

## **Big Local Report**

### **Horizons Community Learning CIC Quarterly Monitoring Return**

**1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014**

Horizons Community Learning CIC works alongside the resident-led partnership to engage hard to reach adults who need time and support to develop their aspirations and achieve their potential. Horizons has been providing free learning and education in Ore Valley since 1993. Barriers to learning are addressed in a learner centred way taking into account people's often negative previous experience of learning. The provision of differentiated learning support, venues that are easily accessible and a free crèche facility ensures inclusion. Project beneficiaries are vulnerable adults of all ages in the Big Local area that are not able to access formal provision for a variety of reasons.

#### **Initial Engagement /Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) interviews**

In this period, 2 Horizons development workers met with 29 potential learners in the Big Local area of these, 12 reside in the Big Local area.

(Please see separate sheet with statistics)

These learners consisted of:

- Teenage & single parents
- Older people who feel isolated
- People with literacy and numeracy difficulties including dyslexia
- People with mental health problems
- BME

#### **Our Free Crèche Facility**

- Horizons crèche is voluntarily registered with OFSTED.
- Provides free quality childcare to parents / carers of under-fives.
- Children settle in quickly and are happy.

- Managed by trained, experienced, dedicated and professional staff.
- Following the EYFS framework, each child has an assigned Key person
- Crèche stories provide links for parents/carers between themselves and their child's time in the crèche.
- Review and evaluation has shown positive feedback from parents/carers

## **Courses**

We continue to build on existing courses in Ore. Regular evaluation and review with learners will inform future planning for courses.

Horizons courses are funded by a variety of different strands which include East Sussex County Council (Childrens Services), Orbit, the Big Lottery and the European Social Fund. Some funding criteria is more flexible than others. The WEA also funds some of our courses, however by the nature of their remit, if our course attendance level drops below 10 participants, that course may have to close. This is challenging as some of our more vulnerable learners, who may have chaotic or troubled lives are unable to attend regularly and risk losing their place unless alternative funding can be secured. This can be a real barrier to learning and progression.

*(Please see breakdown on separate sheet for more details of the following):*

- 1 88 enrolments on courses from September 2014 to December 2014
- 2 Ten families are using our crèche.

Of those;

- 1 51 are on accredited courses including Level 2 Childrens Workforce (Childcare) and Level 2 Health and Social Care
- 2 29 are on GCSE Maths and English
- 3 19 are on Basic and Improvers Maths and English courses.

## **Horizons courses with crèche support funded by Big Local:-**

- 1 Art - started 22.9.2014 for 10 weeks. Venue: East Hastings Children's Centre. Eleven learners on the register.
- 2 Confidence and Well Being - started 22.9.2014 for 10 weeks. Venue: East

Hastings Children's Centre. Seven learners on the register. This class will be re-launched soon as a 'Ways into Healthy Lifestyles Champion training.

(Please see a separate flyers attached: Bread Club, Art, and Confidence & Wellbeing)

### **Summary of work of Sally Taylor (IAG worker)**

- Building on existing engagement and networking in the area for at least 2 days per week.
- Embedding links and building on relationships already established.
- Taking referrals from our existing learners, the Children's Centre and the Community Centres in Ore.
- Cross referrals from the Health visiting team and other partner organisations
- Attended the Big Local AGM in December to meet the partnership and stakeholders.
- Attended Learning and Skills group, organised by Horizons at the Bridge in consultation with EFT.
- Delivering fuel poverty advice and switching clinics
- Visited; The Bridge, Ore Community Centre and the Broomgrove, spoken to the with a view to running courses from those venues. Identified and acknowledged engagement already in place and will seek their knowledge and experience of the needs and wishes of their service users.

### **Building a seamless service with added value (including match funding)**

- East Sussex County Council commissioned services funding provides a number of accredited courses including Level 2 Childcare and Level 2 Health and Social Care. In addition, through our commissioned Healthy Lifestyles Service, we provide two 12 week classes training Healthy Lifestyles Champions, one of which is in the Big Local area. Two courses have begun this year with new Health Champions identified to work alongside the existing Champions. Champions are trained to understand and learn how to improve their health and support, refer and signpost others. A new Champion course will start this year in Ore, using

the same model.

- Horizons values its volunteers for supporting and encouraging new learners. A volunteer course will start soon to develop skills and provide them with the relevant information necessary to help others. A learner and volunteer forum will run alongside this. Learners will have the opportunity to be introduced to volunteering by way of a tailor made induction and volunteer training with work experience.

Debbie Lewis, whose post is Big Lottery funded, is supporting development work in the Big Local area. Lottery funding is flexible and helps towards paying for crèche and courses where other funding criteria would not allow eligibility.

- Horizons has been working in Ore with Orbit Housing Association and has a regular presence in their office engaging with local residents.
- Amicus Horizons Housing Association - Their role is in a support and advisory capacity. They also support the four community centres within the area and deliver community projects from them. Horizons has delivered 'Managing your Money' courses to residents.
- Horizons Speak Plus Partnership – supporting and integrating BME families
- ESCC Children's Centre Commissioning provides funding for development work, information and guidance and courses and crèches. As a commissioned service we also have access to venues for courses and the use of purpose built crèche facilities.

### **Planned Future activities in Ore**

- 1 Meet with Sarah Stone from Downs Farm Community Centre with a view to using it as a place for learning and information.
- 2 Shelley Fieldman from The Cake Stand to run a Bread Club at Broomgrove Community Centre. Pilot already taken place (see flyer)
- 3 Learner and Volunteer forum - Date Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 12. till 12.30pm at EHCC
- 4 Healthy Lifestyles Champion training
- 5 New Health & Wellbeing course
- 6 Childcare qualification, Level 2 Certificate (funded by Big Local. (10 week 'Ways

into Childcare' course currently running)

## 7 Basic English

### Summary

**Horizons Community Learning CIC** will continue to build on its successful work in the Ore Valley to improve the life chances of local adults of all ages in through the provision of free, accessible learning, education and volunteering opportunities. Our aim is to open up life chances and learning opportunities for beneficiaries, reduce isolation, improve health and well being and enable them to actively engage in their communities.

We are meeting the targets as detailed in our proposal and will continue to work with Big Local, local residents, stakeholders and partners to address needs within the communities covered by the Big Local East Hastings.

**Some anonymous** quotes from residents who have participated in courses.....

1. "If I wasn't able to use the free crèche, I couldn't do the course. I have nobody to look after my child"
2. "I have really bad depression and anxiety, coming to the Art group helps me to get out of the house"
3. "Everyone in the group is really supportive, we all help each other"
4. "The Tutor's really understanding and if we need extra help, she will give us the time"
5. "The crèche staff are lovely, when it's time to go home, my child doesn't want to leave the crèche"