



Wokingham
Learning Disability
Partnership Board

Minutes from the Partnership Board's BIG Meeting

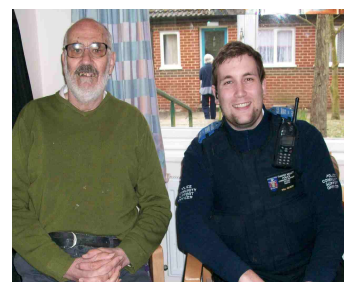
Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham

Tuesday 29th March, 2011

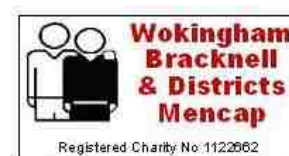
Welcome and Good News!

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** went to a conference in Bracknell for Partnership Boards in the South East. They invited the co-chairs from every Partnership Board and the Valuing People Leads from each area. David, Paul, Jenny and Jodie went from Wokingham. David gave a presentation about the good work we have done to make people safe in the community.
- **Jodie** had 2 pieces of good news about courses that the Partnership Board is supporting! '**SPLAT**' is an arts & crafts course aimed at younger people in transition, held during the Easter holidays at Maiden Erlegh School. '**Choices**' is a course run by Berkshire Women's Aid to help vulnerable women make safe and healthy relationship choices.
- **Anthony** is looking forward to going to the theatre on Saturday in Woking.
- **Alice's** job as Support Broker will be coming to an end on 31st March, but the good news is that from 1st April, she will be a Director of Support Horizons.
- **Philip** is looking forward to his interview for the Safer Champions job.
- **Julie White** is very pleased to be back working on an Inclusion Project with the Partnership Board for a short period. She will be updating the Advocacy Plan and is busy meeting lots of people to find their views. If you have any suggestions, please contact her through the Partnership Board.
- **Peter** is excited about the "Farewell Do" for Will this afternoon. Will is our Police Community Support Officer who has worked closely with CLASP and the Partnership Board. We will all be very sorry to see him go.



- **Julie Weller** loves her newly-decorated home and is looking forward to getting a new carpet too.
- **Mary** has been asked to present at an International Health Conference in China in the summer.
- **Phil** has just started working at the Wokingham Volunteer Centre and it was first time at our Big Meeting - welcome Phil!
- **Margaret** has just had a wonderful holiday in USA to see her son get married.
- **Sue's** brother has difficulty using words to communicate, so telephone conversations have been very hard for them. Sue's good news is that she and her brother now use skype (a video link computer aid) and sign language to keep in touch.
- **Karyn** is pleased with the £360 that Wokingham day centre members and staff recently raised for seriously ill local children
- **Heather's** very pleased that Wokingham & Bracknell District Mencap has got their funding for next year, and have 5 new part-time jobs available
- **Julie Willis** is looking forward to organising another Speed Dating Event planned for the end of May.
- **Marlena** had 2 pieces of good news - Choice Champions held some training for Webcas staff last week; and Marlena will be doing a half marathon for cancer research.
- **Sarah** said that CLASP has a job vacancy for a Reporting Administrator for someone with a learning disability.



Link Course – Val Wright

Addington School, Ravenswood Village, Reading College, Connexions and the Learning Skills Council have all been working together to set up a Link Course. This 1 year, pilot course is for young people with high support needs who are in their last year at school, to get them ready for college. Val Wright from Addington School came to let us know how it is going!



The Link Course started last September and students from Addington School have been going to the Annie Lawson School at Ravenswood Village, every Tuesday. The students have been joining in with new activities, making friends and experiencing life in a college which will help them settle into this environment when they leave school. Ravenswood have the



right facilities to help people with high support needs feel comfortable in a college environment (for example accessible toilets, lifts and smaller, quieter sessions) as well as a huge variety of activities. The students have been horse riding, swimming, cooking and worked on a drama production of 'A Christmas Carol'.



Val said all the students are really enjoying the Links Course and thanked everyone who has been involved in getting it started as it has made such a difference to the students involved. Val hopes they will secure funding to run another course starting September 2011, which will be 4 days a week, 10am-3pm.



Changes to Disabled Car Parking – Alison Dray

The Council are thinking about making changes to the disabled parking spaces in the borough. It will only apply to the parking bays in the Council-run car parks - **not** the bays on the street or in private car parks. The Council will be holding a public consultation next month, but in the meantime, Alison wanted to find out what we thought.



What is disabled parking?

If you have a disability and you drive, you can get a blue badge from the Council. It lets you park in special bays on the street and in car parks so you are nearer to where you want to go. If you don't drive, your main carer can use the blue badge when you are travelling together.



