

CORE TEAM UPDATE

Welcome back to 2007! We hope you all had a good break over the holiday as we did, and are back to work with renewed enthusiasm for the year ahead. This is a good time to remind all our project partners that the Core Team is here to help out with any queries, problems or issues you may have:

Project delivery, Service Users (beneficiaries), or the Transnational element, contact Harriet Gill (tel: 01273 294626 or e-mail harriet.gill@brighton-hove.gov.uk).

Soft outcomes or empowerment - Linden Farrer (tel: 01273 294544 e-mail linden.farrer@brighton-hove.gov.uk).

Finance or match funding issues should be directed to your relevant EPS team member:

Vikki Osborne (tel: 01273 294677 e-mail vikki.oborne@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Karen Johnson (tel: 01273 294678 e-mail karen.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Warren Stupple (tel: 01273 291670 e-mail warren.stupple@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

It is important that you raise any queries or problems with us at the earliest opportunity and contact us immediately the issue is identified so it can be resolved with as little difficulty as possible. We are here to help!

► **Work Placement**


The Equal Brighton & Hove Core Team (EBH) has a new work placement, Dave McGonigal, who joined us at the beginning of December and is working 3 days a week. This was arranged through the City Council's Equal placement scheme (more details below). Dave says "Having been a service user at Richmond Fellowship (one of the EBH projects) for seven years, the last four I have been doing voluntary work there in an administrative position to gain experience and enhance my chances into paid work.

Since I have been at EBH, I have found there is a lot to take on board for the smooth running of the office and everyone is hard working and professional. During my first couple of weeks the staff have been very helpful and understanding. I am beginning to take on tasks in the office which I am enjoying and always learning more about how the office runs.

While I am at EBH I am hoping to gain an insight into how the City Council systems work and to learn new skills which will help me find employment with the Council."

► **Self Employment Poll**

Have you taken part in our survey yet? Creating opportunities for self-employment provides another avenue for our service users to participate in the labour market.

 We've set up a simple poll on our website to help us determine service user interest in self-employment. Please participate in the poll – it's one question and a single tick box and will only take a moment of your time. Many thanks.

► **Employer Engagement Update**

EBH04, the Employer Engagement Project, successfully had its work to date evaluated at the close of Dec 06. There seems to be much support to continue the work of the OEEG (Operational Employer Engagement Group) from June 07, though the format and style needs some careful consideration. Claire Mitchell is focussing her attention on writing a business plan to attract further funding support, if anyone knows of any pots of money or has any bright ideas then please contact her!



Now that the OEEG has been established for 9 months and the members feel comfortable with one another, the trust has been built; the real collaborative targeting of local businesses can begin. In the remaining months of this project the intention is that members collectively target large local businesses, devising one referral route, to improve the chances of filling the placements with quality candidates and presenting a more professional and seamless approach to engagement. More information on this will be given at the next OEEG on the 11th January.



One of the most exciting pieces of work currently being undertaken by the project is that of looking to find an insurance broker interested in underwriting the employer and public liability insurance risk for all the businesses in the City offering placements. What this will achieve is an incentive for those businesses looking to offer placements, a reward for those already actively doing so and a reduction in the number of smaller business using this as a barrier to not take on placements because the cost will be lower. Currently Claire is waiting upon a final draft of a presentation from the insurance broker she is working with, which will be used by them to collectively meet with insurers to present this opportunity. Watch this space.....

NEWS

► **Brighton & Hove City Council** are providing opportunities for unpaid Equal work placements for a period of up to 12 weeks (minimum of 16 hours per week). As part of the work placement beneficiaries receive coaching and job skills training from the HR project team working in partnership with Job Centre Plus. News of some of their work placements to date include:

Simon joined the project as a work placement in January 2006 and worked in the Adult Social Care Team. As part of the work placement, Simon received regular coaching and mentoring in job skills from the HR Equal Project Team. With the increased confidence and job skills gained from the work placement, Simon successfully applied for a position in the council and is now working in the Payments and Income Unit. In June Simon was invited to speak to a visiting Italian delegation from the Equal Transnational Partnership about his experiences under the project.



