

Wokingham  
Learning Disability  
Partnership Board

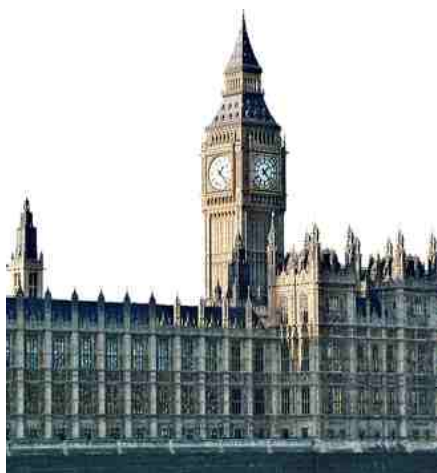
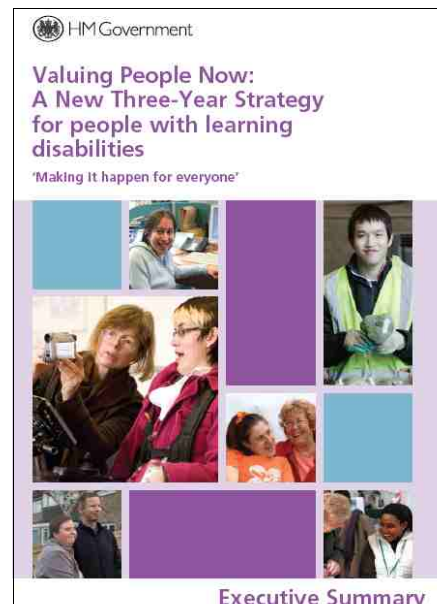
# Newsletter

Winter 2010/11 Issue

# What is the Partnership Board?

The Government Plan *Valuing People Now* says that all people with a learning disability must have the same rights and choices as everyone else - they should be in control of their own lives.

*Valuing People Now* says that we should all work together to make sure people can get support from much better services to help them do what they choose to do.



To make sure this happens, big government has said every council should set up a Partnership Board. There are many people involved in the Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Board, including people from public, voluntary and independent agencies and the wider local community - but most importantly people with learning disabilities and their families.

This Newsletter tells you what is happening with *Valuing People Now* in the Wokingham Borough.



Inside each issue you will be able to read about:

✓ **Good News Stories:** The Partnership Board is working to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities and their families in the Wokingham area. We want to let you know how the Partnership Board, and other groups, and people linked to the Partnership Board are making a difference.



✓ **Spotlight on a Sub Group:** The Partnership Board has many smaller sub groups that lead the work on one part of Valuing People Now. We will focus on a different sub group each issue.



✓ **Meet a Member:** Each issue, one of our members will be invited to tell you a bit about themselves. You can read about how their job role or experiences help him or her to contribute to the work of the Partnership Board.

✓ **Local Events:** The Partnership Board puts on events to celebrate and promote the good work that people have been doing, and get people's views on issues that impact on the lives of people with a learning disability and their supporters. We will tell you about any upcoming events.

And much more.....

Let's take a look at some of the things going on and what you can get involved in.....

# GOOD NEWS STORIES



## Community Wardens in Wokingham

The Community Wardens are a link between the community, the council, the police and voluntary agencies, and they cover the whole of Wokingham Borough. The job of the Wardens is to help solve problems that residents might be having, and to keep an eye on any problems in the environment. They run 3 Junior Warden Schemes (for children) and work on community problems wherever they can to try to solve antisocial behaviour.

There are 6 Community Wardens and each one looks after a different part of Wokingham Borough. In addition, each warden has now been made a *champion*. This means they are responsible for having special knowledge of a particular area (for example Emma Bacca knows a lot about Disability and Diversity). The champions will be the person to contact in the team for matters relating to their area of interest. They are:

- \* [Emma Bacca](#) – Disability and Diversity
- \* [Susan McIntyre](#) – Drugs and Alcohol
- \* [Jennie Cox](#) – Schools and Youth
- \* [Harun Kimani](#) – Older People
- \* [Zarron Phillips](#) – Reducing Crime
- \* [Mohammed Ahmed](#) – Environmental (looking after the place)



Emma Bacca

The Wardens are based at Waterford House (which is in Denmark Street), but spend most of their time out in the community. To contact them, ring the office on [tel: 0118 974 3798](tel:01189743798) and leave a message with Lorraine Booth who will get them to call you back.

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## Safer Places Comes Runner Up!!

Last November, the [2010 National Personal Safety Awards](#) (hosted by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust) took place in London to celebrate the work being done across the country to keep people safe from violence and aggression. Wokingham came runner up in the “[Safer Community](#)” [Award Category](#) and Johan Baker went along to the ceremony on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council. The Suzy Lamplugh Trust said all entries were of a very high standard and groups should get a pat on the pack for their hard work!



The picture shows Peter and friends on Community Safety Day promoting the Safer Places Scheme outside Wokingham train station.



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## National Census - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011



**What is a census?** Every 10 years, Big Government counts the population (numbers of people in the UK) to find out more about who we are as a nation. They ask everyone to tell them a bit about themselves to help decide how best to plan, fund and deliver the everyday services we all need – like housing, education, healthcare and transport. **The next census will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> March.**



**How do we do it?** In March, everyone will get a census questionnaire in the post. By law, **every household** has to complete the questionnaire – this can be done either online or on paper. We will be running a **self advocate workshop** on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** to talk about the census and help people understand how to complete their form. But remember - **the process is strictly confidential**, so if a carer or supporter would like to help someone, they need to remember:

- ✓ Do not pass on any personal census information about someone else.
- ✓ If you help someone to complete their questionnaire, that person should then seal the envelope and post it back themselves. If you do it for them, you are responsible for the information. If it gets lost or someone else sees it, you will have broken the law.



**What is on the form?** It will ask all kinds of questions about where you live, work, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, if you have children, if you are a student or older person, or a person with disabilities, and more. This is so the census people can get a true picture of today's society and look at what services people need in their communities.



**Why is it important?** By doing the census, you will be able to help shape the kind of communities and services you and the people around you need. Everything you tell the census will be private. No information will be shared with anyone else, at least not until 100 years have passed, when the records will be released to the public so people can trace their family history!



Big Government uses this information to work out how much money to give each local authority to spend on public services. Local authorities use them to work out what kind of services they need to provide for people – schools, hospitals, childcare, community care, transport and more. If the census misses anyone, you or someone you know could lose out - so it is important that **everyone** completes and returns the form!

To find out more, visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

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## Partnership Board Website

Have you seen the Partnership Board's updated website? Go to [www.wokinghampartnershipboard.co.uk](http://www.wokinghampartnershipboard.co.uk) to see all the latest Partnership Board news and events for adults with learning disabilities in the Wokingham Borough. There is lots of information about who we are, our meetings and events, and how you can get involved in the work that we do... and lots more!



We are adding to the website all the time, so let us know if there is anything you would like to see included and we will try to fit it in! You can either contact us through the "Contact Us" box on the website, or email: [admin@partnershipboard.org.uk](mailto:admin@partnershipboard.org.uk) or ring us on tel: 05600 766 114.



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## Big Campaign

Our Big Campaign to find ways to include people with **profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD)** in the things that we do, has started! Julie Calveley (an independent consultant) and Jodie are working together on the campaign. They will be contacting lots of different people and groups to get everyone involved with the project as we want everyone to work together to make a difference.



You may also see the term "*People with complex needs*" being used as this is what Valuing People say to describe this group of people.

We still need to think about a **name** for the campaign, **how long** the campaign should last, and what **main things** we should be working on. Let us know if you have any ideas! In the meantime, we will give an update at our AGM so come along and find out how you can be part of it!



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## Radio Marmalade and Sohnpal Gill!

Radio Marmalade is an **internet radio station** which means you listen to it on your computer instead of your radio. It is part of The Ark and Dis:Course charity and is a listener-led radio station and has lots of different types of programmes.





Have you heard Sohnpal's live radio show on Radio Marmalade? It's called "Sohnpal's Sounds" and is every Monday from 3pm-4pm. His show is about 'World Music' which includes African, Bangra and Bollywood, and he uses the computer to search for the music he plays.

Sohnpal chats to his listeners and sometimes he interviews special guests! His show is becoming very popular and has listeners from as far as Asia and Africa, and a very keen fan from Kenya! Sohnpal has always enjoyed listening to the radio and loves being a DJ on Radio Marmalade.



You can listen to Radio Marmalade at any time! Go to [www.radiomarmalade.org.uk](http://www.radiomarmalade.org.uk) and click on the on-screen orange button!

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## Eye Know Project



The aim of the Eye Know Project is to make it easier for adults with learning disabilities to have their eyes checked. Everyone should be able to get good sight tests when they need them because it is important to have healthy eyes, and for people to see well and do things for themselves as much as they can.

We wrote about this project in our last Newsletter, and since then, the project is up and running and had its launch on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

### What do people need to do?



1. **Choose an optician:** Stephen Aberly & Partners in Earley tel: 0118 935 1975 or Scrivens in Wokingham tel: 0118 978 9311.
2. **Book an appointment** and say it is for a person with a learning disability.
3. **Fill out a form** called "Telling the Optometrist About Me". You can get this form from [www.lookupinfo.org](http://www.lookupinfo.org) or ring Sheila Koh on tel: 0118 974 6832.

If you would like to know more about the project, please ring Mary Codling on tel: 0118 949 2932.

# Focus on a Project – Housing Needs Register



## What is the Housing Needs Register?

It is a list of people who are waiting for a council home. The register is kept by the Housing Needs Team who are based at Shute End. People join the register and collect points. When they get to the top of the list they are offered housing by the council.

## What are housing 'points'?

When someone is on the Housing Needs Register, they collect points. A point is given for things like:

- ✓ **how long** you've been waiting for a home
- ✓ **medical priority** (if your home is making you unwell – eg, it is damp, or needs modernising or adapting in some way)
- ✓ **social priority** (if your social circumstances have changed - eg, if you become a victim of hate crime)



The more points you have, the quicker you move up the list. But even if you get to the top of the list, you still might need to wait until a suitable property is available (in other words, if you live on your own and there is a 4 bedroom home available, you will have to wait for something smaller).



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A new housing development has just started in Wokingham called Beeches Manor. It will be ready in early 2012 and will have 8 upstairs flats (1 bed) available for people with a learning disability. **If you would like to be considered for one of these flats, you must make sure your name is on the Housing Needs Register.**

It is important to be on the Housing Needs Register because not only does it help people get a home, it helps the council work out the number of houses needed in the future. If the planners don't know how many people are waiting, they will not build enough homes. So even if you are not planning to move out of your family home for a long time, the advice is join the register now!



## How do I put my name on the list?

People need to fill out an application form. You can collect a form from the Housing Needs Department at Shute End tel: 0118 974 6760, or you can ring Catherine Turner (Housing Officer) in CTPLD on: 0118 974 6929 who will post one to you. (Please note: On the form, there is a section where people can request an extra bedroom for a support worker.)



FOCUS ON A PROJECT



When you have filled out the form, it is best to return it to Catherine Turner so that she can add **extra** information relating to the applicant's disability on a special register for the Housing Needs Team. Every 6 months, a 'pink card' (special information) has to be filled in to make sure people stay on the main Housing Needs Register. If you apply via Catherine, she will do this for you.

**How long will it be until I get a home?**

It is very difficult to say because there are a lot of people in the Borough waiting for housing. So it is **very important** that people get onto the Housing Needs Register as soon as they can!



**Shared Ownership**

Sally Armstrong, Lead for the Housing Sub Group, is keen to get your ideas on shared ownership and suggestions for improvements. **Sally will be holding a workshop at the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> February to get people's views on shared ownership** – things like what is working for you, what doesn't work, and what could be changed.

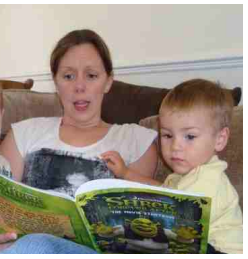
**Focus on a Member – Sally Armstrong**



**Sally's main job is Commissioning Officer** for the Learning Disability Team and the Mental Health Team at Wokingham Borough Council. Her job is to help people spend their personal budgets by making sure there are good quality services for people to buy. She meets with Providers who tell her the different things they can offer people with learning disabilities. She also meets with people who are thinking about what to put in their support plans.



**Sally is the new Lead for the Housing Sub Group.** She has lots of experience around housing because she used to be the Housing Project Worker! Sally has given the sub group a new focus and they have had lots of discussions and are now busy writing an action plan.



Sally loves to keep fit and is a qualified aerobics instructor. Sally and her partner Kevin have a little boy called Riley who is nearly 2 years old. Sally, Kevin and Riley all go swimming on a Sunday morning at their local Leisure Centre. Riley loves playing football and rugby in their garden at home, and has joined "Rugby Tots" - maybe he'll be the next Johnny Wilkinson!

## Spotlight on the Choice and Control Sub Group



The Person Centred Planning (PCP) Group turned into the Choice and Control Sub Group, with the introduction of Self Directed Support and Personal Budgets. The group's job was to keep an eye on Self Directed Support for people with learning disabilities - to make sure that it was happening and that it was making a positive difference to people's lives. The group met every 6-8 weeks, but mainly became a group for sharing information. The group needed things to work on, and eventually stopped meeting at the end of 2009, until they found a good reason to get the group going again.....

Choice  
&  
Control



On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010 the Partnership Board worked with the Council to run a consultation about Putting People First. We told people about the Council's plans to change the way people get social care help in the future. Our members told us what they thought about these plans. We wanted to do something about the issues that people had.



In July 2010 the Choice and Control Group looked at the things people said at the Big Meeting. Some things people said were good things that need to keep happening (*for example, where people have a social worker that they know well and who understands them*) and there were some things people were worried about (*for example, whether the council will still be involved in the Partnership Board if there is no learning disability service in future*).

The group thought of things they could do to help. These are just some of the things they have done since July:

- ✓ In October members of the Take Notice Group visited Wokingham Direct to find out about the service they offer. Take Notice gave a report at the Big Meeting.
- ✓ Wokingham Information Network have started monthly drop-ins at the CLASP Coffee Morning.
- ✓ In November they ran a workshop about Self Directed Support for people with learning disabilities and family carers. People said it was very helpful, so they'd like to run another one.
- ✓ They sent out a survey asking people what they think about the Partnership Board. They wanted to find out how people make use of the Partnership Board.

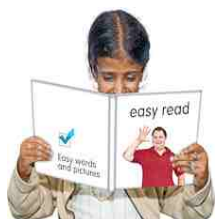


Here are some of the things the Choice and Control sub group are planning to do:



\* The 'Listen To Us' trainers will be running Learning Disability Awareness Training for council staff members who are new to working with people with a learning disability, including Wokingham Direct staff.

\* They will be helping to produce good easy read information about Personal Budgets and Self Directed Support.



\* They will be making a list of services and groups that are accessible to people with the most complex needs (sometimes called Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities).



\* The Council is updating their assessment paperwork. An assessment is when someone (usually a social worker) meets with the person and the people that know them well to find out what their social care needs are. Members of the group are willing to look at this paperwork to see if it makes sense to them and contains the right information.

If you want to find out more about the work the group is doing or get involved, please contact [Jodie Reichelt](#) (Development Manager).

## General Notices



**Valuing People Now web pages:** These new web pages are inclusive and accessible for people with learning disabilities, and the main pages have links to short films involving people with learning disabilities: [www.dh.gov.uk/valuingpeoplenow](http://www.dh.gov.uk/valuingpeoplenow).

The Department of Health have also updated the learning disabilities pages on their website which can be found at

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/LearningDisabilities/index.htm](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/LearningDisabilities/index.htm)

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**APHO General Practice Profiles:** If you would like to find out how well your GP surgery rates among other surgeries in the country, the APHO (Association of Public Health Observatories) have produced GP Profiles. These profiles have information about things like local population and health issues, broken down into PCT area and also GP surgeries. Go to <http://www.apho.org.uk/pracprof/> to view the profiles.

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**Free Computer and Assistive Technology:** The Government's Home Access Team are offering free computers and assistive technology to school-age children with a learning or physical disability who come from a low-income family. Go to: [http://www.dotcommunity.org.uk/dcu3\\_premium\\_listing\\_v3.php?id=26922&l2=3&l3=25&l4=131&area=38&local=Warwickshire#top](http://www.dotcommunity.org.uk/dcu3_premium_listing_v3.php?id=26922&l2=3&l3=25&l4=131&area=38&local=Warwickshire#top)

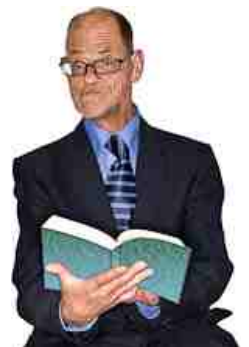
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**The Green Machine** is an eco-friendly company that clean up after music festivals (such as Reading, Glastonbury etc) whilst giving accessibility and equality to disabled and disadvantaged people. They offer work experience (paid and voluntary) to people with disabilities; and all the teams, whether paid or voluntary, have at least 25% disabled or disadvantaged people doing the same jobs as the rest of the team. Go to their website: [www.greenmachineevents.co.uk](http://www.greenmachineevents.co.uk) or email Mark or Chris at: [info@greenmachineevents.co.uk](mailto:info@greenmachineevents.co.uk) for more information.



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The **Earley Charity 50+ Directory** has been put together by the Earley Charity to help support people aged 50yrs and over, their families and friends living and working in the Wokingham and Reading area. The directory has lots of useful services such as where to go for financial support or transport. It is also available as a leaflet. For more information, go to their website: [www.50plusdirectory.co.uk](http://www.50plusdirectory.co.uk) or you can email Katie at the Earley Charity: [katiejames@earleycharity.org.uk](mailto:katiejames@earleycharity.org.uk).