Why does the Council want to make changes?

Blue badge holders have told the Council that there are not always enough disabled parking bays available in their car parks.



What changes are the Council suggesting?

Most of the council-run car parks have parking time restrictions (this means a set time people can park) – some are 2 hours and some are 4 hours. If you park for longer than that, you will get a ticket and will have to pay a fine. But the disabled bays in the council-run car parks have **no** time restrictions so people can park in them all day. This stops other blue badge holders from using the parking space. Is this fair? The Council wants to find out what we think.



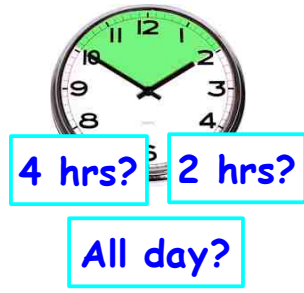
What happens next?

The Council will let people know about the consultation. They will put notices in the newspaper, signs in the car parks and send information out to disability groups. Then people have 21 days to say what they think – they can contact Wokingham Direct or write to the Council. Alison and her colleagues will collect all the feedback together and pass it on to the Council Executive (which is a meeting of the Councillors) on **26th May**. The Councillors will consider all of the feedback and make a decision. If the changes are agreed, the new parking rules will start on **4th July 2011**.



We thought about the 2 different options:

1. Have a parking time limit of 4 hours or 2 hours (the same as other drivers). This would let more blue badge holders access the bay during the day.
2. Leave it as an all-day parking space which might mean only 1 person can use the bay, but they will have the time to do all the things they need to do.



We also had another idea:

The Council could make more disabled parking bays, where they know it is a problem. Alison, said this is a possibility but they have to take into account the views and interests of the whole community. If they make more disabled parking bays there will be fewer spaces for other drivers.



Here are some of the points that we made:

We are fed up of people abusing the current system. Will this stop people who don't need to park in the disabled bays, from using them? For example, some people will borrow the blue badge when they don't have a disability and they are not travelling with the person they support.



This isn't about 'policing' to find out whether someone is allowed to park there. It's to see if people want the same parking time limits for all drivers.

The WBC car park supervisors check that badges are displayed properly but can't do more than that.

It can take quite a long time to get in and out of my car. A 2 hour limit wouldn't give me enough time.

CLASP, the Partnership Board and the Bradbury Centre often have visitors who use the disabled parking bays in Rose St. 2 hours isn't long enough for meetings and other appointments.



I will feedback this point

Could we have more disabled bays in the Rose St car park because it is next to the Bradbury Centre?



Disabled bays are a percentage of the total number of spaces in car parks - but I will feedback this suggestion. It could be something to consider in busy car parks.

We had a vote in the room and most people felt that the Council should **not** introduce time-restricted parking for blue badge holders. This was mainly due to the shorter time limits (i.e 2 hours not leaving enough time for people). Most people thought that if the Council spent time instead making sure that the people who use the disabled parking bays really need to, this would solve any problems.



Alison will take our suggestions back to the Council and asked people to contact Wokingham Direct if they had any more ideas.

Self Advocate Workshop – members of CLASP

Last week, the Self Advocate Workshop was about the 2011 National Census. The census is a count of how many people there are in the country. It is information about how we live and where we live. The theme for the census is "helping tomorrow take shape" so the icebreaker was making shapes out of paper – called origami. People introduced themselves and said what they would do if they were king or queen for the day.



Julie asked a few people at today's Big Meeting what **they** would do if they were king or queen for the day.

Garry said: I'd shake people's hands and go to Windsor Castle!



Jennie said: I'd make all chocolate calorie-free!

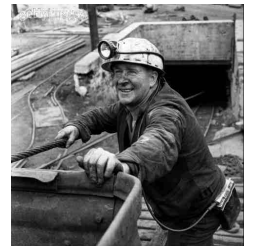
Karyn said: I'd give everyone the day off!

Peter said: I'd bring the taxes down!

Members at the self advocate workshop then talked about why the census is important and what the government does with the information – which is to plan our services. We can use census information too for finding our relatives (researching our family history).



At the end of the workshop, they talked about how jobs have changed over the years. In the 1911 census there was a job called a Bogie Man, which was someone who pushed coal trolleys in the mines – that job isn't around any more! Also in the 1911 census, nobody with a learning disability would have been included in the census. People with learning disabilities were kept away from everyone in asylums.

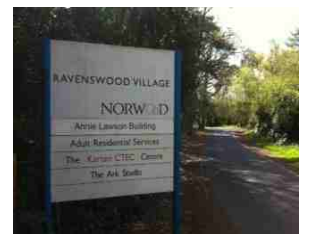


It's good that these days, everyone has the opportunity to let themselves be counted, so it's important that everyone has a say in what is written about them!



