



Wokingham  
Learning Disability  
Partnership Board

# Minutes from the Partnership Board's **BIG** Meeting

Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2010

## Welcome and Good News!

David welcomed everyone to today's meeting and asked people to introduce themselves and share some good news. Here's what a few people had to say:



- **David, Philip** and **Peter** all had some good news from the CLASP AGM last week. **David** and **Peter** both stepped down as CLASP Directors and **Philip** was voted in as one of the 4 **new** Directors. David was given a certificate to say thanks for all his hard work over the last 5 years, and Peter was given the new job of "Meeter and Greeter" for all CLASP meetings.
- **Jennie** is pleased that the Partnership Board Easy Read Annual Reports are finally ready! If you would like a copy, please contact the Partnership Board at [admin@partnershipboard.org.uk](mailto:admin@partnershipboard.org.uk)
- **Jodie** said that Paul Burstow (Minister for Care Services) has written to all the Partnership Boards in the country to say thanks for completing the annual reports. He said our priorities should continue to be Choice and Control, Employment, Health and Housing.
- **Annette** is a member of our Core Group and has been representing the Council's Executive in a temporary role. She hopes to have this formalised (made official) very soon – and we hope so too!
- **Heather** passed her Archaeology Degree with honours. Congratulations!! (Archaeology is studying really old objects and buildings.)
- **Sarah** is pleased that the advertisement for a new **Project Co-ordinator** for CLASP has gone out.
- **Sara** introduced **Sharon** who has just started working in the Community Team as a part time Occupational Therapist. Welcome Sharon!
- **Denise** has just started to help run the self advocacy group at Ravenswood Village.
- **Paul** went to the annual meeting for "*It's my Life*" (which is a similar group to CLASP in Newbury). Paul said it was great to hear what they've been doing around hate crime and their ideas for this year. They are also interested in making links with CLASP and will invite some CLASP members to their meetings in future.



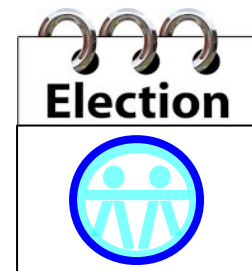
- **Cathy** is looking forward to taking the Take Notice group bowling on Friday! She's also looking forward to her holiday next week and is delighted that she's finally finished her patio at home!
- **Mary** is very pleased with the training that is going on with local opticians for the new Eye Care Project called "**Eye Can**". This project is to help people with learning disabilities get better eye care.



## Partnership Board Co-Chair Elections

Luke stepped down as our Co-chair at the end of June so we need to find a new Co-chair to work with David for the next 18 months. Today's meeting was our opportunity to hear from 2 candidates:

- \* **Paul Kirwan** from **Webcas**
- \* **Cathy Roberts** from **ASD Family Help**



We asked Paul and Cathy to make a poster saying 2 things:

1. Why they would be a good Co-Chair.
2. If they could change something for people with learning disabilities in this area, what would it be?

This is what Cathy said:



**About Me:** I work for ASD Family Help and work with lots of people in CLASP, Take Notice, the Partnership Board and other meetings too. I am a good listener, a good communicator and good at helping people to speak up for themselves when they are in groups or on their own. I respect people's views and make sure they are included. I like to make sure things are easy to understand and person-centred.

**What I would change to make a difference:**

I would help the Co-Chair and the Partnership Board to listen to the views of people with learning disabilities. And then make sure the right people know listen to what they have to say! I would like to consult on things like health, housing, transport, socialising, safety, employment, further education and lots more!

This is what Paul said:

**About Me:**



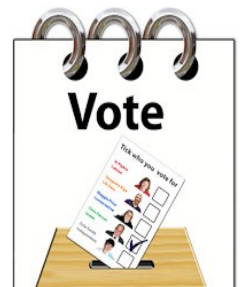
I've been working at Webcas for the last 3 months and am new to the area so have a fresh view on things! I used to work for the Princess Carers Royal Trust and with the LDPB in my old area to make sure people with learning disabilities are heard. I'm good at getting the most out of meetings as I have good communication and listening skills. I am used to working with lots of different groups, not just people with a learning disability, so I get the "bigger" picture.

