

# Ashfield Excellence Cluster

## Minutes of Learning Mentors' Meeting

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007, 1:15pm  
Selston Arts and Community College

### Present:

Teresa O'Hagan, Ashfield

Mike Wilkinson, SACC

Helen Roberts, Healdswood Infants

Rachel Atchinson, Morven Park

Annie McClimont, AEC

Alison Plant, Ashfield

Jennifer Young, Kirkby College

Maria Williams, Forest Glade

Emma Stevenson, Daneswood,

Dave Clayton, Sutton Centre

Claire Morley, Edgewood

Carole Deakin, Coxmoor

Phil Holding, Rushcliffe,

### Apologies:

Kelly Wiggington, Holgate

Jenny Keenan, Broomhill

Petra Morrish, Spring St.

Denise Marriott

Dianne Ardern, Holly Hill

### Welcome

The group welcomed Mike Wilkinson and Emma Stevenson who were new in post at the beginning of term and Alison Plant who will be starting soon.

### Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Attendance for last meeting established (we hope).

### Impact Monitoring

Some colleagues had brought these to the meeting which improved the return rate!

- LMs who have not yet returned them, please to do so a.s.a.p. unless their Headteacher specifically does not want it completed.

### Training Update

Congratulations were offered to Learning Mentors from Ashfield, Rushcliffe and Tuxford who had successfully completed the final round of LEP training.

Mike and Emma are doing the CWDC Training at the moment, courtesy of the Nottingham/Derby/Ashfield consortium. They fed back on their experiences to date, noting particularly the opportunity to find out what other learning mentors were doing in their schools.

There was some feedback from those who had attended the Nottingham/Derby Conference 'Learning Mentors Matter' in the Summer. Delegates had enjoyed Rob Long's input though they felt he was 'preaching to the converted' given the nature of his audience. Phil has since bought some of Rob Long's books and he recommended them. Some of the workshops had been disappointing especially the one on girls who bully (delegates were asked to copy notes from a handout) and another on family working. On the whole it was felt that it was an affirming day revisiting key messages about the vision for the role and giving delegates the opportunity to network with colleagues, but not a conference that moved people on in their thinking.

### Sharing Good Practice

#### Record Keeping

This was a particular agenda item in response to requests, but disappointingly, only Teresa and Maria had brought examples of record keeping proformas to share with colleagues. However, some other colleagues said that they used the ones that were in the Learning Mentors Toolkit, a document that everyone has anyway.

- AMcC to copy and distribute those brought in by Teresa and Maria.

#### Other

Jennifer has been working with Y7 pupils on body image, delivering a programme to tutor groups, with their tutors present. This has come out of problems being experienced as a result of severe name-calling and pupils reactions to it. She recommended Dove's Campaign for Real Beauty: they provide free resources.

Dave has also been delivering a series of one hour sessions to Y7 pupils. It has focussed on self-esteem and bullying and includes some work on body image. Anecdotal impact to date is that pupils are integrating more successfully.

Mike has also been working with Y7 pupils in tutor groups, using Y11 Circle Time Buddies that were trained by Jacqui before she left. Using Y11 pupils has proved very successful – they have a lot of ‘status’ with Y7 – and are seen as a source of support and information outside of the tutor group sessions. Some mentors have been hearing about CHAT, believed to be a facility offered to pupils at risk of exclusion – possibly in Nottingham.

- AMcC to try to find out.

### **Case Support**

Colleagues were invited to describe cases which were taxing them so that colleagues could suggest next steps. Claire and Maria did so. Each of these cases was complex and sensitive but a number of possible avenues or sources of support were suggested.

Teressa asked about casual admissions and how to manage them (unusually for Ashfield they had had several recent ones). She was directed to the LEP training manual on the subject and also to the DfES publication/download on ‘Managing Pupil Mobility’.

Coming out of Jennifer’s description of her Y7 work on body image, Teressa mentioned that she was coming across numbers of girls who did not eat in front of their friends because it was not considered acceptable. Some of them were seeking out places (ie Learning Mentors’ office) where they could eat without being observed and taunted. It appeared that other mentors were also aware of it happening in their schools. Teressa had been unsuccessful in getting support as it was not considered a problem if girls were not eating in public – it did not necessarily mean they were anorexic. However, the group felt that this no-eating culture among girls was unhealthy. It was suggested that Teressa take it to the next Solution Circle at Kirkby.

Those mentors in the ISK (Integrated Services in Kirkby) described the work of the Solution Circle (it relates to the presentation by Julie Hamisi).

- Contact Julie Hamisi (or Annie if you don’t have her details) to find out dates and venues for Solution Circles.

### **What more can we do in 07/08**

Naran Rathod is due to talk to the group about Solution Focused Approaches at their next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December (venue to be arranged).

Jennifer had more details about a course on Extreme Emotions being run by Roger Appleby – perhaps this could be arranged for the group.

Annie asked how many mentors had received CAF training. The Common Assessment Framework and the role of the Key Professional was discussed. Jennifer has received the training and Carole has been involved in using the framework. Given the number of mentors working closely with other agencies, it would be a good idea to find out about training opportunities and the possibility of accessing this for the group.

- AMcC to explore this.

### **AOB**

A number of mentors are concerned that their role is being diluted as they are timetabled to do other tasks eg supervising in isolation rooms, supporting in class. Details of other work being undertaken were outlined for Annie’s information and this can be fed back to the Partnership Board and at the next Regional Network meeting.

### **Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday December 5<sup>th</sup> 2007, 1:15pm (for a prompt 1:30pm start) at the Children’s Centre next to Broomhill Junior School. Naran Rathod (Educational Psychologist) will be talking to us about the theory of ‘Human Givens’ and Solution Focused Approaches.

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