Developing Education Opportunities – Karen Thackray and Julie Goodyear

Ravenswood Village would like to put on some new courses, so Karen and Julie wanted to find out what activities our members would like to do and things they would like to learn.



They suggested 3 areas of learning:

- Life
- Work
- Leisure



They have used the information from our self advocate workshop back in October last year to start to understand what people would like to learn about (for example first aid, relationships, understanding your support and feeling good about yourself).



Here are some more suggestions, from today's meeting:

Making cards

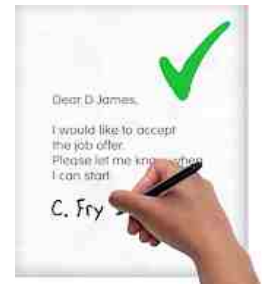
Singing in a choir

Taking photos and putting them on the computer.

How to set up a business - Social Enterprise

Work skills for people looking for a job. Things like writing a cv, understanding job adverts & job interview techniques.

The good news is that some of these suggestions for courses (like job skills) are already being run by Norwood Ravenswood, from their services in London and will be starting at Ravenswood Village soon.



There were also a couple of questions about money:

Q: How will these courses be funded?

A: Ravenswood is a charity. There will be a nominal charge (small amount) People will need to pay for each course. The rest will be raised from donations, grants and fundraising.

Q: Can people use their personal budgets for these courses?

A: Yes!



Karen and Julie will be talking to other groups to check they don't run the same courses.

The consultation document is attached to these minutes, if you have any more ideas please fill in this form and return to Karen and Julie, so that they make sure the courses they plan are the things people with learning disabilities in Wokingham want.

What would you like to learn about?		NORWOOD Change a life
LIFE 	For example: How to be more confident	
WORK 	For example: How to understand a job advert	
LEISURE 	For example: How to sing in a choir	

Please forward any ideas and comments either by completing this form or sending a short message to Karen Thackray
email: admin@nwcw.org.uk
or post to: The Karten Centre, Ravenswood Village, Nine Mile Ride, Crowthorne, Berks, RG45 6BD

Learning Disability Development Fund – Jodie Reichelt

Every year we get Learning Disability Development Fund to spend on groups and projects to carry out the aims of the Partnership Board. Last year the Council put this money on hold but now some of the money has been released – around £28,000. Jodie has been busy meeting the groups (who came to last year's bidding round and we agreed that we wanted to support them) to see if they still needed money for their project, or whether their situation has changed.



This is what has been agreed so far:

Inclusion Project

Allocation: £12,000

We have agreed to buy in some agency worker time from Support Horizons, to employ Julie White to work on the Inclusion Project. Julie is working out of the Partnership Board office and will work with CLASP and other local advocacy groups.



Community Allotments

Allocation: £2,124

This bid was to make the Community Allotments more accessible to people in wheelchairs, by building a concrete path to the poly-tunnels and building some raised beds. Since then, they have managed to get some materials and worker time for free so they do not need as much money as they asked for in May 2010.



Male Carers Group

Allocation: £1,762

This is to continue the successful social group for male family carers run by ASD Family Help. They have agreed to make sure they are prioritising male family carers of adults with learning disabilities living in the Wokingham borough, in particular people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD).



Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA)

Allocation: £500

BWA run a course called "Choices" around safe and healthy relationships for women in difficult or risky relationships. They have adapted it for women with learning disabilities and will be running the 6 week course from Rose Buddies, starting in May. (It will be run from Rose Buddies so that women who have attended the course can get continued support from Lisa.)

BWA

berkshire women's aid

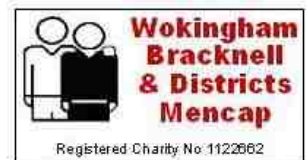


There are 2 more projects, we **plan** to support:

@ The Acorn

Allocation: To be agreed

Mencap have plans to set up a new social club for people with complex needs (PMLD), called '@ The Acorn'. They have been able to get some funding for this project, and have asked the Partnership Board for the rest. We are working with Mencap to help shape the project and understand how much money they need.



Employment Skills Course

Allocation: To be agreed

CBEBP have bid to do some employment work with young people in transition to give them skills to find work. Jodie will be meeting with CBEBP and Trina Reeves to talk about the project. We want to see how we can get this project to link with employment support we offer people as adults – to give people better work chances.



These are the projects that we were **not** able to support:

Diversity Day

This took place last September so the money is no longer needed.



Come Dine At Mine

This project has already started with Ravenswood residents, and will run until November. Tutors are committed to this course and will not be able to run another until this one finishes. We hope to be able to support this project another time.