**What I would change to make a difference:**

People's attitudes! Everyone should see that people with learning disabilities have lots to offer and can be full, active members of the community. So that this can happen, the attitude of professionals and support staff needs to change. Sometimes we focus too much on what isn't possible, and what people can't do. We need to change those thoughts!

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After Cathy and Paul had finished talking through their posters, Jodie explained that everyone would have the chance to think about who they would like to be our next Co-chair during the break - and gave everyone a voting token so that they could vote!



## Services For Me, By Me – Clare Rebbeck

Clare came to talk to us about a new project supporting "User Led Organisations". Clare's job is to find out about all the different User Led Organisations in the Wokingham area, and the services they deliver.



### What is a User Led Organisation ?

A User Led Organisation is one that listens to and includes the people that it is for, in the way it is run and what it does. For example, CLASP is a User Led Organisation because some of its board members are people with learning disabilities, and they get to make important decisions about how CLASP is run. Clare is working to get more groups to run in a User Led way.



**WOKINGHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

The User Led Organisations Project is funded by Wokingham Borough Council until August 2011. Clare has been very busy

meeting the different groups that work with people who get help from Community Care Services (not just people with learning disabilities).

Clare gives free support to Community and Voluntary Groups to help them with:

- their structure (how they are set up and how they can be more User Led)
- funding opportunities (how they can get some money)
- planning for the future

### Why do these groups need Clare's help?

Some groups don't have buildings to work from, or money coming in to pay staff. And they don't always have the time to look for funding. Clare can help with this. In the future, groups will have a better chance of getting money if they can show how they are User Led.



Clare has also been able to help small organisations build links with bigger organisations. An example of this was when Clare got to hear about a group called Deaf Positives that were in need of an office base. She got them linked to Ravenswood who had space to spare.

The launch event for the project was on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July at the Earley Crescent Centre and was a big success! 19 different groups attended and the good news is that 10 groups have already shown an interest in the project.



Council

Clare hopes that her role will help Community and Voluntary Groups and the Council work better together! If you would like any more details about this project, please contact Clare on tel: 07501 228241 or email: [clare.rebbeck@userledorganisations.org.uk](mailto:clare.rebbeck@userledorganisations.org.uk)

## Housing Projects – Jenny Harris

Jenny gave us some information about some new local housing projects.



### Beeches Manor:

The Council is planning a building development in a bit of woodland off the Reading Road, next to the Wokingham Youth and Community Centre. The development is called **Beeches Manor**.



My House

It will have a downstairs and an upstairs. Downstairs will be supported living for older people, and upstairs will be supported living for people with learning disabilities. Upstairs will be fully accessible and have 8 new 1-bedroom flats for people with a learning disability, as well as a flat and office for the staff member on duty. There will also be a flat for overnight guests.



The Council has picked who will build the development and who will provide the support for the older people who move in downstairs. The next step is the formal planning application. (A planning application is when the Council is asked permission for building work to go ahead.

The Council is required to go through this process like anyone else who plans to change a building or build something new. Members of the public get the chance to have a say about the plans.) The Council could be ready to make a decision in September, in which case the builders could start work before Christmas. If that is the case, the building might be finished by Autumn/Winter 2011. We will get regular updates.

The overnight support will be shared by the people living in the flats, but people will have a choice over the support they get during the day and this will be paid for using a Personal Budget.

### Hillside:



There is some land in Old Shinfield, close to Reading. The Council would like to build 9 fully accessible 1-bedroom homes for people with learning disabilities; along with overnight staff accommodation and 2 retirement bungalows for older people. The Council also wants to create a Community Hub in this area too (something like a village hall), there will not be space for both on this site.

The Council Executive have agreed the plan for the housing development and it is now in the pre-planning stage – so it is still a long way off! We will let you know when this informal open meeting is happening, so that people with an interest can go and find out more and have a say about the early plans.

