

ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Feedback was provided from the last Strategic Group meeting; there were significant discussions about the introduction of Health & Work initiatives, as a national demonstration project. 3 strands aim to work with employers, employees, and workless people, to retain employment, secure employment, and improve productivity, by increasing take-up of healthcare services.
- Surinder Nagra provided information on Coventry's Community Cohesion Strategy and consulted on a draft commitment for the theme group, including measures and actions. **ACTION – Definition & Commitment to be circulated (NW); ACTION – suggestions of practical steps to deliver the commitment to be forwarded to JM by 31/7/09 (ALL)**
- Myles Mackie presented LAA review data demonstrating higher levels of worklessness amongst some Black and Minority Ethnic communities; Rajo Saira of Coventry Ethnic Minority Action Partnership delivered a presentation providing an insight, from BME community representative groups, of the circumstances behind the data, with suggested issues to be addressed. Conclusions drawn were that there is a need for culturally sensitive engagement activity for some groups; that there is considerable engagement with CEMAP member organisations, but in some instances low take up of employment, learning & training services because of lack of awareness of available support. It was agreed that opportunities should be sought and appropriate engagement activities developed in response to feedback received; as a result of the discussion information was referred to partners developing Connections to Opportunities application and findings have been reflected in revised proposals. In addition, it was agreed that a half day awareness raising seminar will be arranged for CEMAP members in the Autumn (**ACTION – JM & NW to progress in consultation with RS**); that RS will be invited to join the group (**ACTION – NW**); and that CEMAP members will be included on the invitation list for ELSE networking events (**ACTION - NW**)
- Tim Corkery provided information on the 'New Approach to ESOL' and addressed previous concerns about capacity, cost, and delivery arrangements. In future there will be greater emphasis on isolated communities, and priority groups to be identified with LA colleagues. From 2010/11 there will be more outreach, addressing perceived loss of community delivery. There is a small charge for places to employed people. TC agreed to arrange a meeting between Coventry Probation Service and City College to discuss potential funding arrangements for CPS customers. (**ACTION TC/AB**)

- CCC has signed up to be part of a City Region bid to deliver Future Jobs Fund job creation for young people unemployed for 12 months, and adults residing in priority neighbourhoods. Decision is awaited, with potential delivery from October.
- Connections to Opportunities proposal is being revised for submission to AWM.
- Flexible New Deal providers have been announced as Serco and Pertemps. Delivery will be from October. It was agreed that the 2 providers will be invited to present delivery proposals for Coventry at the next ELSE. **(ACTION –JM)**
- Theresa Carter advised that WCC have additionally bid to deliver FJF in Warwickshire and are awaiting a decision; Warwickshire's C2O proposal is in development with AWM; there is some uncertainty regarding the SUD application with possibility of funding/delivery being for 3 years as opposed to original 6 year period.
- There was discussion about NI 152 action plan item to assess capacity of the system; there was discussion about the potential for a graduate work placement to deliver a project to assess capacity to deliver NI targets. It was recommended that a small group is commissioned to consider feasibility. **ACTION (NW)**
- There was discussion about introduction of Risk Management practices for delivery of the LAA at ELSE meetings, including recognising and utilising opportunities to maximum effect. It was suggested that data updates, and information on labour market opportunities should become regular agenda items. **ACTION (JM, MM, GS)**
- LAA action plan to be included as future agenda item **(ACTION – JM)**
- Communications – the key message for publication through the partnership newsletter this month is 'A Call to Action' for partners to offer work experience placements.
- Future meetings: 23rd September & 18th November. Both are at 10-1.00 and will be held at the LSC, Oak Tree Court.