Internet Cafe

The Internet Cafe moved from the Bradbury Centre to the library, which is free, so they no longer need the money.



If you would like a full report about how we have spent the Learning Disability Development Fund, please contact the Partnership Board.

Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Strategy for Public Health in England – Community Health Team

The Government have a new strategy (plan) for public health in England called "Healthy Lives, Healthy People". They want to know what everyone in the country thinks about it. Today was our opportunity to give Mary, Julie and Richard (from the Adult Community Health Team) our views on the new plan so they can feed back to the Department of Health. It is important to give our views because we know that people with learning disabilities do not always get the same healthcare as other members of the community.



What does Public Health mean?

It means helping the whole community keep healthy and well. Things like making sure as many people as possible can work, and helping people stay fit as they get older so they don't need to go into hospital.



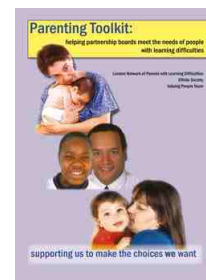
There are 6 sections in the plan, and we went through each section asking ourselves "What is important to people with learning disabilities and family carers?"



Section 1: Starting well - Looking after mums, families and babies to give every child the best start in life.

This is what our members had to say:

- ➔ More training and advice is needed to help people understand how to be a good parent – this help should start early, even before they start planning a family.
- ➔ People with learning difficulties should get good sex education at the right level.
- ➔ People should be supported to think hard about their choice to be parents – it is their right, but like any person making this decision you need to plan and be sure it is the right time (things to think about include if you have enough money, what support you need and how you will look after your child).
- ➔ Support should be given to parents before they get into difficulties and can't look after their children.



Section 2: Developing well - Keeping teenagers and children healthy and safe.

This is what our members had to say:

- ➔ We would like to see more sports activities and events for people in wheelchairs and people who have mobility difficulties.
- ➔ We talk a lot about the experience of young people and families when they move from Children's Social Care Services to Adult Social Care Services. These same young people also go through a transition in healthcare services. When they are children they are helped by paediatrician, as adults they get a different service and some people's experience of this have not been good.
- ➔ There were lots of really good ideas and feedback given in the Transition Workshop at our AGM, we need to make sure this is included.



Section 3: Living Well - Having healthy lifestyles by not smoking, eating healthily, good mental health etc.

This is what our members had to say:

- ➔ Having a job helps with good health
- ➔ Exercise is important
- ➔ Having a Health Action Plan is important



Section 4: Working Well - More people being able to work

This is what our members had to say:

- People need help to understand and meet the responsibilities of work (like getting to work on time).
- Travel training helps people be more independent.
- Volunteering gives people work experience and increases their confidence.



Section 5: Ageing Well - Helping people stay fit as they get older so they don't need to go into hospital.

This is what our members had to say:

- People need help to access leisure activities, like swimming.
- People need the right aids and adaptations in people's homes to help them with daily activities.
- People with dementia need a different kind of support service.
- Mobility aids such as wheelchairs and walking frames, help keep people independent.
- Extra support is needed for people with learning disabilities who are carers (for example living with elderly parents).
- People need clear and easy read guidance on where people should go for help – for example the Council, police, neighbourhood watch.



Section 6: Public Health England

The government want GPs to be more involved in public health. Local councils will make sure that social care, the NHS and public health work together so that people in a local area are healthier.

This is what our members had to say:

- Annual Health Checks are very important. The GPs send out letters inviting people to come to the surgery, but then if they don't attend, there is no follow-up. Maybe, link nurses can make sure these people are picked up.
- Doctors need training in how to work with people with learning disabilities.
- Projects such as the Eye Know project are a really important way of making sure people with learning disabilities get equal access to health care.
- Better access to well-women and well-man clinics, is needed.
- PCTs are ending soon, and new GP consortias will be responsible for planning local health services. We need to



make sure there will be people in the consortia to represent the needs of all vulnerable adults.

- We need social services and health services to work together, better.
- Respite is important.



Mary thanked everyone for their input and will put all the comments together and share with the Department of Health.

Anything Else?

The Valuing People Support Programme will be coming to an end on 31st March 2011 - but Valuing People is still the main plan for learning disability.



We need your help to make sure the Partnership Board works on the things that are most important to people with learning disabilities and family carers. Please let the Partnership Board team know what things you would like us to talk about at the Big Meeting. We would especially like to hear from people with learning disabilities and family carers.

That was the end of today's meeting.

The next Big Meeting will be on....

Date: **Wednesday 18th May, 2011**
Time: **10am-12noon**
Where: **Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham**

