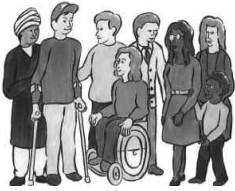


**Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board**  
**19<sup>th</sup> May 2009**  
**St Matthias Church Centre**



**Board Members - Present at the meeting**

George Wood, York Co Chair

**Board Members - (Service User Representatives)**

Andrew Walsh, Roots Project

Christine Barker, Learning Disability Reference Group

Chris Hill, Learning Disability Reference Group

Georgina Gage, Learning Disability Reference Group

**Board Members - (Voluntary Sector Forum Representatives)**

Lisa Keenan, Voluntary Sector Forum

Bill Walton, People in Action

David Hansen, HFT

Barbara Dowling, Wilf Ward Trust

Cathy Wintersgill, Person Centred Planning Co-ordinator

**Board Members - (Statutory)**

Paul Broughton, Adult Social Care

Janet Wright, Joint Commissioning Service

Khalid I Arian, Joint Commissioning Service

**Board Members – (Carers Reference Group)**

Harold Wilson, Carer

Sarah Mottershead, Age Concern

**In attendance and special guests**

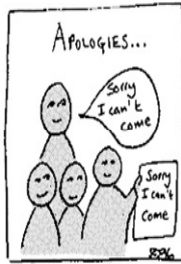
Louise Mills, Joint Commissioning Service

Fiona Evans, Leeds Advocacy

Paul Croydon, Leeds Advocacy

Simon Pickering, Housing Strategy Officer, Leeds City Council

Luke Myers, Housing Strategy Project Officer



## **People who could not come to the meeting**

Susan Hanley, Co Chair

Councillor Peter Harrand

Jenny Lewty, for Pete Vickers (VINE)

Gordon Kerr, Connexions

Norman Campbell, Leeds Primary Care Trust

Khalid I Arian, Joint Commissioning Service

Sheila Dunham, Leeds Partnership Foundation Trust




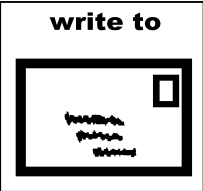

Jane Flaherty, Job Centre Plus

Dave Rosser, Adult Social Care

Carol Cochrane, NHS Leeds

Amanda Dagnall, Through the Maze

Linda Randall, Transitions Manager

	<p><b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b></p> <p>George Wood welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked people to introduce themselves and make sure they signed the attendance sheet. George also reminded everyone about the rules of the meeting (switching off mobile phones and using the traffic light cards).</p>	
    	<p><b><u>Updates</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Health Task Group</u></b></p> <p>The Yorkshire and Humber Learning Disability Health Self Assessment form (Big Health Check) has been sent to the Strategic Health Authority, members of the Partnership Board and Partnership Executive.</p> <p>Valuing People and the Strategic Health Authority are now looking at all the feedback forms and will do a regional comparison exercise (benchmarking). The results of the Leeds assessment will be discussed at a special meeting (validation meeting) on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Norman Campbell has agreed to provide a full update at the Board meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p>In September, the Strategic Health Authority will send individual letters to all Partnership Boards (Partnership Executive and Health Chief Officers) along with a regional overview report. In November a special event will be held for Partnership Boards to share good practice ideas. The Big Health Check will take place every year to monitor progress.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Learning Disability Reference Group</u></b></p> <p>Christine Barker told the Board what happened at the last Reference Group meeting and circulated a report:-</p> <p>Norman Campbell came to talk about the Health</p>	



Task Group and Health Checkers Group and asked people to put their names forward if they wanted to be involved. Approximately 30 people volunteered.

Terry Wagg (Leeds Animation Workshop) talked about a Health DVD they are making and asked members to talk about their experiences and complete a questionnaire.



Sheila Quinn gave a presentation about the work the modernisation team are doing at Moorend, Rothwell and West Ardsley Day Centres. Advocacy Groups from the 3 centres will be invited to future Reference Group meetings to ensure people with learning disabilities are kept informed.



