



**BURNLEY PARTNERS WORKLESSNESS GROUP  
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010  
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, TOWN HALL**

**Present:**

Ann Marie Wrigley	New Era Enterprises
Joseph Smith	Lancashire County Development Ltd
Ian Pledsted	Burnley Borough Council (ERBS)
Pat Bridge	Burnley Borough Council (ERBS)
Chris Launder	Southwest Burnley Community Enterprise Centre
Beth Gallagher	Calico
Tony Harrison	Burnley Community Network
Allison Kay-Porter	Burnley Borough Council (Neighbourhood Mngt)
Jon Cook	Consultant (Blackburn with Darwen borough council)

Gordon Howley	Burnley Community Network
Sue Littlefair	Princes Trust
Karen Hopwood	Skills Funding Agency
Jenny Fern	Burnley Borough Council (Neighbourhood Mngt)
Janet Tonge	East Lancashire Primary Care Trust
Steve Rowland	Young Peoples Service

**Welcome and introductions**

Ian welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members then introduced themselves and stated the organisations which they represented.

**Latest Worklessness Statistics (reports attached)**

Ian circulated a report relating to the latest statistics on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) by ward count (March 2010). In February the JSA rate was 4.8% which was slightly lower than previously reported. In most wards the percentage level had gone down however in Bank Hall, Daneshouse and Stoneyholme wards there had been an increase which needs to be taken into consideration when developing the Employment Strategy.

The report for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) / Lone Parent Income Support (LPIS) ward count was also circulated and Ian explained that these figures lag behind JSA data by about 6 months and were therefore not a true representation of the current situation.

Furthermore, a recent report from Jobcentre Plus (JCP) revealed that 70% of new ESA claimants who had undergone a 'Work Capability Assessment' were actually found to be capable of doing some sort of work.

Ian asked for comments and Ann Marie stated that some of the ESA figures were particularly high especially in Bank Hall and Trinity wards.

### **Employment Strategy Review**

Ian has started to assimilate information to be included in the Employment Strategy. He is looking to complete the review by the end of June 2010.

### **Pennine Lancashire Employment and Skills Board**

Ian circulated a draft position statement relating to the Pennine Lancashire Employment and Skills board which will be a driver for the economic prosperity and aspirations within the area (paper attached to these minutes).

### **Financial Inclusion (FI) and Tackling Worklessness**

Allison updated the meeting on an initial group meeting with Liz Jacobs relating to a programme linking financial inclusion to worklessness. The group met recently and both highlighted and discussed financial inclusion issues. One of the main concerns was access to bank accounts, cash machines and other financial services within the target areas.

### **Housing and Employment Connections**

Jon Cook delivered a presentation to the meeting on Enhanced Housing Options, Worklessness and Social Housing in Burnley. The approach of linking peoples' housing aspirations with employment issues was announced by the Government in November 2008. The scheme should ensure that people get more holistic advice when approaching housing services and early feedback from a pilot scheme in four London boroughs has shown that there has been significant interest in the initiative.

The aim of the policy is to develop a range of enhanced housing options that can be easily accessed by vulnerable people in need of housing and support.

Jon Cook will be progressing further work to introduce Enhanced Housing Options across Pennine Lancashire. This will involve partnership work with the Employment Development Team, Evolve Network, the council's Housing Advice team and other housing providers in the area.

### **Travel to Work Issues**

Ian informed the meeting that the Best Bus initiative was ending in September 2010. The usage has been more restricted due to new stringent transport regulations which have been recently imposed on the scheme. There is a need to find out local demand for this service and Ian circulated a document relating to Travel to Work Initiative in Burnley – Project Proposal for UCLan Internship. The project will examine solutions to gaps in public transport provision and identify alternative initiatives such as car sharing schemes which could potentially assist in improving access to work for people on low incomes.

**AP1: Ian to continue to progress with the internship proposal project.**

## **End of Year Updates**

Ian reported on the Future Jobs Fund. From the beginning of the initiative until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 there have been 210 job starts which has met the original target profile for Pennine Lancashire. (Calico also filled 51 positions in addition to this figure). There were 28 starts in April 2010 and it was pleasing to note that this was above the profiled target. 515 jobs are due to be delivered across Pennine Lancashire between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Outreach and Engagement Work – The Employment Team are working with CXL, Help Direct and Neighbourhood Management Team (Glebe Street Internet Café). The team are also working with the South West Burnley Neighbourhood Manager to organise “Addressing Worklessness” seminars, the purpose of which is to involve front-line workers from a variety of organisations in helping to address worklessness.

Allison said that there was an urgent need to address worklessness within the Daneshouse/Stoneyholme area of the Borough.

**AP2 Ian to liaise with Kaye Mahoney (NMT) re worklessness issues in Daneshouse/Stoneyholme.**

Of the 630 people who attended the last Jobsfair 55 had secured employment so far. Joey needs to collate data from other Jobcentres in Pennine Lancashire as some the attendees were from outside the local area.

**AP3 Joey to contact all relevant JCP's in order to collate Jobsfair data.**

Licence to Skill - the year end report illustrated that 58% of beneficiaries who completed the programme had moved into employment, 87% of which had sustained employment for 13 weeks.

### **AOB**

Ann Marie thought that the group should be targeting other individuals and organisations such as Burnley College and the Primary Care Trust to attend future meetings. In addition she thought that not enough people have worklessness at the heart of their agendas, however the planned Review of the Strategy may result in significant findings /action points.

Date and time of next meeting – to be arranged.