

PORTFOLIO:

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
BARRY EARP**

Members Learning Charter.

Since my last report I have attended the NWEO (Northwest Employers Organisation) Member Development Committee Meeting in Manchester on the 15th January, when we debated the new Level 2 Charter Review Process. Level 2 needs to provide evidence of impact of Member Development on the work of the Local Authority and the Community and that the Authority is committed to continuous improvement in Member Development. The Member Champions, plus Linda Mattinson and myself are attending a workshop on Charter Level 2 again in Manchester on Thursday, 19th February and in March will be visiting the 2 Local Authorities in the Northwest that have attained Level 2 status, namely Blackpool and Huyton. All members of the City Council need to be involved in the process of attaining Level 2 also deciding the subject which we think will have a "direct impact on the work of the Local Authority and the Community" e.g. Planning, Licensing, Overview and Scrutiny, Community Leadership, I.T. etc. any other ideas, please let me know.

Following a meeting of the ML&DWG it has been decided that we need to do the ground work towards Level 2 this year, and apply for it in 09/10.

Member Development

On the 16th January I attended a Member Development Conference "Leading the Way" in Kendal, organised by South Lakes District Council. This was a well attended meeting, excellent speakers and a chance to network with other Local Authority members involved with the subject.

Awards

The City Council has been recognised for going that extra mile with its “Skills for Life” workforce development initiative by the IdEA and will be presented with an Excellence Award in London in March. This award has only been given to a handful of Local Authorities.

We have also been shortlisted for a national GO Award in two categories. One in our right as “Carlisle City Council” in the special award category for Whole Organisation Approach and the other as part of a nomination for “System Training Group” in the special award category for GO Learning Provider. All nominees will receive a certificate and are invited to attend the GO Award Celebration Dinner on the 18th March at the Plaisterer Hall, London, where the winners will be announced.

Tullie House

We have just received the “Future Governance of Museum Service” report from the consultants and this will be going to the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny in the near future.

The Family Friendly Sunday Sessions are gaining notoriety with the number of visitors increasing steadily. The establishment of the family learning programme reinforces Carlisle’s place as a Learning City. The lunchtime talks by our expert curators and the occasional guest speakers on the first Tuesday of each month are also very popular. The Creative Workshops have been sell-out sessions and the Outreach Work with the Communities have centered on the elderly and “the dads and their children” linking in to the Keith Tyson Nature Paintings exhibition.

C.I.E.P. (Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership)

On Friday 13th February I attended the CIEP Meeting at the Courts, Carlisle on Community Empowerment & Neighbourhood Working Learning and Development Programme which was a half-day event “Understanding the Duty to Involve”. As from April 2009 there will be a legal duty on all public service providers to a) Inform, Consult and/or Involve people in service planning and delivery and

b) Consider devolving appropriate services.

I will be attending the next meeting on the 3rd April a full day event – Learning, Evaluation and Planning in Community Development (LEAP).

Emergency Planning

On the 12th March (1-4p.m.) there will be a half-day workshop for Elected Members at Tullie House on “ your role in an emergency”. The aim is to improve Elected Members’ awareness of Civil Protection issues and to explore their role before, during and after a major emergency. A light buffet lunch will be provided at 12.30 p.m.

Olympic Legacy Launch

On the 24th March I will be attending the regional launch of the We Play/ Olympic Legacy Programme at the Velodrome in Manchester. At the launch, the capital programme plans up to 2012 will be announced of which Lakes Alive will be one of the main features. Kendal Arts International submitted the bid that was approved. There will be 4 distinct elements this year i.e. i) Reach for the Sky which will be on Sunday the 24th May in Carlisle City Centre for the duration of 3 hours. The programme will start with a “fanfare”, continue with public dancing and finish with a crane-based show featuring a troupe of drummers who will make their way through the crowd and are hoisted on a crane to make a human mobile hanging in the sky.

ii) Pilot Projects in June/August

iii) Mintfest (August 28-31) Street Festival in Kendal

iv) Lighting the Wall (Autumn) Installations or performances along Hadrian’s Wall as part of a project running along the whole length of the wall.

Learning City

As part of the Learning City priority Carlisle City Council is working with CHA, Connexions Cumbria and the University of Cumbria on a pilot horticultural project for young people aged 16-19 who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). The group of 6 young people will be working with a tutor from the University of Cumbria to learn basic horticultural skills by clearing some residential areas in Botcherby and restocking with new plants. The project will run one day a week for 10 weeks and the students will work towards an NVQ Level 1 in land based operations. Carlisle City Council is supporting the project by providing each of the young people with suitable protective clothing/equipment and with plants to restock the area.

Other Matters

As from the 26th January I have joined the Historic Quarter Steering Group; I have also attended regular meetings of CAB, the AGM of the Carlisle/Settle Railway Development Co. Ltd, Budget meeting with the Unions and will chair the final Executive Meeting of the ECCP on the 3rd March.

Cllr Barry O Earp

Portfolio Holder for Learning and Development

17th February 2009