

# NLDC Funding 2009 Meeting Minutes

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009, 9.30am at Felaw Maltings**

**Present:**

Peter Mason	LSC
Nicky Bradford	Suffolk County Council
Steve Pike	Suffolk County Council
Bruce MacGregor	CSV Media
Simon Waldron	SAVO / Suffolk Learning Consortium
Robin Hodgkinson	SAVO / Suffolk Learning Consortium

**1) Apologies: None**

**2) Update on 2008/9 Projects**

Nicky updated everyone on the state of the 2008/09 projects. Most were going very well and the 900 learner target had now just been exceeded with 901 learners registered by the previous Thursday (1,115 learners including repeat learners). One or two projects had found it difficult to get off the ground (Suffolk Artlink Travel Project and Ipswich People's Community Garden's gardening literacy and numeracy courses) but others had exceeded their targets. Robin reported that there were still some learner forms to come in.

Robin and Simon were currently designing a short questionnaire to measure the impact of the NLDC-funded projects. Nicky asked that the questionnaire should include asking organisations to provide a learner case study, This could be anonymous if required.

**3) NLDC Funding 2009/10**

a) There had been a small reduction in revenue funding for Suffolk this year. Despite Amanda's best endeavours to persuade national LSC office to the contrary, there would be no NLDC capital funding for 2009/10.

b) The new criteria had just been announced. In looking through this the group decided that there were very few and no significant changes to the criteria. The target for Suffolk would again be 900 learners overall.

c) Nicky then reported on progress so far on the 2009/10 application. She, Robin and Simon had met on 7<sup>th</sup> July for a first look at the applications which totalled over £127,000. She was hoping to up the amount of money to the Consortium to £80,000 + an £8,000 Consortium Management Fee. She described some of the individual applications and the group agreed that there was a very broad range of activities on offer. The group agreed that NLDC funding should not be used for funding Level 3

courses which meant that the Felixstowe Radio bid and some of the SAVO direct funding bid would not be eligible. The group then looked at the direct funding bids from SAVO, Suffolk Volunteering Federation, Museum of East Anglian Life and CSV Media. After some bartering and negotiation, final figures on these and the Suffolk County Council allocation were agreed. It was also agreed that the Consortium bids funding would have to be reduced back down to the original £72,000 + £8,000 management fee. Simon, Robin & Nicky were meeting again on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July to make final decisions on the £72,000 allocation.

(Attached to these minutes is the final allocation of the NLDC budget for 2009/10, taking into account the decisions reached on July 15<sup>th</sup>. This shows the complete budget of £267,775 allocated and that the potential number of learners is 1,265, far in excess of the 900 target. This therefore allows some leeway if one or two projects are not as successful as hoped. Letters have now gone out to all applicants with the final decisions.)

d) Robin requested that payment schedules for organisations should be made clearer as there had been some confusion this year as to when organisations could submit invoices and when they would be paid. This was agreed. Nicky was also redesigning the RAPRA Checklist and the session plan. Robin would be planning a couple of meetings in late August/early September to which organisations funded by the Consortium would be invited to go through all the paperwork.

## 6) Next meeting

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 2.00pm at Felaw Maltings

Meeting Closed: 12:00 noon.



NLDC funding is provided by the Learning and Skills Council and is managed in Suffolk by Suffolk County Council in association with the Suffolk Learning Consortium

