

**Heads of the Valleys
Voluntary Sector Meeting
Merthyr VAMT
16th June 2009**

Attendees:

Mandy Moore (MM) –	Heads of the Valleys Vol Sector Manager
Frank Callus (FC) –	Heads of the Valleys Skills Sector Manager
Carol Evans	VAMT
Hilary Edwards	VAMT
Lynne Hayes	WEA
Donsherie Sonia-Sullivan	MTHA
Nancy Little	Merthyr Valleys Homes
Ian Davy	VAMT
Carol Adams	3G's Dev Trust
Lesley Hodgson	G Gates
Craig Pearce	G Gates
Sharon Richards	VAMT
Alison Harris	VAMT
Deanne Rebane	Life Support 3G's
Alyson King	CF Trefechan
Ceri Scorey	GFG
Collette Watkins	GFG

Apologies:

Minutes:

1. MM welcomed attendees and outlined the purpose of the meeting
2. HARPs – MM gave a brief update on the HARPs development, explained the closure of SRF and outlined the process for the future funding from the Heads of the Valleys Programme. Merthyr HARPs have been developed and agreed by the heads of the Valleys Steering group on the 12th June 09. There were some discussions on engagement with the third sector and it was highlighted that not all had felt included in the process. Jill Shuker was named as the lead for the Merthyr HARPs, and that although this year's projects had been identified, she would be able to inform the sector for inclusion at a later date.
3. Financial Literacy – (paper attached) FC explained Heads of the Valleys strategic partners for Basic Skills and the make up of the sub group that feeds into it. It was noted that there was a lack of third sector representation within this group.

Q. Do we have any other financial literacy deliverers apart from Credit Union?

A. Basic Skills Cymru, Online Resources and RSL's i.e Melin Homes.

Q. How can the Third sector drive this forward (it was noted that the Merthyr Financial inclusion Strategy is a few months off being ready)?

A. FC requested that he be sent the draft action plans for Merthyr.

4. E Learning Pilot – (no paper) FC explained that the programme took into consideration 'One Wales Commitment' and to this end, have started pilots in: Torfaen – laptops for children in primary schools.
Merthyr College/MTCBC –laptops for 14-16 yr olds.
It was noted that E learning policy had not yet been drafted

5. Pre-VENT KS3 - FC explained collaboration between 5 local authorities into convergence (Torfaen, Merthyr, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Bridgend) RCT have their own programme. KS3 – 7 M across the region (approved) - 3 year programme providing additional skills support. Taster courses will be open to tender approx Oct-Dec on the sell 2 Wales website (attendees were encouraged to register on the Sell 2 Wales website). Discussions ensued regarding a consortia for borough wide projects, as the third sector may have barriers to tender on an individual basis.

PreVENT 14-19 – HOV Lead sponsor – 14.2M (not yet approved) The same 5 local authorities and colleges in each area. Financial Literacy will be picked up through the Financial Literacy unit and within the Welsh Bacc. There is currently no representative from the third sector on the Merthyr Tydfil 14-19 Network.

6. AOB -Widening pathways to FE & HE - CA stated that there was a lack of opportunity for adult learners 19+. The Heads of the Valleys programme has strategic Managers in each theme of the programme, these managers are tasked at looking at looking at each theme to develop sector skills / training /skills development i.e. green jobs /tourism/ environment. There was some discussion around business in the community funding and the opportunity to develop a network around lowering carbon emissions. SME's locally need to be aware of the micro generational equipment which could be fitted into homes and the training and skills development needed to meet the demands. It would be preferable to train and recruit locally to deliver such projects. Quality National Housing standards would enable direction of training needed to meet standards.
HOV Basic Skills subgroup – as part of the National Strategy basic skills are to be delivered through strategic partnerships within this Financial Inclusion sits within the Financial Literacy substream.

7. Next meeting: time and date TBC

It was agreed that before the next meeting updates of all the five areas would be appreciated and that Rachel Moxey – Economic Development be invited to talk about developments.