

BEDFORDSHIRE ADVICE FORUM

Promoting and supporting the provision of advice and information services in Bedfordshire

ADVICE STRATEGIES

in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire

Wednesday 11th November 2009

Committee Room 3, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford

WORKSHOP NOTES

Present

Karen Cook	Bedford Borough Council (Benefits and Community Welfare)
Charnjeet Dhillon	Bedford Borough Council (Inform 0-19)
Lorraine Gunther	Bedford and District CAB
Jenny Hedges	Mid Beds CAB
George Hunt	Bedford Borough Council (Adult Services)
Glenis Orkisz	Bedford Race Equality Council
Annette Pacey	Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
Geoffrey Pearce	Bedford Borough Council (Housing Options)
Janet Ridge	Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity
Becky Steffans	Dunstable CAB
David Wood	Leighton Linlade CAB
Len Simkins	Infotrain / BAF
Linda Wood	Infotrain / BAF

1. Apologies

Sue Audin	Bedford Borough Council (Benefits and Community Welfare)
Mags Brady	Polish-British Integration Centre
Carl Davies	Disability Resource Centre
Peter Fraser	Central Bedfordshire Council
Liz Morgan	Disability Resource Centre
Gillie Sharp	Luton Law Centre
Anjila Sinha	AdviceUK

2. Update from workshop on 6th October

Len Simkins recapped on the issues discussed at the previous meeting.

Presentations had been made at the meeting on:

- Why we need an advice strategy
- How to develop an advice strategy
- What an advice strategy should look like

There had then been group discussions on the first steps in developing a strategy in Bedford Borough and in Central Bedfordshire. It was recognised that it would be important to get the LSPs to "own" the strategies.

It was agreed to arrange today's meeting to draft a **Statement of Intent** that could be presented to the relevant (social inclusion) thematic partnerships - on 30th November in Bedford and on 2nd December in Central Bedfordshire. If accepted, the Statement of Intent could then be submitted to the LSPs in early 2010.

3. Statement of Intent

Len had prepared a draft document that could be presented to the Thematic Partnership in Bedford Borough. This was discussed in detail - especially the section on why we need a strategy.

It was agreed to call the document a Proposal.

Various amendments to the document were agreed.

Len will also draft a document for Central Bedfordshire. It was agreed that the document would be very similar - with just some minor differences.

4. Advice Strategy

The proposed structure for the strategy was discussed and agreed.

The draft vision, underlying principles and strategic aims for the Strategy were discussed in detail and some amendments were agreed.

5. Next steps

Len and Linda Wood will make the agreed amendments to the Proposal.

The Proposal will then be circulated to the Advice Strategy Group and to BAF members for comments.

Len will then submit the finalised proposals to Janet Ridge, who is Chair of the relevant Thematic Partnerships. The deadline for papers to be submitted is 20th November.

Len reported that some further funding from Voluntary Works may be available for development work on the Strategy in early 2010 (up to March 2010)

NB All the documents relating to BAF's Advice Strategy work can be found on BAF's website at: www.bedsadviceforum.org.uk

This workshop was organised for BAF by:



Facilitated by **infotrain**
Services Ltd

Supported by

