

**Learn East Network Meeting**  
**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010 at 10.30 am**  
**COVER Office, Little Chesterford**

**Present:** Nikki Bennett (COVER), Toby Cullingham (Community Connections), Sarah Elliott (Hertfordshire Training Consortium), Simon Waldron (SAVO), Vanda Bailey (Bedfordshire & Luton Learning Partnership), Linda Riley (VST), Tim Cracknell (Cambridge GET Group)

**In attendance:** Mark Barnsley (ACER), Janice Mossey (COVER), minutes

Item	Detail	Action
1	<b>Welcome and apologies</b> Nikki welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.	
2	<b>Minutes from last Learn East meeting and matters arising</b> The minutes were agreed.  <u>Third Sector Skills Advisory Group</u> Nikki has had responses from EEDA, NAS, ACER and Mark Freeman to her invitation to key people to attend the Advisory Group meetings. <u>Working Together in Transition VCS Action Plan</u> Nikki is working on updating the action plan.	NB
3	<b>Learn East member updates</b>  <u>Vanda Bailey (Beds and Luton)</u> With the Heritage Lottery they are now working in partnership with other third sector organisations around Polish culture. They are looking at the Big Lottery funding and other options. A new round of Economic Participation funding has just been released on workability. They are putting a bid together with the Development Trusts. They have 2 IAG programmes running – L2 and Learning Champions. There is one VCS-specific PTTLS course running. They have a L3 Capacity Building Programme for VCS groups.  <u>Toby Cullingham (Norfolk)</u> Their steering group met at the end of January and they are going through their action plan looking at which aspects need improvement such as representation and communication. The minutes are on their website. They have produced a Norfolk Unites leaflet. Their directory is being well used by organisations linking third sector providers to contracts and encouraging partnership working.  <u>Sarah Elliott (Hertfordshire)</u> They have a Learning Together 3 event on 11 <sup>th</sup> March for members and invited guests. They are closing down projects now and making sure they're spent up.	

Tender opportunities have arisen in Economic Participation Hertfordshire helping disadvantaged communities into employment and social enterprise, and also with Hertfordshire County Council with mental health and substance misuse workforce development in the VCS. They are running the last batch of PTLLS courses. They are finding that there is more interest in professional development now. They have asked Suzanne Crouch (EECETT) to put on some advice sessions.

Tim Cracknell (Cambridgeshire)

The CVSIC Executive and GET Group met last week. There is a GET Group event on 19<sup>th</sup> May for Adult Learners Week and they have a planning meeting at the end of March. They have an administrator who has received training to maintain their website. They have 4 PTLLS courses with the WEA starting in April. CVSIC has a development worker and project worker working on the Third Sector Assembly in Cambridgeshire. They have good engagement with the local authority where there is a Third Sector Partnership Officer working to develop closer links.

Simon Waldron (Suffolk)

They are managing applications for people wanting to hold events for Adult Learners Week. They have an event on 17<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate their NLDC project 2009 and launching the fund for 2010. They have 13 PTLLS courses running through NLDC funding. Their JobCentre Plus Flexible New Deal contract started in January with TNG. They're looking into Skills for Life training as there is a shortage of availability. Their BASIS2 project online toolkits are ready and available at [www.practicaltoolkits.org.uk](http://www.practicaltoolkits.org.uk). Their Matrix assessment is taking place in April. The funding for their work with EECETT SubCETT ends in March and there is concern about losing the value derived from it. Teaching qualifications are under review. It is likely to be confirmed that those working in third sector organisations will not be required to gain qualifications higher than the PTLLS qualification. Suffolk College is looking at revamping their CTLLS/DTLLS courses. Work on shared apprenticeships with Suffolk County Council is progressing well. There is a new LEAP centre in Lowestoft. Simon will be attending at a meeting to discuss the delivery of health services.

Linda Riley (Essex)

VST passed the Matrix accreditation. They have also been re-accredited as an OCN centre. They are working towards L1 PQASSO. Their business plan has incorporated Learning SET activities. They are looking to broaden their Trustee Board and widen membership. The Rural Community Council is also a partner. They have introduced an online booking system for courses and people can pay online with credit cards. They have a new webpage which links in with the ESTIC web portal avoiding duplication. The summary report on their Impact Assessment on training delivery last year has helped to raise their profile with statutory partners. They are developing further modules in Volunteer Management accredited by OCN. They are looking at apprenticeships with the VCS and Essex County Council. Essex County Council has someone who leads on VCS working supporting the VCS in achieving tenders and contracts, and removing barriers.

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<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Learner support qualification – Mark Barnsley, ACER</b></p> <p>Mark circulated an overview of the Learner Support qualifications from Lifelong Learning UK. These are considered to be more applicable for those working in third sector organisations and may have been more appropriate for them than PTLLS. Great Yarmouth College have helped develop the qualification with City and Guilds. Nikki to contact Great Yarmouth College to find out more. Members to contact their own local FE colleges to find out whether there will be any provision locally.</p>	<p>NB/ALL</p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Bursary scheme</b></p> <p>Within the Engage and Enable project there will be 40 bursaries of £500 offered towards the cost of a learner support/teaching related qualification. It was suggested that people flag this up with their members/organisations to gauge the level of interest. Nikki to work further on developing the criteria for the bursary scheme.</p>	<p>NB</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Stakeholder Event 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b></p> <p>Members to ring round their contacts in local authorities to encourage them to attend the Stakeholder event. Nikki to invite James Ayling from NAS, Paul Henry, Keith Middleton from ACER, Sharon Dixon from Shaw Trust and any others that members consider would be appropriate to invite. A decision will be made on Monday as to whether to postpone the event. The Learn East leaflet should be updated.</p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>Engage and Enable Project</b></p> <p>Simon was thanked for sharing his version of the claim form for partners to use. He will update the spreadsheet to incorporate further sheets and circulate round.</p>	<p>SW</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>National/regional events update</b></p> <p>Nikki is attending 2 events – YPLA conference on 4<sup>th</sup> March and 14-19 conference on 8<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>Skills Third Sector has funding to commission delivery of managing volunteers courses. Please send details of any third sector providers of this training to Nikki.</p> <p>Vanda reported that they are putting together workshops for their Beyond Compliance project. Vanda will email round details of spare places to the group.</p> <p>The JobCentre Plus conference will be held next week in Newmarket.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>VB</p>
<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 – 10.30 at COVER offices</li> </ul>	