**Changing Places Campaign**

The Leeds lobby group took their petition to the Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. They had 5 minutes to present the campaign in which they requested

- A confirmed site and commitment to provide facilities within one year
- Changing Places to become part of the local development framework

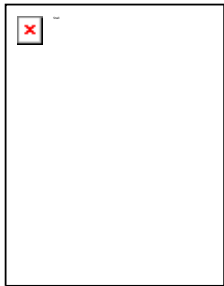
Everyone on the Council voted in favour of the campaign and showed a great deal of interest and support.



A report responding to the deputation, confirming a commitment to provide these facilities, is going to the Council's Executive Board in June.

George Wood asked for the Learning Disability Reference Group report to be sent to all the Board Members who were unable to attend the meeting.

Louise Mills



## **Carers Reference Group**

Harold talked about forthcoming Carers events

- Ivan Barnett, Day Services Modernisation Business Change Manager is coming to the next meeting 21 May to provide an update and answer carers queries. Angela Yeoman is coming to talk about health screening
- National Carers Week 8<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> June. Members of the Reference Group are holding information stalls to raise awareness
- 9<sup>th</sup> June – Launch of Carers Strategy and Carers Information Market Place including information workshop on Personalisation and Self Direct Support for carers
- Partners in Policymaking Course. Leeds is funding five carers and one self-advocate to attend the course. Maria Rules (course facilitator) and people on the course have been invited to do a presentation at the October Partnership Board meeting
- One of the carers on the course also runs a support service called Leeds ABC Support Group (Autism Behaviour Communication group) and has sent the Board a newsletter. The Partnership Board very much looks forward to working with someone with this expertise.



## **Valuing Everyone – Ethnicity Event in York 12 June 2009**

Susan Hanley was unable to attend today's Board meeting but asked that the following request was put to the Board - Could any Board Member attending the ethnicity event 12<sup>th</sup> June please let her know (contact through Louise Mills). Susan would like to go to the meeting with another Board Member.



**Recruitment**  
**Partnership Board Independent**  
**Chairperson**

Derek Thomas has been successful in his application for the post. He had previously worked as a psychologist and Chief Executive of NDT (National Development Team). He is coming to Leeds on 10<sup>th</sup> June to discuss his appointment and his first official Board meeting will be 16<sup>th</sup> June.



**Partnership Board Support Manager** (now called Joint Commissioning Service Support Manager). The Partnership Executive agreed to fund this post on a senior grade (PO4). It is now going through the necessary Local Authority recruitment process. Board members will be notified as soon as the post is released.

**Chief Officer – Learning Disabilities**

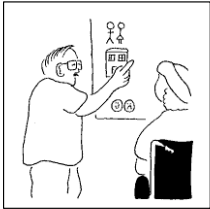
Michele Tynan will start her new job 1<sup>st</sup> June and there will be a 'hand over' period where Paul Broughton will bring her up to date with the current work in Leeds.



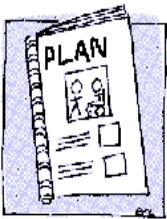
**Lead Officers Meeting 18 May 2009**

Janet Wright provided an update from the most recent meeting and talked about future events

- 9<sup>th</sup> July The Valuing People Support Team will be holding a regional event for Partnership Boards to look at
  - What Valuing People Now say Partnership Boards should do
  - The new regional Programme Boards
  - How local Partnership Boards will work with the regional and national boards



- Housing Performance Indicator. Housing is still a big priority and the Valuing People Support Team have been given money to fund regional support to Councils to improve housing for people with learning disabilities. Housing Options have agreed to provide this support
- Person Centred Planning. Good planning is very important when it comes to Self Directed Support and other big changes in the lives of people with learning disabilities. Paradigm have been asked to provide regional support to every Local Authority to
  - look at their current Person Centred Planning
  - support and develop an Action Plan and Strategy
- Employment. By the end of June, we will receive guidance around developing employment opportunities and the focus will be on the Public Sector






### **Learning Disability Strategy**

The strategy has been to the Council's Executive Board and Priority Sub Group and will go to the Health Executive Board next week. A glossy version will be published in time for National Learning Disability Week.



