

# Redbridge Learning Collaborative

[www.redbridgelearningcollaborative.org.uk](http://www.redbridgelearningcollaborative.org.uk)

*Working Together*

## **Report of the fourth Quarterly Information Event on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at the Gloucester Room, Ilford Central Library**

The attendance of this Quarterly Information event was good, although the number of delegates was less than normally. Invitations to the event were sent out only two weeks in advance and because of technical problems, not all received the invitation. Also the event was held on a Friday, which may have contributed to the low attendance. 25 delegates booked a place and 26 delegates attended the event.

The following presentations were made:

- Katrin Krüger welcomed everybody and summarised some of the current initiatives taking place (Most of these can be downloaded from the Website). Briefly these were:
  - Member organisations will receive another round of membership satisfaction questionnaires to gain an overall understanding of members' thoughts and feelings regarding the activities of the Collaborative in the past 12 months.
  - Informing delegates of the NVQ Business and Administration and NVQ in Team leading that is currently offered by a training provider who received 'train to gain' funding.
  - The training provider directory will be updated soon. Training providers who are members will receive a request to up date their details and courses offered.
  - The Workforce Analysis Tool, which is available for all organisations for free, and helps meet National Minimum Dataset requirements.
  - Louisa works on a part time and temporary basis with Katrin to assist in the coordination of the activities of the Collaborative
  - References were made to the Skills for Care London website at: [www.skillsforcarelondon.org.uk](http://www.skillsforcarelondon.org.uk)
  - The Skills for Care National Conference will be held in Nottingham on the 27 and 28 February
  - The implementation of the Mental Capacity Act in April 2007 and that the L&D Coordinator, Helen Usbas is currently identifying training needs of the independent sector. A questionnaire was circulated to all recently. Training programmes will be offered for free starting in April. Helen will attend the next quarterly event to inform providers about the Act and the upcoming training programmes.

- The change in the nomination process of representatives on the Redbridge Learning Collaborative steering group. Members will soon receive a request to nominate representatives for their service areas.
  - A training provider forum will be established which will focus on issues around funding and delivery. Member training providers will be invited to take part in this forum
  - Geoff Elford, Principal Officer of Business and Development informed delegates that the council is starting with a Budget Consultation Process. Information can be accessed at help lines and websites.
- Jenny Dutton, who is the regional Skills for Care representative for North East London updated delegates on current developments. She mentioned amongst others the following priorities this year:
- Establishing a Care Ambassador Scheme
  - Do more development work on the Skills for Care Leadership and Management strategy
  - The roll out of National Minimum Data Set Compliance
  - The Skills for Care London website
  - PQ framework for Social Workers and practice placements and practice teaching
  - Engaging employers project
  - Training Strategy Implementation Funding
  - Assisting in brokering the Learning and Skills Council 'train to gain' funding.

She also mentioned that Tower Hamlets council are lead partners in the LDAF European Social Funding contract.

- Unfortunately Barking College representatives could not attend the meeting for personal reasons, but they will attend next collaborative event.
- Sharon Preston, who is the Programme Administrator of the L&D team, gave a comprehensive outline of the process of nominating individuals on the training programmes. She also mentioned the reasons of each step in the process and the do's and don'ts.

Lunch was provided and there was intensive networking going on.

### **Evaluation Forms**

9 evaluation forms were completed and their feedback is summarised as follows:

- The majority felt that the event was very well prepared and organised (5).
- All felt that the event was valuable to them and was pertinent to the organisations who attended (9)
- The majority felt that at the event that the attitude and approach of the speakers was excellent (5).

- The majority felt that the presenters had excellent knowledge of the subject. (7).
- The majority felt that the handouts were very good (4) the food was excellent (6) and the suitability of the venue were excellent (9).

Comments on what areas was most useful/important to delegates:

- Learning from the event – sharing information and brainstorming exercise/workshop feedback
- New funding opportunities
- Upcoming courses advertised
- Links, Networking
- Sharing 'Best Practice'
- Making contacts with colleagues from different organisations involved in Social Care
- Skills for Care presentation
- New developments in the sector were discussed.

Suggestions for future topics at these events were:

- More government information

Additional comments were:

- Great to be part of the collaborative
- Event was very well organised
- Good networking opportunity
- Good buffet lunch served

Comparing the overall comments made at this event to comments made at the last few events suggests that delegates found this event to be good in sharing and networking. This is an exciting development as that is what collaboration is all about.!

All in all it was a very interesting event! Thanks for those who attended and made their valuable contribution. Let's hope we will see you again next time!