St Marks School is currently supporting Jackie on a work placement, and she is enjoying every moment of working in the school's supportive and nurturing environment. Head Teacher, Sharie Coombes, said " I'm really impressed with the scheme and how it has been working for us. It's lovely to see someone blossom in confidence and begin to be a 'presence' around the school. Jackie has fitted in well, seems to be well supported and is definitely becoming employable within the school".

Khaled was supported in his work placement by the City Early Years Team based at Edward House. He would recommend other people to get involved stating "work placements are very useful and are good to help people develop more skills".

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Margaret is currently on a work placement at Hollingdean Depot with the CityClean Operations Team. Supervisor, Andrea Lowe, says "I think this is an excellent and very rewarding scheme, with huge benefits gained on both sides." For more information on the Council's Equal scheme contact Diane Coe tel: 01273 291280 or e-mail diane.coe@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

➤ **Formal Consultation on Proposals for Mental Health Vocational Services**

The consultation period for proposed changes to adult mental health vocational services in Brighton and Hove runs from 3rd January 2007 to 4th April 2007.

Download the document from: <http://www.equalbrightonandhove.org/node/255>

➤ **EU Treaty of Rome 50th Anniversary Logo**

The European Union has unveiled the official logo to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome which led to the establishment of the EU. The ESFD and ESU will begin to use the logo from 1 January 2007 and invite Equal APs to do the same.



However, the logo should not be used universally, it should only be used for publicity and promotional purposes such as at events or on publications. The guidelines for use of the logo are available from http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/pdf/cond_en.pdf. The logo can be downloaded from http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/photo/event_reportage_en.cfm?id=1622

➤ **East Sussex County Council Survey**

ESCC Disability Equality Scheme consultation survey form is now up on the ESCC website and can be accessed via the following link:

<http://esc website/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/equalities/download.htm>

They are keen to ensure that as many disabled people as possible in East Sussex have the opportunity to express their views and are exploring ways of publicising this as widely as possible. They would be grateful if you would bring this to the attention of any disabled people with whom you work and encourage them to respond.

➤ **Adult Learners Week Awards**

Programmes across England that are making a difference to learners in the workplace, at home or in the community are able to apply for these awards. All programmes nominated will receive a Certificate of Achievement and winners will be presented with a £1,500 learning voucher at a national awards ceremony to be held during Adult Learners' Week, taking place between 19 and 25 May 2007.

Nominations are invited from any organisation which offers a creative programme of learning, based in England, and which reaches:

- adults who will be over the age of 21 on 19 January 2007;
- young adults aged 21 or under who have had a break of at least three years from full-time study;
- adults who may not be current learners but who have been a student or self directed learner at some point since 19 January 2005.

The deadline for entries is 19 January 2007.

Tel: (0116) 204 4200 E-mail: alw@niace.org.uk Website: <http://www.alw.org.uk>

➤ **Disability Equals Business launches 2007 calendar**

The calendar features positive images of disabled people in the workplace. Each person tells their own unique story along with a synopsis of the project work carried out.

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"Many images feature people with hidden impairments such as dyslexia and diabetes, which makes people challenge the stereotype of wheelchair users being the dominant image of disability" says Diane Mulligan, a Consultant with Disability Equals Business. The Consultants have worked with nearly 2,000 businesses in Sussex since 2006 communicating the economic, social and legal case for employing a more diverse workforce.

In the calendar each of the featured employers have made 'reasonable adjustments' under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 to enable their disabled employees to reach their potential at work. The calendar is free and available from Diane Mulligan tel: 07921 291214 or e-mail diane.mulligan@brighton-hove.gov.uk

➤ **Brighton and Hove City Council receives award for training**

The Adult Skills and Learning team within BHCC has been praised by the government's top inspector for being one of the top training providers in the country. The Adult Learning Inspectorate's chief inspector, David Sherlock, described the team as one of this year's outstanding training providers.