### **Valuing People Now Partnership Board Toolkit.**

We are still waiting for the toolkit to be launched which will set out how the Partnership Boards should work and who should be a member.

	<p><b><u>Minutes of the last meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> April.</u></b>  There were no amendments requested.</p>	
	<p><b><u>Hospital Toolkit</u></b>  David Hansen explained that HFT (Home Farm Trust) and Valuing People South West have made a toolkit on how to support people with learning disabilities when they go into hospital. It has been approved and signed off by three health authorities. David agreed to send a copy to Louise Mills.</p>	<p>David Hansen</p>
	<p><b><u>Learning Disability Housing Strategy - Simon Pickering and Luke Myers</u></b>  Simon told the Board he is employed by Neighbourhoods and Housing to draft a housing strategy for people with learning disabilities and wanted to talk to the Board about housing.</p> <p>A paper was circulated and power point presentation made which looked at the current housing situation in Leeds, what Valuing People and the Learning Disability Strategy says should happen in the future.</p> <p>People at the meeting split up for group work to discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• what works well now</li> <li>• what could be better</li> <li>• availability and accessibility of information</li> <li>• is there enough choice in where people can live and the type of housing they can have</li> </ul> <p>After the group work, people provided feedback to the whole meeting on the most important things their group talked about.</p>	



### Next Steps

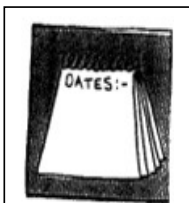
- A Housing Task Group will be set up
- The information provided by the Board (and other associated groups) will be used to make housing plans for people with learning disabilities in the new Learning Disability Housing Strategy. This will be completed by September and brought back to the Board.
- The Strategy will be used to tell the right people to develop more new housing and support for people with learning disabilities

Janet Wright said it is good that someone from housing is leading on the strategy and all departments – Learning Disabilities, Supporting People, Transitions must work together.



### Any other business

Janet Wright told the Board that after many years of working in learning disabilities, Bill Walton has decided to take a career break. Bill has played a very important role in setting up many services for people with learning disabilities such as, Sharing Care, The Coalition, and Roots, just to name a few. He has shown lots of commitment, dedication and support for people with learning disabilities. The Board expressed their gratitude and wished him success in the future.



### Next Partnership Board Meetings

- **16<sup>th</sup> June.** Two public meetings are scheduled for this year (March and October) but as there is so much to talk about, it has been decided the June meeting will become a public event.

The Board have invited people to host information stalls at the meeting.



Ann Williams, National Director for Learning Disabilities is also coming and would like to meet as many people as possible.

For catering purposes, members of the public wishing to attend the meeting should be asked to contact Louise Mills before the meeting to confirm their attendance.

- **14<sup>th</sup> July.** This will be a private meeting.

Norman Campbell is coming to talk about the results of the Yorkshire and Humber Learning Disabilities Health Self Assessment.

Members of the Council's Self Directed Support team and people using this new form of funding (Early Implementers) have agreed to do a presentation and workshop.

David Hansen told the Board a big learning disabilities event is taking place in Manchester on the same day so there may be a few Board members unable to attend this meeting.

**Thank  
You**

George thanked everyone for attending the meeting and invited people to stay for buffet lunch.



