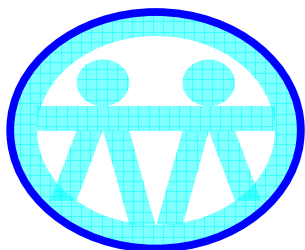


Wokingham  
Learning Disability  
Partnership Board

# Annual Report 2009

*What the Partnership Board  
has been up to in 2009 and  
what we plan to do in 2010.*

# Introduction



The Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Board has been running for 9 years (since 2001). The Partnership Board's aim is to make sure that people with learning disabilities have the same rights, choices and opportunities as everyone else.

Valuing People Now is the Government's strategy (big plan) for people with learning disabilities. Written in 2009, it built on the Government's first plan for learning disability called Valuing People (2001). Valuing People Now explains what the Government will do to make things better for people with learning disabilities, and what it expects different services to do. It is a 3 year plan. The job of the Partnership Board is to make the things in this plan happen for people with learning disabilities in the Wokingham borough.



The Partnership Board brings together lots of people from the local area to work on making things better for people with learning disabilities. Anyone who has an interest or is involved in some way with learning disability, can take part. Some people get in touch to find out useful information, and other people take a more active role in helping the Partnership Board with its work. What our members say about us:

My son is 25years old. Information (from the Partnership Board) is very important to me as I get to know more of what is happening.

I am inspired, touched and fired into action when I find out what people with learning disabilities are doing, and what they want to do. The Partnership Board helps people do this.



**April 2009**



**March 2010**

## About this Report

This report talks about the work of the Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Board from April 2009 to March 2010. It will help our Partnership Board plan what happens next year.

For the first time Partnership Boards across the country have been asked by Government to complete a self assessment (a tool to check what is working well and what needs to change). The form (or template) asked questions about lots of things. It has helped us bring together all the information we have about the needs of people with learning disabilities in the Wokingham borough and their carers. The report had to be checked and signed off by people with learning disabilities and family carers involved with the Partnership Board.

**BUT** – the template was **not** in easy read, and didn't give us the space to talk about all of the good work the Partnership Board has done about things like hate crime, relationships, health and helping people with learning disabilities play a positive part in their local community.

**SO** – we have written this easy read report in our usual style so we can cover all of the things that are important to us locally.

If you would like to see a copy of the full self assessment, please contact the Partnership Board office.

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**Report**



## The Partnership Board Team



Since our last report we have 2 different co chairs. David Chaffe and Luke Joy-Smith were elected by our members at our Annual General Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009. They have been doing a great job of running our meetings and making sure people know about the work of the Partnership Board. Sadly for us, Luke is changing his job. This means he will be standing down as co chair in the Summer 2010. We will be looking to elect a new co chair at our Big Meeting in July.



Jodie Newman got the job of Development Manager in 2009. Her role is to check how we are doing with Valuing People, help the Partnership Board make plans and carry out its work.



Jennie Grieve is the Partnership Board Administrator. She keeps everyone up to date with what the Partnership Board is doing and helps arrange our meetings.



As well as being our co-chair David Chaffe is an Inclusion Worker along with Margaret Gerrard. They support people who use day services to get involved with the Partnership Board.



Julie White worked as an Inclusion Worker for the Partnership Board since 2003. Sadly, Julie left at the end of April. We are working with CLASP to see if they can carry on with this inclusion work.

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# Partnership Board has a new home!

A really big change for us, is that we now have a host. The host gives us some office space and helps us look after our money. In 2009 we invited organisations to apply to be our host. We had some good proposals, and after holding interviews we decided that Support Horizons would make the best host, because they:



- are good value for money
- had good facilities (central location and ready to go)
- offered good support (IT and phone line)
- are a good organisation (people with learning disabilities have a say in how it is run)



This is an important step towards us becoming our own independent organisation.

We moved in on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010. On 25<sup>th</sup> February we had our official office opening. We were pleased to see some new people, who came along to find out what we do. Our good news also got a mention in the local paper.



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## Telling people what we do

We have a new leaflet about the Partnership Board. The leaflet has been put in community places, taken



to schools and a mobile information unit that visits Gypsy Roma Traveller sites.

In 2009 we also started work on our new look website: [www.wokinghampartnershipboard.co.uk](http://www.wokinghampartnershipboard.co.uk).

A small article about the Partnership Board was included on a flyer that was sent out with people's council tax bills, that is over 63,000 homes in the Wokingham borough!



Every year we celebrate National Learning Disability week. In June 2009 we had information stalls at the main council offices, in Wokingham town centre and Woodley.

We wrote to the managers of the main organisations that support people with learning disabilities in the Wokingham borough to ask them what they are doing to tell the staff teams about Valuing People Now. We did a talk about the Partnership Board and Valuing People Now at the day service staff training day. While, the Inclusion Workers have been running Valuing People Now workshops for people who use day services.

A letter has been sent out to all local family carers inviting them to be part of the Partnership Board.

Over 260 people regularly get information from the Partnership Board. We write a newsletter 4 times a year and send out notices every week.

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# Events and Meetings

The Partnership Board has 3 main different meetings. Each meeting takes place every 6 weeks:



- **The Big Meeting** is an open meeting where we can share information and find out people's views on important issues (consultation).
- **The Core Group** helps with the day-to-day business of the Partnership Board and keeps an eye on how we are getting on with Valuing People.
- **The Self Advocate Workshops** are one way of making sure we listen to what is important to people with learning disabilities. In 2009 some of the things we talked about were: 'how to keep safe using the internet', 'how to be a good citizen', 'how to look after your money' and 'how to find a job'.



75 people came to the Annual General Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010. We celebrated the Partnership Board's good work and started to make plans for 2010. Our members said: “It was lovely to network and hear all the great stuff that is going on” “People got to put their ideas forward” “The involvement of people with learning disabilities was incredible and a real example of good practice”.

Every year we have a planning event for the leads of the sub groups called the Leads Event. We have 9 sub groups, more about the sub groups later.

People from Wokingham are part of the Regional Forum of People with Learning Difficulties. 2 local representatives from the group, Phillip Pearce and David Chaffe have been invited to join the Regional Programme Board.



In October 2009 Valuing People wrote guidance on how to be a good Partnership Board. The Wokingham Partnership Board got a mention; it used the way we run our Partnership Board as a good example for other Partnership Boards. The Core Group is checking how well we are doing against this guidance.

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## Learning Disability Development Fund



Learning Disability Development Fund or LDDF is money from Big Government to help make Valuing People happen. In 2009/10 the Partnership Board had £97,580 to support projects that make a real difference to the lives of people with learning disabilities in the Wokingham area. We also put money aside to cover the running costs of the Partnership Board.

Every year groups are invited to bid for the money. The Core Group, which includes people with learning disabilities, family carers, people from the Council, Primary Care Trust and private, voluntary and community groups agree how to spend the money. A list of groups that benefited from LDDF can be found at the end of this report.



The next part of this report looks at how well the Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Board (and groups and people linked to the Partnership Board) are getting on with making Valuing People happen. It is based on the objectives (headings) in Valuing People Now.

## 1. Including Everyone

### What is it about?

Valuing People is about all people with a learning disability. Valuing People Now names some groups, who we need to make sure are not left behind as services change and get better. These groups are:

- people with lots of needs
- people from different backgrounds and cultures
- people with Autism
- people who are in prison or have been in prison

Valuing People Now also says it is important that family carers are well supported and their voices are heard.

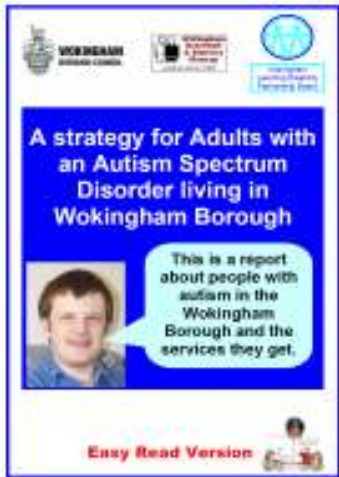
### What did we do in 2009?

We have a member that sits on Wokingham's BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) Forum. In 2009 a local report was written, about the views of people from BME backgrounds. The report talked about what people thought about their local community, but it did not talk about people with disabilities from



different backgrounds and cultures. We wrote to the Council to tell them that this important group was missing from the report.

In May 2009 Wokingham Borough Council ran a week of events and activities to promote and support people with autism. To mark the end of 'autism awareness week' the Partnership Board hosted a celebration event.



The local autism plan for people with autism was agreed. CLASP did a great easy read version of the plan. The Partnership Board wrote to the Council, the Primary Care Trust and the Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust to ask them what they are going to do about the recommendations (ideas) in the plan.

One of the big things in the report was that people did not know enough about autism. The Council has put on some training for all of its staff. The training is run by someone with autism. There is a one day introduction and 2-day advanced course. The Council have also paid Wokingham Mencap to run autism training for other groups. This is going really well and they have already trained over 200 people from all different services and parts of the community.



The Government asked what people wanted to see in a national plan for people with autism (called A Better Future). We talked to our members at a Big Meeting and sent off the Partnership Board's feedback.

In 2009 LDDF money supported the Friday Alternative, a social group for adults with autism.

ASD Family Help employed an advisor who gives information and support to people with autism, their families and supporters.

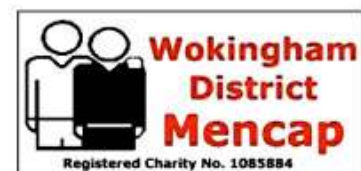
ASD Family Help have also set up a social group for male family carers.

Wokingham Mencap have the Partnership Board lead for family carers. They continue to hold regular coffee mornings and lunches to give family carers a chance to meet each other, find out information and have their say about issues that affect them. The Family Liaison worker post gives support, information and advice to family carers.

The Carers Sub Group has got bigger and meets regularly to work on their action plan. The group is working hard to get more families involved in the Partnership Board.

### **What do we plan to do in 2010?**

Our big campaign for 2010 is including people with complex needs. At our Annual General Meeting in January 2010 people had lots of ideas about what the Partnership Board can do for this campaign. The core group is working on a plan that includes: getting positive stories about people with complex needs to the whole community, finding out how many people with complex needs live in Wokingham and help for people with complex needs to get a job. We will also



be using LDDF money on projects that help make this happen.

We are planning to pay a researcher to find out what people with learning disabilities and their families, from different backgrounds and cultures think about the Wokingham community. We want to know what the Partnership Board can do to make life better for this group. We will set up a small group to work with the researcher. The researcher will write a report and the Partnership Board will hold an event to tell people about it.

The Council is setting up a group to look at the things in the autism report and make a plan. The group will include important people from different services and organisations, who are able to make a difference.

The Carers Sub Group has been working with the Council to plan National Carers Week. There will be a week of events and activities for family carers in June.

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## 2. Choice and Control (Personalisation)

What is it about?

Personalisation means people with learning disabilities having choice and control over the supports and services they use and the lives that they lead.



## What did we do in 2009?

In December 2009 the Council ran an event about personal budgets. The Partnership Board helped organise the event and get people along to it. Feedback from the day was good and afterwards some people felt they would like a personal budget.

The Council is working to make information about personal budgets and self directed support easy to understand. They have worked with Partnership Board members and CLASP to write easy read guides including “how to choose your support” and “ways to manage your personal budget”.

The Council is making some big changes to adult social care. The Partnership Board has run meetings to tell people about these changes and find out what they think. We wrote to the Council with our members' views.

