

Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board

Notes of the meeting held at St Matthias Church 8th April 2008



Board Members - Present at the meeting

Ray Wilk, Independent Chair
Michael Cass, Co Chair

Board Members - (Service User Representatives)

Gina Gage, Learning Disability Reference Group
Christine Barker, Learning Disability Reference Group
Andrew Walsh, Roots Project

Board Members - (Voluntary Sector Forum Representatives)

Lisa Keenan, Voluntary Sector Forum
Scott Cunningham, Voluntary Sector Forum
Fran Jeffries, Mencap Pathways
Bill Walton, People in Action

Person Centred Planning Co-ordinator

Cathy Wintersgill, Connect in the North

Board Members - (Statutory)

Paul Broughton, Adult Social Care
Carol Cochrane, Leeds Primary Care Trust
Gordon Kerr, Connexions
Peter Vickers, Vine/Learning and Leisure Department
Khalid I Arian, Joint Commissioning Service
Sheila Dunham, Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust
Jane Flaherty, Department of Work and Pensions
Kashif Ahmed, Diversity Director
Janet Wright, Joint Commissioning Service

Board Members – (Carers Reference Group)

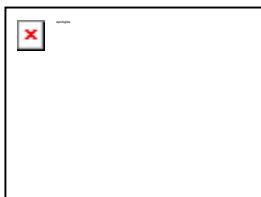
Harold Wilson, Carer
Rebecca Rooke, Age Concern
Naseem Akram, Carer

In attendance

Sue Lindsey, Leeds Advocacy
Fiona Evans, Leeds Advocacy
Louise Mills, Joint Commissioning Service

People who could not come to the meeting

David Hansen, Home Farm Trust





Welcome and introductions

Ray Wilk welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained a few changes to the agenda.

We were unable to find a person to talk to us about the Disability Equality Duty (DED). The local authority does not have a person leading on the subject. Several Board Members have been in contact with people in other parts of the country who have used the DED to get better changing facilities, but no one was able to come to Leeds at such short notice. There may be an opportunity for this in the future.

Ray said he had heard about a plan to create a Council for disabled people in Leeds and requested Board Members with any further information to bring it to the Board.

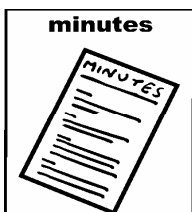
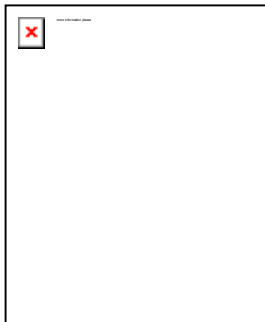
The Board were asked if there was anything else they felt should be on the agenda. No other items were suggested.

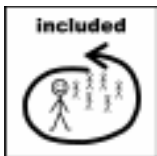
The notes from the meetings held 15th January and 5th February were brought to the attention of the Board for anyone to raise issues or request amendments. None were received.

The notes from the meetings 11th and 13th March will be circulated shortly.

Changing Places

The Board watched the Changing Places campaign dvd made by PAMMIS, a voluntary organisation who are campaigning for better changing facilities for people with learning disabilities.





It highlighted some of the issues faced by service users and carers:

- Standard 'accessible' toilets do not provide changing benches or hoists. People think they have disabled toilets but do not understand the need for space and hoists.
- Most accessible toilets are too small to accommodate more than one person.
- Without the special equipment, the person with disabilities is put at risk, and carers are forced to risk their own health and safety by changing their daughter or son on a toilet floor.
- Having to change a person on the floor is dangerous, very unhygienic and takes away the persons dignity.
- People who make planning decisions do not always understand what a fully accessible toilet facility is and are often put off because of building security and maintaining the hoists.

Lisa Keenan talked about the event the All Means All group hosted on 31st January to raise awareness of issues such as the Changing Places campaign. She also mentioned what Board members had been doing to help:

- Christine Barker has been collecting signatures for the petition, which now has over 350 signatures. Mark Fennelly offered to get further signatures if a Board Member could send him the form by email. Lisa agreed to forward the petition template to Mark.

Lisa Keenan



- Paul Broughton has been providing useful contact details within the Council and set up meetings. Lisa said the difficulty had been knowing who to contact and who can take things forward.



It was noted that the issue is not just with Social Services and the Primary Care Trust. Organisations such as colleges, shops, pubs and restaurants also need to take responsibility.

Ray pointed out that when organisations apply for planning permission to build new places, they should be made to include proper changing facilities at the planning and design stage.



Kashif advised that the equality team are developing a new group, which will include various hubs (sections), one of which will be on disabilities and the Board needs to ensure learning disabilities are included. The equality duty also tells people to do an Equality Impact Assessment and the planning department must make sure issues such as changing places are included. Carol Cochrane added that Red Paint, the company who did the equality review for LCC, had recommended the creation of the new group and advised Emily Godfrey might be able to help. Kashif agreed to contact the planning department and Emily Godfrey.

Kashif
Ahmed



Councillor Harrand advised that the petition should go to Leeds City Council and it would be helpful if a group of Board Members came to a Council meeting and talked to Councillors about the need for changing places. There



are 2 big building developments taking place in Leeds, which would be a good place to try to get proper disabled facilities installed.

Carol Cochrane talked about health premises and agreed to talk to people working on the LIFT development (LIFT provide support, management and investment programme to improve health care, accommodation and related services).

Carol
Cochrane

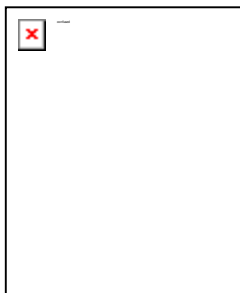
The Board agreed this campaign should go on the agenda for the June meeting.

Learning Disabilities Strategy – Dave Rigby



Dave thanked the Board for inviting him back to the meeting and for the opportunity of explaining the strategy to members of the public. Dave gave the background to the strategy, which had been commissioned by the Partnership Executive, and explained what has been done since his last visit. He also answered some questions people raised:

- He has been gathering all the local and national learning disabilities documents that need to be built into the strategy
- Meetings have been arranged with various groups to ensure everyone concerned is involved
- The aim is to complete the draft document by the end of May and have further meetings with the various groups, to give people the opportunity to review and respond to the document



- The completed document will provide an overall framework and vision and will be used as a tool to monitor the developments in learning disabilities in Leeds
- The document will also have an action plan with a series of tasks and dates so that if after a certain length of time, progress has not been made, it can be looked into
- Dave will make recommendations to the Partnership Executive as to who should monitor progress
- After the last strategy was written, it was felt that there was too much information in it and the vision was not very clear. It was also at a time when there were many changes taking place in Health and Social Care

The Board agreed to have a special meeting on 20th May to review the draft document.



Ray Wilk pointed out that the week beginning 16th June is learning disabilities awareness week. He asked the Board Members to send details of any special organised events to Louise Mills who will distribute the information. Board members should try to support other people's events.

Updates and changes to the Board membership



Cathy Wintersgill distributed a Person Centred Planning and Thinking report that included details of a Self Directed Support project.



Rebecca Rooke handed out a report that gave a background to the Older Carers Support Service and Carers Reference Group and described the work they are presently involved in.



Kashif Ahmed circulated details of a training day held for Day Centre staff and 2 other events planned for this year:

- Developing Equality Impact Assessments Workshop: Dates to be confirmed for May/June
- Ethnicity Self Assessment Workshop: Dates to be agreed



Sue Lindsey brought the report from the Learning Disability Reference Group meeting held 19th February to review the Valuing People Now document. The report shows what the groups chose as their priorities.



Sue told the Board that Claire Reed would no longer be representing the Reference Group on the Partnership Board. The Reference Group will vote for a replacement at the next meeting. The Board expressed their appreciation for the work Claire has done since being elected.



Susan Hanley has also resigned from the Board in order to take up a position as Project Leader with Connect in the North. The Board offered their congratulations to Susan and wished her much success for the future. Louise Mills agreed to write a letter on behalf of the Board to Susan, to say 'well done'. People First will appoint a replacement through the election process.

Louise
Mills



Scott Cunningham told the Board he was resigning from his post as Voluntary Sector Forum Co-ordinator on 2nd May and will be working full time for Inclusion North. The Board wished to record their thanks to the continued support and commitment Scott has made to the work of the Partnership Board.



Ray Wilk confirmed that as he will be retiring from his post in June, the process for finding a replacement is about to start. The Partnership Executive have asked Ray to look at how the Board can be involved with the recruitment and selection process.

Ray closed the meeting by thanking the Board and members of the public for attending the meeting and invited people to stay for the buffet lunch.

Dates for forthcoming events:

Tuesday 20th May 2008

Board Members meeting to discuss the Learning Disability Strategy.

Tuesday 24th June 2008

Board Members meeting (this replaces the meeting originally booked for 17th June).

