

Summary of the Learner Selection & Programme Design Focus Group Meeting
(Focus group of the Community for Effective Practice – Maths and science learner support)

28 March 2011

13h00 – 15h00

VIP Boardroom, Sci-Bono Discovery Centre, Newtown

1. Participation

The second meeting of the Learner Selection and Programme Design focus group was facilitated by Barbara Dale-Jones of Bridge. She was supported by Linda Vilakazi and Carlene Gonzo.

David Kramer	-	Sci-Bono
Michael Peter	-	Sci- Bono
Nombuso Zuma	-	Sasol Inzalo Foundation
Marietjie Vosloo	-	Sasol Inzalo Foundation
Sharanjeet Shan	-	Maths Centre
Namhla Saba	-	Investec
Cromwell Mteto	-	Girls & Boys Town
Mapuleng Moatshe	-	LEAP School Alexandra

2. Discussion Starter

Barbara outline the historical context which led to the creation of the focus group. She noted that the central discussion point for the meeting was understanding “Why this focus group?”. This would inform all subsequent activities in the group within the larger Maths and Science community for effective practice.

In the first brief meeting of the focus group held on 21st February 2011 it was established that members of the were interested in:

- Creation of provider databases and stakeholder mapping of work taking place in selection of learners for development programmes;
- The creation of a document library and resource sharing tool;
- The potential part communication platforms would play in the groups work; and
- The identification of other stakeholders working in this education space who could potentially be included .

3. Why this Focus Group ?

Members noted the need for stakeholder and information database mapping. It would be ideal for all involved to know others working in the same area as duplication of effort would be limited through the use of a composite and accurate database. Issues to be covered in the space included for specific information on selection methods , location of work and impact registered. To date there was no noted opportunity for sharing as innovators were not communicating and limited information available from public sources. Challenges were not shared and neither were the successes. Approaches may be opposed. Synergy would

strengthen the overall effort. Stakeholder mapping to consolidated and coordinated level. Recommend the information that is required. Decide what information to we want. Data parameters would be a start. Decide whether or not selection should happen and if so why.

4. Action Points

Action Proposed	Owner
The stakeholder mapping exercise the group agreed that they would contribute to the identification of fields to be included in the collective database	
It was suggested that a research interview process be carried out through Bridge to identify selection processes currently employed in learner selection	
Colloquia would be conducted in which the members of the focus group would share learnings gathered from service providers using different approaches. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the group would be interested in would be interested in the alternative leadership criteria used – such as Leadership – the degrees of success or challenges thereof; • a discussion with St Stithian's and St Mary's outreach programme representatives to learn their experiences given that one group selects beneficiaries and the other does not. 	
Bridge to create a matrix noting overlapping issues for community members in the three focus groups (it was noted that some of the concerns were similar to those raised in Tertiary Access support group)	
The members of the group would consider career path development as an overall theme of their focus with learner selection as an appropriate areas a sub theme; given the breadth of the discussion was taking.	
Mapping pipeline which shows the disconnect of the development of the learner crop nationally would be developed review activities on a macro level. Action would be defined thereafter.	
AI: Members highlight the issues they need mapping done on a larger scale from here on out.	
Members would suggest other stakeholders to be invited to join forum. can invite here	
Members to use Social Network involvement to create energy after the meeting	

5. Closing Perspectives

Members of this meeting noted that

- They were excited by potential impact;
- Intrigued by the discussions herein given the backlog in learners support adjustments in the girls and boys town establishments;
- Struck by the stats from Sharanjeet – how do we recover the lost 85 % of students?
- Interesting to hear other perspectives, particularly on tertiary access and learner throughput, the part played by high school preparation for life after school was crucial.
- With interest in enriching learners lives picking great ideas from colleagues.
- Intrigued by the learnings shared with potential for impact down the line given some actions.
- Would like to remain a part of the group in order to find potential solutions to improving the number of successful students that can be supported in successful schools.
- Support the creation of a scenario where children are able to transport themselves to a successful future even given the basic 12 or 10 year education.