

**MINUTES of the Pembrokeshire Voluntary Sector Training Advisory Group (TAG)  
meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at PAVS, Haverfordwest**

**Present:** Louise Walters (PAVS), Margaret John (PAVS), Simon Thomas (Careers Wales West), Sue Leonard (PAVS), Vicky Parsons, Emma James (Pembrokeshire College), Cathy Hayward (Princes Trust)

**Apologies:** Valerie Stevenson (Chair), Jackie Hemming (Pembrokeshire MIND), Judy Smith (WI), Helen Bussell (SNAP), Karen Butler (Age Concern), Cliff Richmond (PACTO), Henry Johnson (St Johns Community Hall), Chris Urack (Global Connections)

**SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR 2008**

25<sup>th</sup> April  
20<sup>th</sup> June  
17<sup>th</sup> October  
12<sup>th</sup> December

*Meetings start at 11.00am unless otherwise notified*

**The meeting started at 11.05am**

- 1. Welcome and introductions** - Sue Leonard welcomed everyone to the meeting, and agreed to take the Chair in the absence of Valerie Stevenson.
- 2. Apologies** - a number of apologies had been received, and these were noted. Helen Bussell no longer wishes to be a member of TAG, her post is in question and she may not be with SNAP for much longer.
- 3. The Future for TAG: a facilitated discussion** - it was agreed move this agenda item to the next meeting, in favour of considering the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) consultation document - **Skills that Work for Wales** - which members considered to be a priority.

[Hard copies of the document are available from Melanie Lewis-Clubbe  
Tel: 01686 620254 or download from <http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/>]

Outline responses for questions prepared by PAVS were circulated for further consideration and discussion. Members broadly agreed with the proposed responses with the following issues being highlighted:

- the third sector contributes both directly and indirectly to the Welsh economy and has a significant paid and unpaid workforce
- **local** learning partnerships are important and need to be resourced - perhaps diverting funds from promoting and celebrating adult learning into **delivery**

- funding is required for a Third Sector Workforce Development Hub for Wales to track the work of the Sector Skills Councils which have a voluntary sector "footprint" OR there needs to be a separate Sector Skills Council for the Third Sector. Sue Leonard agreed to contact Kate Thomas at WCVA to clarify the preferred option at this stage and to adjust the response as necessary
- there is certainly great potential to use volunteering as a route to further training or employment, and to map skills development within the volunteering context as part of the Careers Ladder
- raising the level of basic skills in Wales should remain a priority, but it is essential to put more money into training Basic Skills tutors to meet demand, and helping organisations gain the Basic Skills Quality Mark

It was agreed that final response would be placed on the Learning Champions online community, with hard copies available on request. TAG members were encouraged to feedback any further comments to Sue Leonard at PAVS before the submission deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> April.

**4. Minutes of previous meeting** - these were agreed as being a true record.

**5. Matters arising** - there were no matters arising. Members were informed that the first Convergence funding has apparently been released - a total of £110million to fund SkillBuild programmes and the Knowledge Exploitation Fund. More details are available on the WEFO website - [www.wefo.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk)

The start of the Rural Development Plan has been delayed by three months until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008 - it is hoped that the projects included within the local business plan to deliver community learning will be supported, but WAG has confirmed that the programme is significantly over-subscribed.

There has been some discussion at a national level between WCVA and DCELLS about the potential of a fund to support non-accredited learning, but no firm information is currently available.

**6. Feedback from Learning Partnerships**

- *Pembrokeshire Learning Network* - Graded classroom observation sessions were run during February and a moderation meeting will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm in the Haverfordwest Community Education Centre. The grading will be done in line with Estyn guidelines. There has been good feedback from the "new" observers who have been introduced to the process. PLN are holding another Learners Forum in the Bloomfield Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> March. This is designed to collect the views of adult learners who have attended a "community" course in the last year. There are two sessions one at 1pm and another at 6pm, each session will last no longer than two hours.

- *Pembrokeshire Learning Festival and Adult Learners' Week*: Planning for Adult Learners' Week (17-23 May) is going well. The Learning Market will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May at the Riverside Market in Haverfordwest. There are still some stalls available, however the payment of £20 needs to be received as soon as possible. There will be 3 other events throughout the county, Pembroke Dock on 16<sup>th</sup> May, Milford Haven on 20<sup>th</sup> May and Fishguard on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Members were asked to let PAVS know by 20<sup>th</sup> March if they were organising any events during Adult Learners Week for insertion in the Regional Guide (which is also published in the local newspaper)
- *Pembrokeshire Basic Skills Task Force* - the last meeting had been postponed. Princes Trust are hoping to achieve the Signposting Quality Mark for Basic Skills by the end of March

## 7. Open Forum

*Global Connections*: A number of Fair Trade events are planned throughout Fairtrade Fortnight (25<sup>th</sup> February - 9<sup>th</sup> March). For more information visit the website [www.globalconnections.org.uk](http://www.globalconnections.org.uk) or phone 01646 687800.

*Princes Trust*: A Skillbuild meeting was held recently looking at innovative projects for the future. Skillbuild is designed to provide young people with training to prepare for employment. Two networks will be developed, one of which includes Carmarthenshire, and Pembrokeshire meetings will start from 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The meeting finished at 1.00pm

**NOTE:** If you are missing any of the papers from the meeting you can find them all on the Learning Champions Online Community. If you are a member but have not logged on for a while and have forgotten what to do just go to <http://www.communityzero.com/lco> click on "Login". Then click on the "Forgot how to login?" link and they will be able to give you new details. If you would like to become a member, go to <http://www.communityzero.com/lco>, click on "Join" and follow the instructions. You may have to wait a few days to be "approved" but as soon as that happens, you can use the Community as much as you like.