### How can I get one of these new homes?

People will have a council tenancy so they will need to be registered with the Council's Housing Department. If you need help to get on the Council's Housing List, talk to Jenny.

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When we have more information, we will share it with our members.

### Co-chair Elections – Jodie Reichelt



During the break, everyone used their voting token to vote for either Cathy or Paul. The voting was done in private. It was a difficult decision because both people would make a good co chair for our Partnership Board. At the end of the break, the votes were counted, and Paul was announced as our new Co-chair!

David thanked both Cathy and Paul for standing – we are very grateful for all their support and value their contribution to the Partnership Board.

## Self Advocate Workshop – Members of CLASP

Last week, 34 people came to the workshop about **Transport and Travelling in Wokingham**. Kailash Robinson, Timothy Murgatroyd and Tracey Garcia ran the workshop and gave an update on the “You Can Get There” travel project.



Tracey explained how important it is for people to get out and about on their own – to give them some **independence!** The *You Can Get There Project* got some money from the Partnership Board and currently employs 2 Transport Consultants - Tim and Kailash.

Tim and Kailash are helping Tracey put together a plan which will train people in using public transport and walking routes, so they can teach others how to get around on their own!

The group talked about the **Green Cross Code** and how to get around **safely**. They shared ideas on how to cross the road:



Even at a **pelican crossing**, when the green man flashes, you should still look out for cars!



Mobile phones are a **distraction!** Don't take a call if you are crossing a road!



Find a safe place to cross the road - where you can see traffic coming from **both directions**.

On a zebra crossing, don't cross until the **cars have stopped**.



The group also talked about **how to apply for a bus pass or travel tokens** and Tim gave everyone some top tips for using a bus.

Sit by the bell.



Look out for landmarks (things that will help you remember your stop)  
Or ask the driver to help.



While waiting for a bus, step back from the kerb.

They did a quiz to find out how many road signs they knew and ended the workshop with a survey. Tracey asked these questions:

- How many people have a bus pass?
- How many people got to the workshop on their own?
- How many people have a companion bus pass?
- How many people have travel tokens?



Tracey will put the answers into a report and share it with everyone at a **Big Transport Event** which will take place later this year.

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### Bus Questionnaire:

After the feedback from the Self Advocate Workshop, Jodie told us about the [consultation about buses in the Woodley and Earley area](#). The consultation started on 19<sup>th</sup> July and will run for 6 weeks, so there is plenty of time to fill in a questionnaire.

There are 2 different questionnaires. 1 is for people who **do** use buses, and the other is for people who **don't** use buses.

This is our chance to give comments on the local bus service. Partnership Board members say that if transport is not good it can stop people being part of their community and living the life they want. If we don't tell the Council what is good about Public Transport and what needs to change, they will not understand how important it is to people with a learning disability.

## New College Courses – Jodie Reichelt

Jodie gave us an update on the courses run by Bracknell & Wokingham College for people with learning disabilities. Unfortunately, due to cuts to their funding, they will have to stop running courses for people with learning disabilities at the end of the summer term (July 2010). The college call this 'Supported Learning'.



We were sad to hear about this and wrote to them saying that the college courses were important for many of our members, and that we disappointed that we weren't consulted. We got a reply from the principal, Mr O'Keefe, who apologised for not telling us about these changes and said it was a very difficult decision. (If anyone would like to see a copy of the letters, please contact Jodie.)



However, Jodie had some good news for us! Ravenswood Village, Reading College, Addington School, Connexions and the Learning & Skills Council have formed a partnership. They have been talking for some time about providing college courses. From September,

Addington School will be working with Reading College (TVU) to set up a Link course for students who are in their last year (or last 2 years) at school, to get them ready for college.

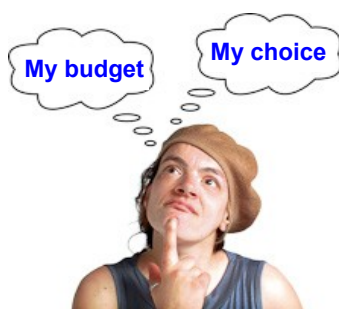


This course will be run from the Annie Lawson School at Ravenswood and will be aimed at people with complex needs. There will be places for 8-10 people in the 1<sup>st</sup> year, and there are plans to get more places for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

## In Control Review – Marlena O'Donnell



Marlena O'Donnell is the Community Care Development Officer at the Council, and she came to talk to us about how the In Control project went.



