

**Minutes of the Steering Committee
Connexions Development Fund
The Jarman Centre
10/01/03 @ 1.00pm**

Present

Steve Aitken (SA)
Abdul Mullah (AM)
Frances Carbery (FC)
Jeremy Sharples (JS)
Chris Finney (CF)
Chris Walton (CW)
Michael Jones (MJ)
Sharon Whalley (SW)
John Marsden (JM)
Angie Woods (AW)

Sarah Coupe (SC) on behalf of
Connexions

Apologies

Apologies received from Sue Lindsey.

No contact with John Poulson of the
Youth Service - JM to chase.

1. JS updated the meeting. An initial Return has to be sent to Connexions on 13 January. Our Return states only that a Management Committee has been formed. It was agreed that the Return would be sent to Sarah Coupe with these minutes (Action JM).

2. JS reported (and SC confirmed) that the deadline for spending the Connexions money is 31 March 2003 and that we can expect the first £5000 in about two weeks. All work must cease on 31 March and any under spend returned to Connexions.

3. SC advised that The Report must be written by 31 March 2003.

4. JS reminded the meeting that £30,000 of Connexions money is also available in the next financial year. SC welcomed that fact that this was a project that could be built on in future years (depending on the local management committee's priorities for next year)

5. There was a general discussion about the nature of our project. Research might highlight the need for a worker in Blackburn with Darwen who can champion the cause of gay, lesbian and bisexual young people. This person would co-ordinate work, run groups, provide information, provide an advocacy service and even conduct "audits" of service providers to see how "friendly" they are to young gay, lesbian and bi-sexual people.

6. AW pointed out that it is not possible in two months to survey the huge number of service providers in Blackburn with Darwen. This is the kind of

work that a newly appointed worker might undertake. It is much better to spend some money on quality research with LGB young people and return any under spend. This was the view of the meeting.

7. JM reported that March was fully booked at Coldwell Activity Centre and agreed to try Borewick Hall, Tower Wood and Camelot as possible places for residential weekends. (JM to liaise with AW and CF).

8. AM said he was involved with a community youth group and is also in contact with 20 Community Centres in Blackburn. There are possible linkages here.

9. SC pointed out that Bank Top has an active youth forum and have also been given Connexions funding. We should make contact with them.

10. The question was asked: "Who is going to gather all the information together and write the report?" (Deferred until next meeting).

11. AW suggested that John Smith (Jarman Centre) could do some research. JM suggested Craig Hammond at Blackburn College. The meeting supported the idea of using the College and involving young people there. We would hold John Smith in reserve. AM's contacts with Blackburn Community Centres might be a starting point for researchers.

12. The meeting asked JM to approach Craig Hammond about overseeing this part of the research at a cost of not more than £2000.

13. The meeting decided it wanted to go ahead with 2 residential weekends. One for the age group 13-16 years, one for the age group 16-18 years. These will be in February.

14. FC agreed to collect a list of active Youth Forums in Blackburn with Darwen. We can tap into these in order to get the numbers for the residential weekends. FC also agreed to contact Brooke to see what information they might have.

15. Sue Lindsey will be paid to carry out the more discrete face-to-face questionnaires.

16. SC asked that the minutes included a timetable of events to keep the Steering Committee on track and allow Connexions staff to refer to us should any activities suit their clients (see below).

Activity	Start Date	Completion Date
Residential Weekend (13-16)	A weekend in February	n/a
Residential Weekend (16-18)	A weekend in February	n/a
Research by Blackburn College	End of January	End of February
Sue Lindsey Interviews	End of January	End of February
Information gathered from Brooke, Lancashire Friend and other professionals	Mid-January	End of February
Writing up of the final report	Throughout March	31/03/03

Date of Next Meeting

28/01/03 @ 4.30pm
Jarman Centre