Partnership Board self advocates took part in a training course called 'Choice Champions'. The training was to help people with personal budgets talk to others about self-directed support.

## What do we plan to do in 2010?

The Choice and Control Sub Group has not met for a while, so we need to get that up and running again. The group will make a new plan.

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# 3. Having a Life

## What is it about?

Making sure all people with a learning disability:

- get good healthcare
- have a choice about where they live and who they live with
- have the chance to go to college, get a job and enjoy leisure and social activities
- have the right to relationships and to have a family

## What did we do in 2009?

People with learning disabilities have helped make Health Action Plans easy to read.

A learning disability nurse did some training about diabetes and works with the Diabetes Service to make sure we know how many people with learning disabilities have diabetes and that they get the right support.

The Fun Fit Club is a group to help people with learning disabilities lead a healthy life. People that take part learn about how to be healthy and lose weight.

A support group for people with epilepsy was set up. The aim of this group is to help people understand their epilepsy and help them manage their condition better.





The Health Sub Group has worked with cancer services to make sure people with learning disabilities know about and can access cancer screening (a check up to see if you have cancer).

2 people with learning disabilities and a family carer worked with the Learning Disability Nurse at Royal Berkshire Hospital to train trainee GPs (doctors).

The Health Service (Primary Care Trust) has to do a self assessment (check to see how well they are meeting the health needs of people with learning disabilities). They had a Big Health Check day and invited members of the Partnership Board to give their views about local health services.

In June 2009 the Partnership Board worked with Dimensions to run a Housing Conference.

The Learning Disability Team have worked to get up to date information about people with learning disabilities and their housing needs. They have a spreadsheet (list) of where people are living and who wants to or needs to move. Where someone is planning to move they have information about the sort of housing the person will need and when they will need to move.

We want to see more people with learning disabilities owning their own homes. The Council applied for some money to set up 3 Shared Ownership schemes (this is where you buy part and rent part of your home).





The Transition Sub Group has updated the Transition Handbook. This is a guide for family carers of young people with learning disabilities (aged 14 year up). It has lots of useful information about the transition process (moving from being a child to an adult) and local services and support.



Another group has been set up to look at making transition reviews for young people more person centred. This was first piloted (tried out) in 2005. The group is using learning from the first pilot to see how they can make review meetings for all young people with learning disabilities in Wokingham more inclusive and covering the person's whole life.



The Employment Sub Group has worked hard to find out what services and opportunities are available to help people find and keep a job. As a result more people have joined the sub group.

We do a really good at helping people with learning disabilities get a job, we are one of the best areas in the country.

We want to make the Council and the Health Service good role models in employing people with disabilities. We wrote to Wokingham Council, Berkshire West NHS and Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust to find out what they are doing to employ people with learning disabilities and how we can help.



In July 2009 Janine Sewell was invited to talk about her job doing reception work at the 'Valuing Work Now' conference in London.



The wow4me website helps people find out what is going on in their local area. In August the Partnership Board and CLASP held a celebration event at the local library, to tell more people about the website and launch the prize draw. People send in reviews of social and leisure places they have visited and once a month someone wins a prize.

There are lots of social activities and groups for people with learning disabilities in and around Wokingham. In 2009 CLASP launched a social club for people with learning disabilities, called the Icebreaker Club. There are also groups for the whole community that welcome people with learning disabilities, like Two Left Feet (fortnightly dance classes for everyone).



The Relationships Sub Group helped to update the Council's Relationship Policy for people with learning disabilities.



The group carried out a survey to find out what information family carers need to support their relative around sex and relationships. As a result the group ran the first of 3 workshops in March 2010. The workshop was about self esteem and social skills.



**In April 2009 we ran a speed dating event with Club Marmalade (a nightclub event run by people with learning disabilities).**

**The Relationships Sub Group helped set up the Community Life Group. This is a group for people aged 18-35 years and aims to teach people about everyday things such as personal health, emotions, keeping safe and budgeting (looking after your money).**



**In December 2009 a group was set up to help parents with learning disabilities. The group includes people from Adults' and Childrens' Social Services, a disabled parents' advocacy organisation, health services and a health visitor.**

### **What do we plan to do in 2010?**

**The Fun Fit Club has moved into the Prevention Service, this makes the club available to a lot more people and includes those who are not eligible for services from Social Care. There are plans to expand to 2 sessions a week – offering an exercise class and a healthy eating class.**

**The Health Sub Group has started a bit of work looking at improving the support of people with learning disabilities and dementia.**

**A project involving local opticians, to make eye care better for people with learning disabilities living in the Wokingham borough.**



**The Breast Screening and Awareness Nurse will be giving talks to groups about how to look for cancer lumps and why it is important to have breast screening (being checked for cancer).**

**The Partnership Board will work with the Berkshire West PCT (Primary Care Trust) to make an action plan so that healthcare for people with learning disabilities gets better.**

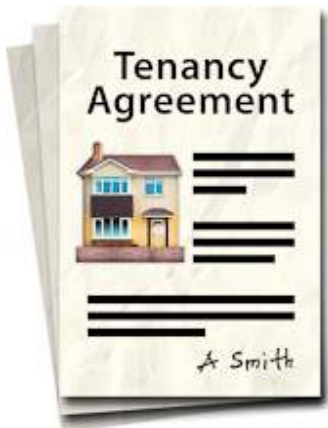
**The Housing Project Worker will be helping people join the housing register (a list of people waiting for a council home).**

**The Housing Sub Group is looking at producing some easy read information to help people live independently. They will make an easy read housing register application form and a tenancy agreement.**

**There are 7 possible new housing developments planned for the Wokingham borough. The Housing Sub Group is working with the Council to make sure housing for people with learning disabilities are included in these plans.**

**The Employment Sub Group are planning a campaign to help young people and their families think about work as a first option when they leave school or college.**

**They are working with the Human Resources Team at the Council (the people that look after staffing for the organisation) to find ways of getting jobs for people with disabilities within the Council.**





**WBES (Wokingham Borough Employment Service) got some money from LDDF to set up a training centre at the Rainbow Café in the Acorn Community Centre. People will get work experience and training so that they can get a job in catering.**

**The Relationships Sub Group wants to tell people about the local Relationships Policy and make an easy read version for people with learning disabilities.**

**The Relationships Sub Group will run 2 more workshops for family carers. A workshop in June about emotional development, and one in October sexual health and personal relationships.**

**We want to work with the Sexual Health Service to provide easy read information about sex and contraception.**

**We want to know how many parents with learning disabilities live in Wokingham. We will work with services for children and families to get a better picture.**

**We will help universal services (for all people) that work with parents understand more about learning disability and offer them easy read information to make their job easier.**

**The Council are planning to write a policy so they can provide better support to parents with disabilities. The Partnership Board will make sure people with learning disabilities have a say about what is in the policy.**



## 4. People As Citizens

### What is it about?

Valuing People Now says it is important that people with learning disabilities:

- get the right support, information, advice and advocacy.
- have access to good transport
- feel safe at home and when they are out
- have the right support when they are victims or witnesses of a crime.



### What did we do in 2009?

The Take Notice Group is the campaigning group of CLASP. They have been working on stopping hate crime for nearly 2 years now.

In January 2010 CLASP launched a Hate Crime Reporting Centre. The project is aimed at people with learning difficulties who either don't feel that an incident is "worth" reporting to the Police or who don't feel comfortable going in to a Police station. It is somewhere people can feel comfortable to talk about their concerns in a relaxed and safe environment. The reporting centre is run by Vicky Stubbs with the support of the Community Safety Team at Wokingham Borough Council. They decide what to do with the information they get. They may pass it to the police or sort the problem out in another way.