The In Control project meant that for the first time, people with learning disabilities were given personal budgets and were able to choose and control their services. Personal budgets started in the Council about 3 years ago. Once the In Control pilot ended the Council wanted to look at how personal budgets have affected people's lives – for example are they easy to get and did it make a difference? This is what people said:

### 1. How people use their personal budgets:

They used their budgets on activities like going out and socialising, trips out, arts and crafts, help with budgeting, shopping, short breaks, housework, supported employment and taking part in community based events and projects.



### 2. Choice, control, independence and flexibility:

- People felt that personal budgets are good as people have more control, choice and independence.
- Some people were able to choose where they live and who they live with.



### 3. Health:

Most people said that their health improved since they started receiving a personal budget. They gave different reasons including: being able to take part in more activities and having more regular health checks.

### 4. Feeling safe:

Some people felt safer at home or when they go out as a result of having a personal budget. For example, some people said being able to choose their support worker made them feel safe.

5. **Socialising and maintaining relationships with friends and family:**  
People said that their social life had either improved or stayed the same since taking a personal budget. Most people said it helped them to keep friendships going and see their family.



6. **Services**

Some people said that quality of support services varied, and there was not always a choice of services available.



If you would like to read the report (there is a full version and an easy read version), please ring Marlena on tel: 0118 974 6773 or email: [marlena.o'donnell@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:marlena.o'donnell@wokingham.gov.uk)

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Putting People First is the new way of getting a social care service. The Partnership Board held a consultation about Putting People First in March. This was part of a bigger consultation that involved lots of different groups (not just people with a learning disability).



The feedback from all of these events is being put together into a report, which Marlena hopes will be ready soon.



Some people talked about the good things that Personal Budgets and Self Directed Support have led to, and other people talked about things they were worried about. The Choice and Control Sub Group will be looking at what people said, and will be making a plan so that social care services get better. The first meeting is tomorrow afternoon (22<sup>nd</sup> July) at the Bradbury Centre. Everyone is welcome so that lots of ideas can go into the action plan.

**Anything Else?**



1. **Safer Places:** The Safer Places Project was started up by Take Notice and the Partnership Board. Johan came to one of our Big Meetings to tell everyone about it and has been busy working with the Community Wardens and the local Police encouraging shops and businesses to sign up to the scheme. (Johan has a list of all the Safer Places in our area which we will circulate to everyone.)

We have some more good news! Sainsburys in Winnersh have heard about our scheme and would like us to do some awareness training around disabilities with their staff!

2. **Regional Health Meeting:** Last week Mary, Ann and David went to a Regional Health Meeting in the Isle of White. It was a really good meeting and one of the topics they talked about was people with learning disabilities who are in prison. There will be a letter coming out soon asking Partnership Boards to think about what they are doing locally to support this group of people.



3. **Eye Care Project - "Eye Can":** The Good Health sub group found out from the Annual Health Checks that people with learning disabilities weren't having their eye health looked at. The sub group asked for some LDDF money to run a pilot project that looked at eye care for people with learning disabilities in the Wokingham area.



The project has just started and the response from local opticians has been great. The first training session with opticians took place last Monday and it went really well. The next stage of the project is to do some awareness training with people with learning disabilities, and to put out some information about the project. There will be 3 opticians taking part in the project and soon Mary will let everyone know where they are soon!

4. **Paul Kirwan, Co-chair:** David congratulated Paul on his new role as Co-chair and is looking forward to working with him. David also thanked Cathy for standing in the election. We all hope that Cathy will carry on being an important member of our Partnership Board.



That was the end of the meeting.

**The next Big Meeting will be on...**

**Date:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2010  
**Time:** 10am-12noon  
**Where:** Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham

