

Wokingham
Learning Disability
Partnership Board

Minutes from the

Partnership Board's **BIG** Meeting

Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham

Wednesday 29th April, 2009

Welcome and Good News!

Luke and 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:

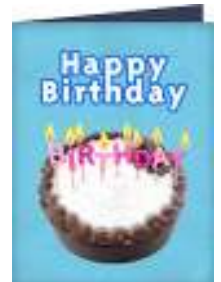


- David has enjoyed going to lots of meetings this week.



- Jodie had 2 pieces of good news: On Sunday, the Partnership Board teamed up with Club Marmalade to run a very successful speed dating event. Also, Two Left Feet has started its new programme - contact Jennie or Jodie for more details.

- Peter is very excited about his 65th birthday coming up next month. He'll be having a party to celebrate, here at the Bradbury Centre! Congratulations Peter!



- Julie is really pleased that CLASP's 2 new office assistants (Leilah and Julia) are doing a great job working in the CLASP office.
- Steven and his brother spent a lovely afternoon at Clivedon having tea.
- Leilah is looking forward to having a girlie weekend at her parents' house
- Viv enjoys going to Take Notice on a Friday morning.
- Margaret is building up information about access in the community which will help lots of people when they're out and about.
- This was Fi's first time at our Big Meeting and she was looking forward to meeting us. Fi will be helping to run an event next week, 7th May, to launch Putting People First. Marlena said the DVD for this event is nearly done.



- Lisa organised a really successful working party at the allotments at Oakfield Court last weekend. Frankie enjoys working on her allotment.
- Vicki and Nick are both London Irish (rugby) fans! The team have qualified for the semi finals and Vicki and Nick hope they get to Twickenham for the final.
- Andrew supports Manchester United and is really pleased that they're in the Premiership!

Core Group Update – Jodie Newman

The Core Group is a smaller group that does the day to day business of the Partnership Board and is made up of representatives from all the different areas – for example family carers, voluntary services, the Council etc.

On 31st March, the Core Group had a **Planning Session** to help everyone think about the Partnership Board and where it is heading. Valuing People Now says this about the role of Partnership Boards - they should be in the middle of making decisions about:



- Planning of Services (*Deciding what services are needed*).
- Commissioning of Services (*Deciding what services to buy*).
- Delivery of Services (*Deciding how services work*).
- Performance Management of Services (*Checking how services are working*).

...for people with learning disabilities and their families



The Core Group had a think about what all this means for our Partnership Board. We thought it gave us “**more teeth**” because it puts us at the centre of things going on in Wokingham – which is good. But it also means that we have more responsibility so we have to think about how to best make use of our resources. We also thought this statement talks a lot about services - but there is more to people’s lives than just services.

We talked about Valuing People Now’s **National Priorities** (things that we should work on over the next year) – these are in something called the **Delivery Plan**:

- To make sure everyone who works with people with learning disabilities (and everyone else) knows about Valuing People Now.
- To make sure every Partnership Board makes a difference.
- To make sure people with learning disabilities get the healthcare they need.
- To give people more choice about where they live (and close all NHS Campuses).
- To make sure people with learning disabilities get person centred plans and are in control of their lives (Personalisation).
- To make sure people with learning disabilities get a paid job.



At our [AGM](#) we had asked everyone to think about what they thought the Partnership Board should be doing. We had pages of suggestions, and Jodie grouped them into these 7 points. We call them our [Local Priorities](#):

- Support family carers.
- Including people with most complex needs.
- Support for parents with a learning disability.
- Helping people with learning disabilities learn new things and develop their skills.
- Better transport – ways for people to get around.
- Helping people with learning disabilities access the community for social and leisure activities.
- Develop self advocacy.



So now we had a list of the [National Priorities](#) and our [Local Priorities](#) to focus on, and the next step was to think about how we could make our Partnership Board more effective. Back in January, some of our Core Group had been to the Valuing People Team's Chairs and Leads Event (which we talked about last time). The event gave Partnership Boards the chance to see what other areas are doing, and how they could work more effectively.

Then, back at our Core Group Planning Meeting, Jodie had put together a chart to show all the different sub groups in our Partnership Board (*If you would like a copy of the chart please speak to Jennie*).

So, after putting all these things together, and thinking about what works and what doesn't work, the Core Group decided that our Partnership Board should do the following:



- Look at all the different sub groups against our priorities to see where the gaps are.
- Not focus on all the priorities this year because it would be too difficult.
- Instead, focus on the National priorities (as we will need to show improvement and report back how we are doing):
 - ✓ Health
 - ✓ Housing
 - ✓ Choice and Control (Personalisation)
 - ✓ Employment
- Spend extra time thinking about what the 4 sub groups leading on these areas should be doing and help them make a difference.
- Even, though we have set priorities – the work happening in other groups is still important!

After all this, we decided on some action points and then who would do what to make all this happen!!

Self Advocate Workshop – Valuing People Now David Chaffe and Steven Allen

David and Steven talked about what happened at the Valuing People Now Self Advocate Workshop. The workshop started off with an icebreaker, which helped to explain about our [Human Rights](#). There are 15 Human Rights in Europe – but the jargon means they are difficult to understand. Valuing People Now says that people with a learning disability have the same Human Rights as everyone else, but a recent report said that doesn't always happen. For the Icebreaker, everyone had to match the difficult jargon with a simple explanation and we talked about each one so that everyone understood what each one meant.



Next we watched a DVD, which talked about Valuing People Now and how important it is for people with a learning disability to have a say in how they live their lives.



Then we talked about [what the Partnership Board is doing to make Valuing People Now happen](#) and asked people's ideas about [what the Partnership Board should be doing](#). Julie put 4 posters on the wall and we had to fit the project or idea under the following headings (some of the things come under more than one topic). Here are the 4 topics:

- Including Everyone
- Having a Life
- Personalisation (planning & getting the life we want)
- People as Citizens

Everyone worked really hard and came up with some excellent ideas!

Paradigm Conference – Chrissy Terry and Peter Girvin

Chrissy and Peter went to a 2-day conference in Manchester about Learning Disability. The Partnership Board paid for them to go so they could come back and tell us what they had learnt. Day 1 was the fun day, and the conference itself was on Day 2. Here's what happened:

On Day 1, there was drama and music - people with learning disabilities put on shows about having a bigger say in running



their lives and looking after their own budgets. There was also lots of music to listen to, and a mixed ability band called Heavy Load gave a fantastic performance. At the end of the night everyone joined in with a Blues Brothers sing-a-long!



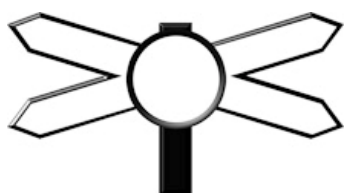
On Day 2, there were lots of discussion groups and workshops about individual budgets and taking control over your life. These workshops showed that self directed support is a better way for people with learning disabilities to get the help that they need, and this really is the way forward.

It showed how people can get involved in their support, choosing their staff, training their staff, checking standards etc. It also looked at ways at supporting people with self advocacy groups and how to get a job. And it also helped staff recognise their own attitudes and perceptions of the people they support - for example staff sometimes think "I've known him for years and he'll not do that", but if given a choice, that person might do something different!



Chrissy and Peter thought that the conference was excellent and said that if we take the person centred approach seriously, things will change.

[Wokingham Direct Signposting Service – Julie Quarell](#)



The Wokingham Direct Signposting Service is to help people in the Wokingham Borough find and access services and support in the community. Since the Council's eligibility for social care changed to supporting people with the most critical need, they have had to think about other ways to help people who do not have a critical need, and what they can do to make them feel safe and be involved in their community.

Julie's role is to find out everything that is going on in the community so that she can build up a database of information that everyone can access. Then if people would like to find out about something like say a swimming club, a coffee morning for older people or help to maintain their garden etc, then they can contact the Wokingham Direct Signposting Service who will look up the information and let them know.

People can either ring them go onto the Council's website: www.wokingham.gov.uk. (Julie hopes to run some computer training for members of the public who want to use the website).



When the service is ready, it can be used by anyone - the general public and the community care teams. People just need to make contact, give their request and Julie's team will do the leg work and ring them back (hopefully the same day). When someone makes contact, they will also try to follow up with them after about 6 weeks to find out whether the club or group was useful. If Julie thinks that a request from a member of the public needs more support than they can offer, she will contact the community care team and ask if they would do a visit.



Julie is currently building up the database and would like everyone to give her as much information about what is going on in our area, as possible! You can email her on: Julie.quarell@wokingham.gov.uk with your ideas, and she would like to hear any questions or comments which will help them to set up their service. The service will hopefully include a "feedback section" so that people can post their own comments on the various clubs, services and activities.

It is hoped that the service will be ready in July, but they might start off by opening it up to community care teams and doctors surgeries to test it out first, before rolling it out to everyone else. They will be having a website development team (to make sure that access to their database is easier) and include a link to our www.wow4me.org.uk website which we are pleased about.

[Community Team for People with a Learning Disability \(CTPLD\) - Jenny Harris](#)

Jenny gave us an update on the changes to the community team for people with a learning disability.

[Why does CTPLD need to change?](#)

Well, Big Government has said that local authorities should move towards personalisation of care services which means people making their own choices and taking control of their lives. They also said that the health and social care teams should work better together to plan and deliver services; and that people should use new ways to get their services and be in control of their money.



So the team needed to think of new ways of doing things in order to follow what Big Government says, and this is what they have decided:

There will be 5 different groups within the CTPLD:

- Assessment and Review Team
- Planning and Support Team
- Nursing Team
- Clinical Health Specialist Team
- Support Services Team



The first 2 teams are the ones that will change the most – the rest will pretty much stay the same. This is what the first 2 teams will be doing:

Assessment & Review Team	Planning & Support Team
Assessment	Supporting people to develop their support plans
Agreeing how much money someone has.	Supporting people to review their support plans.
Signing off support.	Social work support to individuals and groups.
Reviews	Some reviews.

Everyone at CTPLD will still be providing duty and responding to safe-guarding alerts.

What are CTPLD’s next steps?

The team has thought about what the new team structure will look like but now they need to think how it will happen. CTPLD has a day planned in May to think about everything. Jenny will come back to a meeting later in the year to let us know how they are getting on.



Finally, Jenny reminded everyone that the CTPLD office has moved to the Old Forge on Peach Street (opposite the Pet Shop). The full address is: Wokingham CTPLD, 1st Floor, The Old Forge, 45-47 Peach Street, Wokingham, RG40 1XJ. The phone number is the same: 0118 974 6832. Jenny asked for people to be patient while the team settle in.

Wokingham Borough Employment Support (WBES) – Alan Reeve

Alan wanted to let people know about how **WBES** is helping people with learning disabilities get a paid job. WBES was formed earlier this year by joining together 2 organisations - **It’s Working** and **WESS**. The job of WBES is

to help people with disabilities and mental health needs to find paid employment and support them in the workplace.

Katrina is the manager for WBES, and there are currently 9 job coaches supporting 69 people with learning disabilities in paid employment. Their offices are at 52 Reading Road, Wokingham.



What are WBES's priorities?

- To develop employment opportunities – by working with employers.
- To improve partnership working (so that work isn't duplicated).
- To improve data collection – how many people with disabilities and mental health needs in Wokingham have a paid job.
- To monitor and report on some of the outcomes.

Here are some other things about WBES:

- WBES would like to start a mentoring service, which is all about service users supporting each other to find and keep work.
- *Valuing People Now* talks about people with learning disabilities having more Choice & Control, and WBES would like people to choose WBES as part of their Support Plan - and pay for it using their Individual Budgets. (Please note that the cost for WBES's employment services hasn't been worked out just yet.)



- Some of WBES's work placements are casual placements, some are seasonal and some are long term.
- Katrina would like to educate local companies on disability discrimination and employing people with learning disabilities... **and one of the first places she plans to start is with our Council.**

Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) – Jodie Newman

Jodie gave us a quick update on yesterday's LDDF Bidding Round and how we plan to spend this year's money. The Learning Disability Development Fund is a pot of money from Big Government to local Councils so that they can implement (work on) *Valuing People Now*. This money sits with the Council, but the Partnership Board decides how that money is spent.

Every year we have to set aside money for our running costs (things like paying for today's meeting – hiring the hall and



equipment, paying for refreshments etc). We also have to keep some money back to pay for one of our Inclusion Workers. And this year we also have to set aside some money to set up our new office and pay the host. So after all these costs were added up, we were left with £50,000 to give to local groups and projects.



We set criteria (types of bids we will fund) and priorities (most important things) for bids. Then we invited people to send in their bids and tell us what they wanted to do, how much money they needed, and how it would fit with *Valuing People Now*. We had 22 bids which we short-listed (this means we took out bids that did not clearly meet our criteria), and that left 19 bids that we wanted to consider. After that we had a Dragon's Den style bidding round and invited the short-listed groups to come in and tell us about their bid and answer questions from the panel.

The Bidding Round was held on 28th April and after all the bids had been presented, the panel agreed to support 15 projects. Some of the groups got all the money they asked for, and some we agreed to part fund. We didn't commit all of the money so there will be a chance for other groups to apply for some money later in the year. We will be writing to all the applicants soon to let them know our decision and we will give you details of all successful bids next time.

Anything Else?



1. Peter Waite reminded everyone of CLASP's AGM on Monday 18th May. Julie added that it would be really good to see some new faces, so everyone is welcome!
2. Mary Codling will be starting a Health and Education Group for people with epilepsy to talk together and learn more about their condition. If anyone would like more information, contact Mary on tel: 0118 974 6832. Mary hopes that the group will start in July.
3. Mette Le Jakobsen reminded everyone of the launch event for Putting People First on 7th May. There are 2 sessions, morning and afternoon and a free lunch - just ring up Wokingham Direct to book yourself on one of the sessions.
4. David Chaffe reminded everyone that the closing date for a Small Sparks grant is on 30th April.



5. The Wokingham Sharks will be hosting a football tournament in Palmer Park on Friday 8th May and have invited the Partnership Board to put forward a team. David asked if anyone was interested in playing, they should let either him know.
6. Finally, David announced that there will be a Housing Event on Tuesday 16th June and more information about this event will be sent out soon.



Nobody had anything else that they wanted to talk about, so that was the end of our Big Meeting!

The next Big Meeting will be on...

- Date:** Tuesday 9th June, 2009
Time: 10am-12noon
Where: Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham