view of what had been heard early in the meeting the Group felt that the suggested format may not be appropriate. Sub group to meet again to look at the agenda and finalise the arrangements.

**Venue has now been confirmed as Henley College**

**Child Care Issues Mandy Watkins – Childcare Quality and Sufficiency  
Manager Geraldine Fisher – Childcare Partnership Manager Jobcentre Plus**

Key points

Promoting the benefits of formal childcare and addressing barriers is key to improving the uptake of formal childcare. Jobcentre Plus already has systems and processes in place to support this. The new claim and review interview process and LMS functionality supports the capturing of CBW information and referrals to FIS. We carry out Better Off Calculations and fast track Working Tax Credit. There is mandatory Childcare Conversation learning for all advisers. If I remember correctly part of the discussion was around increasing benefit take-up in particular focusing on Working Tax Credit to include an emphasis on the childcare element.

Refer for information on available childcare to Family Information Service (FIS) to :-

[ChildcareLink - Childcare for Warwick](#)

[ChildcareLink - Childcare for Smithford Way](#)

Refer information/evidence of gaps to [mandy.watkins@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.watkins@coventry.gov.uk)

Updates

Connecting To Opportunities, NI 165 Level 4, NI 171 New Business Registrations,  
Feedback -Equalities Theme group - Deferred to next meeting

Future Meeting Dates

Mar 18<sup>th</sup> 14-00, May 20<sup>th</sup> 10-00, Jun 17 14-00, Aug 19<sup>th</sup> 10-00,  
Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> 10-00, Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 10-00

Future Agenda Items

Drugs, Offenders , Level 4 , LAA Updates and refresh