They have also updated the easy read hate crime leaflet.



The 'Safer Places' scheme has been set up to help people feel safer in the community. The scheme was started by people with learning disabilities but is open for anyone to use. A 'Safer Place' sticker is placed in shop windows to let members of the public know that they can go in to ask for help if they feel concerned or threatened. Staff at the shops will be able to offer a friendly face and if necessary, contact friends, family or emergency services. The scheme was launched on National Personal Safety Day, in October 2009 with the support of Wokingham Borough Council. An information pack and extra training and support is offered to all shops who sign up to the scheme.



On 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 members of the Partnership Board were invited to work alongside members of WAP (Wokingham Ability Partnership for people with physical disabilities and sensory needs) to run a workshop. The workshop was for a Community Safety Conference organised by VAWB (Voluntary Action Wokingham Borough). We talked to police officers and other people who work to keep people safe about our issues and the work we are doing.

Members of Take Notice were invited to a conference organised by the Thames Valley Partnership. There were people from the courts, the police and other people working to make communities safer. We were pleased that disability

hate crime had a very high profile (this means lots of people were talking about it).

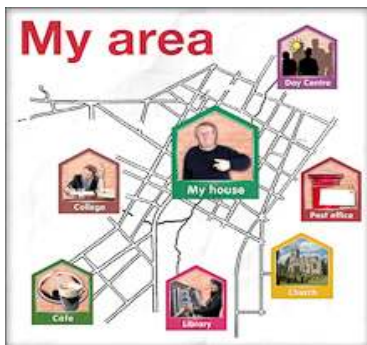
NAG stands for Neighbourhood Action Group. NAGs make sure that all the different areas of the Wokingham borough are nice places to live for all residents. Take Notice were asked to attend a meeting with the NAG leads from across the borough, to represent the views of the learning disability community. We are letting people with learning disabilities know about the NAGs and encouraging people to become members.

‘The Norreys Project’ is a project led by the Council. They have been asking people that live, work and visit the Norreys area of Wokingham what they think about the place. The Council, health service, police, fire service, voluntary groups and community members are turning what people said into a plan to improve the area. The Partnership Board has been making sure people with learning disabilities are included.

### What do we plan to do in 2010?

CLASP are working on a plan to keep the hate crime reporting centre going. They need more funding. The Partnership Board will help make a case to the Council and the Police.

We are making an easy read leaflet to tell the public about Safer Places. In May 2010 we are holding a big event to tell people about Safer Places and get more shops involved.



There are 12 NAGs in the Wokingham borough. We have supported one person to get involved in their local NAG, and want to support more people to have their say about their neighbourhood.

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## 5. Making it Happen

### What is it about?

Partnership Boards have an important role in deciding about local services and support for people with learning disabilities and their families.

Partnership Boards are expected to report progress to the Regional Programme Board.

The staff that work in public services have the right support and training so they provide good quality services to all people with learning disabilities.

### What did we do in 2009?

The annual report is a good way of checking how well we are doing and show what things we need to do better. Soon we will be able to compare how we are doing against other Partnership Boards in the South East.

The Workforce Sub Group has a new plan.

The Workforce Sub Group has worked alongside the Choice and Control Group to produce an easy read



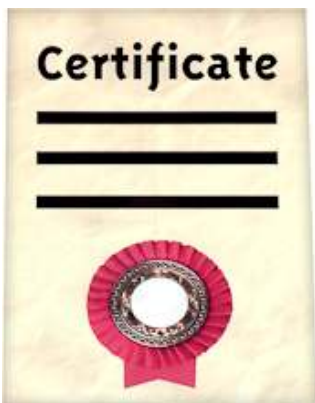
guide about choosing support, and includes information about employing a personal assistant.

### What do we plan to do in 2010?

There were some questions in the self assessment that we could not answer. We will look at these gaps and make a plan so that for next year's report (2010-2011) we can give all the information we are asked for.

The Workforce Sub Group is looking at how we can get good quality staff working with people with learning disabilities. They are also making sure people with learning disabilities are involved in choosing the staff that work with them.

They are looking at training for staff and making sure everyone working with people with learning disabilities does the LDQ (Learning Disability Qualification) as a minimum.



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# Learning Disability Development Fund

This is how we spent the LDDF money in 2009/10

<b>Group or Project</b>	<b>What is the project about?</b>	<b>How much money?</b>
Friday Alternative Social Group	A group for adults with autism that meets once a month at a local pub. It aims to help people be part of their community, meet friends and increase self esteem and confidence.	£3,053
Community Allotments	The Prevention Service took over the allotments at Oakfield Court. Now people with learning disabilities can work alongside volunteers to grow fruit and vegetables.	£1,610
Internet Cafe	Another Prevention Service project. The internet café (every Friday afternoon at The Bradbury Centre) is a meeting place for adults with learning disabilities where people can use the internet, write letters and emails and get help to use a computer.	£1,820
Fun Fit Club	A lifestyle group for people with a learning disability to help them eat in a sensible way, exercise and lead a healthy life.	£3,000
Innersense	Innersense run multi-sensory theatre workshops for people with learning disabilities and complex needs.	£5,000

<b>Group or Project</b>	<b>What is the project about?</b>	<b>How much money?</b>
Art Beyond Belief	A 16 week computer project for adults with autism. They created stories using pictures and captions, and allowed students to think about what it means to have autism.	£3,580
'Doing It' Project	A 3 year project about giving 5 people with the most complex needs more choice in their lives.	£4,000
Karaoke Nights	Kirsty with the support of Wokingham Mencap run Karaoke nights, twice a month.	£3,500
Inclusion Worker	We paid Webcas to employ the Partnership Board Inclusion Worker. The job is to help people with learning disabilities speak up at the Partnership Board and other meetings and develop self advocacy in Wokingham.	£22,962
The Sun Club	A Friday night social club in Reading for adults with a learning disability.	£1,000
Healthy Activity Days	The Occupational Therapy Team organised some days out so people could try new and interesting ways to get fit and healthy.	£300

<b>Group or Project</b>	<b>What is the project about?</b>	<b>How much money?</b>
Radio Marmalade	The Ark Trust and Ravenswood have set up an internet radio station for people with learning disabilities.	£3,740
Friday Night Project (FNP)	Trained 10 volunteers to drive the min-bus, so more people with learning disabilities can get to FNP activities, outings and holidays.	£780
Autism Alert Card	Groups across the Thames Valley are part of a project which aims to give every person with autism a card they can use when out and about (it has information about autism and their contact details).	£1,000
“You Can Get There”	A project to help people get around their local community. People with learning disabilities are employed and trained as travel consultants. The group are also campaigning for people to think differently about travel.	£4,000
Hate Crime Reporting Centre	CLASP have set up a reporting centre for vulnerable people to get support and information if they have been a victim of a crime.	£670.80

<b>Group or Project</b>	<b>What is the project about?</b>	<b>How much money?</b>
Wokingham Borough Employment Service	Wokingham Borough Employment Service (WBES) are setting up a training centre at the Rainbow Cafe, so people can get work experience and training to work in catering.	£2,000
Good Health Group	SeeAbility will be working with local opticians to get better eye care for people with learning disabilities	£8,324
Changing Places	A Changing Places toilet has a hoist and changing table and lots of room for someone to be supported to use the toilet. The plan is to have one in the centre of Wokingham town.	£15,000

The rest of the LDDF money was used for the Partnership Board running costs (about £5,000). This is to pay for things like our meetings and events, office equipment and printing costs. We also used some LDDF to pay our host Support Horizons for our office space and to look after our money.

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If you would like to find out more about the things written in this report or get involved in the work of the Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Board, please contact the Partnership Board office.

Call: 05600 766 114



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