The adult skills and learning team is part of an elite group that has received 'good' or 'outstanding' inspection grades for every aspect of its training. They have been particularly successful in providing family and community learning in some of the city's more deprived areas. They work with over 1200 people a year, with many going on to further learning programmes.

 The team have been involved in developing new courses to stimulate new learners, including DIY, climate change and citizenship programmes as well as helping people gain national qualifications in literacy and numeracy. The inspectors particularly praised the way they have teamed up with other parts of the council including Sure Start centres, schools, libraries & museums and trading standards as well as other training providers across the city to improve learning opportunities for local people.

Education councillor Pat Hawkes said: "Our adult skills and learning team has made a huge difference to many hundreds of local people in deprived areas who have found jobs or got into further training. I'm thrilled that their efforts have been recognised at national level.

EVENTS

■ **The Campaign for Learning is running the following events:**

➤ **The Lyons Review: issues for 16-19 LSC funding**

19 January 2007, 10.45 am - 1pm. Venue: Campaign for Learning, 19 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6EF. Cost: £75 plus VAT.

➤ **From a compulsory school leaving age of 16 to a compulsory learning leaving age of 18**

1 February 2007 (rescheduled from 20 November 2006), 10.45am for 11am - 1pm. Venue: Campaign for Learning, 19 Buckingham Street, London WC2n 6EF. Cost: £75 plus VAT.

➤ **The Big Ideas of Skills in the Final Report of the Leitch Review**

For further information visit www.campaignforlearning.org.uk and follow links for events.

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■ RARPA Training Course for Leaders and Managers

(Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement in non-accredited learning)

A series of one-day training events for leaders and managers implementing or planning to implement the RARPA approach are taking place February-April, organised by the LSN, LSC and NIACE. Full details available from the [NIACE website](#).

coming up

■ diary

11 January 2007: Operational Employer Engagement Group meeting

10am –12.00 noon at Equal offices: Unit 11, Level 5 South, New England House, New England Street, Brighton BN1 4GH. The OEEG meetings are open to representatives from Equal projects and other organisations that are involved in employer engagement in the City. If you are interested in attending these meetings, please contact Claire Mitchell on 01273 774796 or e-mail claire.mitchell@bhbc.org.uk

17 January 2007: Jobcentre Plus (JCP) and Working Links

have joined forces to offer OEEG members benefits awareness training. The workshop will take place from 0930 – 1330hrs at the Working Links offices; 2nd Floor, 27-29 North Street, Brighton, BN1 1EB. For more information, please contact Claire Mitchell, Equal Employer Engagement Coordinator, Business Community Partnership, Tel: 01273 774796 or e-mail claire.mitchell@bhbc.org.uk

23 January 2007: EXCELLENT - OFFENDER LEARNING AND SKILLS

Ranmoor Hall, Belgrave Road, Off Gladstone Rd, Sheffield S10 3LL, 10.00am - 4.30pm
Conference fee: £35 per person including lunch, tea/coffee. To reserve a place online or to download a copy of the programme and application form, visit: <http://www.niace.org.uk/Conferences/Conferences.htm>
enquiries to: Gurjit Kaur on 0116 204 2833; e-mail: gurjit.kaur@niace.org.uk

29 January 2007: Suicide and Survival in LGBT Communities

A one-day conference at University of Brighton, Falmer.
For further information and registration details, please contact Fiona Edwards, Cupp Administrative Assistant e-mail f.c.a.edwards@brighton.ac.uk
tel: 01273 643182 www.cupp.org.uk/projects/conference290107.htm

5 Feb 2007: 2:30pm-5:00pm Social Mentoring Network Forum

Venue: Equal offices, Unit 11, Level 5 South, New England House, New England Street, Brighton, BN1 4GH. Guest speakers and topics to be announced.

28th March 2007: The Community University Partnership Programme (Cupp)

at University of Brighton will be hosting a conference to explore how students, academics, community workers, volunteers and service providers can develop dynamic and effective communities of practice which contribute to social transformation. The conference is open to all who are interested in the relationship between universities and their local communities. To register go to <http://www.cupp.org.uk/aboutus/news/index.htm>