

The Lincolnshire Research Observatory Steering Group

Minutes from meeting held on Thursday 3rd June 2004

Present

Research Co-ordinator – Lincolnshire Development (AP) – Chair
Information and Liaison Officer – East Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust (NC)
Data Manager – Connexions Lincolnshire and Rutland (JT)
Research Assistant – North Kesteven District Council (EM)

1. Apologies

Director of Public Health – East Lincs. PCT (MB)
Knowledge Director – Connexions Lincolnshire and Rutland (RT)
Research and Project Officer – Learning and Skills Council (MC)
Research and Project Officer – Learning and Skills Council (DJ)
Tourism Manager – West Lindsey District Council (WO)
Public Health Specialist – Lincs. South West Primary Care Trust (EM)
Performance and Policy Officer – South Holland District Council (HB)
Senior Information Analyst – Lincolnshire NHS Shared Services Partnership (ED)
Research and Policy Officer – LCC Social Services (AD)
Job Centre Plus – (MB)
Corporate Research Officer – LCC Policy and Performance Unit (SO)

2. Minutes from Meeting held on 15th March 2004

Minutes from our March meeting will be re-visited at a later date, although it was agreed that ‘Matters Arising’ should still be covered (see below)

3. Matters Arising

Research and Consultation Calendar is still at ‘sign off’ stage and members will be updated if this goes live prior to the next SG meeting. In addition NC will contact members shortly before this to gather information on any activities that may be appropriate to promote via this facility.

NC still welcomes feedback/comments on the draft LRO user survey handed out at the mast meeting. This is likely to be amended following feedback to date and undertaken prior to this year’s conference in order to provide useful information for this event. Please contact NC on 01522 823400 if you require a copy of this survey.

AP highlighted the importance of continuous evaluation of user requirements and site value, in particular due to the fact that we receive funding from ESF to support the site and partner activities.

4. LRO Site Update

NC provided overview of site statistics for April and May 2004, commenting in particular on the rise in user satisfaction as calculated from site exit surveys. It is likely that this has risen due to an increase in the amount and variety of site content as well as responses to survey submittals including support to users who may need assistance in navigating the site.

Indices of Deprivation 2004 results (ranking by lower level super output area) are now available on the LRO as well as a number of key education datasets recently uploaded by LCC information and Performance Management Team.

A number of key statistics from the 2001 Census (including parish level results) are timetabled to be uploaded within the next fortnight. Registered users who have subscribed to email notifications will receive notice of this.

5. Update on Research Activities and Site Development

AP updated group on progress with interactive front end, which will initially house results from the 2003 Employer Survey and Skills Forecasting Project. This is planned for release during September and SG members will be updated on the progress of this project at regular intervals.

For further information on this activity please contact NC on 01522 823400

AP discussed the possibility of further site development to provide a map based search facility for users where data would be located by selecting an area on a map. An interactive toolkit to look at Indices of Deprivation 2004 results in Lincolnshire is currently being developed using a similar idea to this and will be available on the site towards the end of the month.

NC updated the group on progress with toolkits and informed members that the 'preparing a funding bid' and 'understanding geographies' were being prioritised for completion as it is felt that these will provide the greatest value to the widest number of users. Both toolkits will be appraised by a selection of users prior to being uploaded to the site.

6. The LRO Annual Conference 2004

A date and venue for this event have now been confirmed:-

Thursday 7th October
The Petwood Hotel, Stixwold Road, Woodhall Spa

This will be an all day event combining presentations and discussion groups based around partnership working and current activities across Lincolnshire, including the LRO partnership and website. Members will be provided with further details of this event in due course.

AP invited thoughts/ideas about the conference from the group. Any suggestions for presentations, issues to be addressed or key note speakers etc. can be forwarded to NC or to LRO@linconshire.gov.uk

7. Any Other Business

No other items were raised for discussion

8. Dates for Future Meetings

Dates for forthcoming meetings will be confirmed and circulated in due course.