Also, go to <http://www.dropby.co.uk/website> which is a social networking site for the over 60's, to help them stay connected and in touch.

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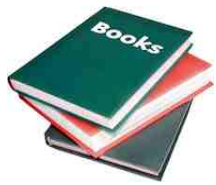
**Hockey:** James Parsons is setting up an indoor Hockey Team called the *Wokingham Knights*. The training will take place on Tuesdays (and possibly Fridays) at Cantley Park. For more information, email: [James.Parsons@dimensions-uk.org](mailto:James.Parsons@dimensions-uk.org).



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**Football:** Want to join the Support Horizons football team? *Horizons United FC* meet every Thursday, 7-9pm at Chalfont Park, Lower Earley. It costs £12 per session and includes support so is open to anyone. For more information, contact Tim or Vic on tel: 0118 989 3959 or email: [info@support-horizons.co.uk](mailto:info@support-horizons.co.uk)





## ... And finally ...!!

### Partnership Board - Resources Library

We have lots of interesting resources that people might find useful and would like to borrow! We have started up a 'lending library', so please drop-in when you are next passing and see if there is anything that might be helpful!

Resources include:

Resources  
Library  
Card



- ✓ **Individual Budgets:** A DVD from the Dept of Health and CSIP called *Living your Life, Your Way*.
- ✓ **Self Directed Support and Personal Budgets:** A DVD from WBC called *Take Control of Your Life*.
- ✓ **Person Centred Planning:** Information from Families Leading Planning.
- ✓ **Bereavement:** An accessible guide people with learning difficulties and their carers from SpeakingUp.
- ✓ **Eye Care:** A DVD and booklet from Look Up and SeeAbility called *You and Eye*.
- ✓ **TV:** A really useful booklet called *3DTV*, helping people to get more from the telly - eg games, practical ideas, scrapbooking etc.
- ✓ **Politics and Voting:** A toolkit with training booklets from Mencap called *Count Me In!*
- ✓ **Politics and Voting:** Information and CDs called *Our Vote, Our Voice*.
- ✓ **Parenting:** Parenting Toolkit for parents with learning difficulties which includes information from a variety of sources.
- ✓ **Parenting:** A DVD from Research In Practice called *Positive Parenting: Supporting Parents with Learning Disabilities*.
- ✓ **Parenting:** A report from CSCI called *Supporting Disabled Parents*.
- ✓ **Parenting:** A DVD called *Right to Choose* with help and advice for parents with learning difficulties.
- ✓ **Mutual Caring:** 2 booklets, a DVD and CD-ROM from the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities about mutual caring and older family carers.
- ✓ **Relationships:** A CD-ROM from the FPA called *All About Us* on growing up, personal and sexual relationships.
- ✓ **Relationships:** A DVD from Skills for People about young people and love, sex and relationships.



... and finally ...

## Dates for Future Partnership Board Meetings and Events

This is a list of our meetings for the rest of the year. Big Meetings are for everyone, and Workshops are for people with a learning disability and their supporters.

Date	Time	What sort of meeting?	Where?
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> January	10-12pm	Self advocate workshop	Bradbury Centre
<b>Wed 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>10-12pm</b>	<b>AGM</b>	<b>Town Hall (opposite WHSmiths)</b>
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	10-12pm	Self advocate workshop	Bradbury Centre
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> March	10-12pm	Big Meeting	Methodist Church
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> May	10-12pm	Self advocate workshop	Bradbury Centre
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> May	10-12pm	Big Meeting	Methodist Church
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> June	10-12pm	Self advocate workshop	Bradbury Centre
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> June	10-12pm	Big Meeting	Methodist Church
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> August	10-12pm	Self advocate workshop	Bradbury Centre
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> August	10-12pm	Big Meeting	Methodist Church
Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> September	10-12pm	Self advocate workshop	Bradbury Centre
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> September	10-12pm	Big Meeting	Methodist Church
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> November	10-12pm	Self advocate workshop	Bradbury Centre
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> November	10-12pm	Big Meeting	Methodist Church
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10-12pm	Self advocate workshop	Bradbury Centre
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> December	10-12pm	Big Meeting	Methodist Church

Please note that the topics for our Self Advocate Workshops in 2011 will be decided at our Planning Workshop on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Once they have been agreed, we will let you know!

**Thank you for reading - We hope you found our newsletter interesting!**

*If you would like to get in touch, you can reach us at:*

### Learning Disability Partnership Board

c/o Support Horizons  
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Wokingham, RG40 2AZ



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