## Summary of feedback from the housing consultation Partnership Board meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009



### Questions that were discussed by the three groups

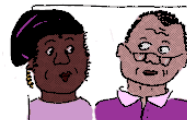


#### What is not so good and needs improving?



- ✘ Availability of housing is patchy geographically
- ✘ No central information point
- ✘ Properties are not always physically suitable, need to consider physical adaptations for people who also have a physical disability
- ✘ Little choice through Choice Based Lettings – to take what's offered can work well in some areas but sometimes people feel vulnerable in some neighbourhoods
- ✘ Family carer concerns, lack of emergency planning
- ✘ Transfer of tenancy is not easy
- ✘ Difficulty of shared ownership schemes
- ✘ Too many people are still living in shared accommodation
- ✘ Often feels like there are barriers to accessing housing – too much red tape
- ✘ Can take too long matching support to housing, often when support is sorted out the housing vacancy has gone
- ✘ Process is buildings lead, rather than a people lead process
- ✘ Lack of culturally sensitive housing
- ✘ Need to engage more in planning process for long-term housing solutions to be built
- ✘ Reference rent = limited choice stopping people living in area of choice

- ✘ PFI = restrictions on areas of Leeds
- ✘ Consider more cultural sensitive areas – some people want to live in some areas to be nearer to family and friends
- ✘ Not enough easy read information
- ✘ Conflict between service users wishes and that of carers in housing decisions between parent and child - difficult
- ✘ Benefits work better for people in their own houses rather than for people in large scale services
- ✘ Some home closures have taken too long to complete (ILP)
- ✘ Fire services often apply regulations to supported living schemes which should only be applied to registered care homes
- ✘ Difficult issues around the Mental Capacity Act and tenancy agreements and mortgages
- ✘ Quality of housing advice varies between different One Stop Shops
- ✘ Need more disability awareness training for housing advice staff
- ✘ Problems obtaining bond for private renting - lack of help and difficult



**What is working well or has been a success in housing?**



- ✓ Recognised need for change in housing for people with a learning disability
- ✓ Some people have good stories to tell of success
- ✓ Keyring is a good support model but we need more of it
- ✓ Use of assistive technology is increasing
- ✓ Opportunity have arisen through local authority PFI schemes
- ✓ Accredited landlord list for private rented tenancies



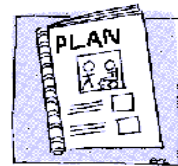
- ✓ ALMOs are an improvement
- ✓ Good range of providers
- ✓ Private renting can give quicker solutions and more choice of properties in areas but there are problems for example, the bond scheme
- ✓ Supported living in the community can help improve acceptance and inclusion but some problems – difficult for people living alone in isolation
- ✓ New housing opportunities can help create small work enterprises such as gardening or decorating
- ✓ Leeds have a link to Housing Options national organisation
- ✓ Voluntary sector providers bring flexibility



**Summary of main issues at the end of the session.**



**What we need to take back and develop further**



- Learn from success stories – find examples where people have managed to solve housing issues with options such as mortgage or shared ownership and inform others this way
- Planning of new build developments for longer term housing solutions
- Transitions – need to ensure that people start with planning housing at the beginning of the process so that everything else fits around this
- Planning and discussion of housing – needs to be more awareness so that people know their options and can be empowered to make their own decisions before it's too late (not during a crisis)
- Choice Based Lettings – needs improving as not everyone has a computer or understands it
- Need one point of contact for getting housing advice and how to get help if wanting to move

- Hate Crime is still a problem and need to check that all support is in place for victims
- People who don't have advocacy links don't know how to get help or information – need to get more awareness out there of learning disability housing advice resources
- Consider a dedicated member of staff to give support and advice on learning disability housing and the application processes
- Develop an easy format toolkit for people to check issues before entering into private rented tenancies
- A booklet 'Know Your Rights' for housing issues and people with a learning disability to cover things like housing benefit, tenancy agreements, how your landlord should do checks and what cannot be done for example, illegal eviction



**Things that we like and that work well**



- ✓ Existing service providers are working well
- ✓ Key ring is a good support model and we need more
- ✓ Housing Options national website is a good resource
- ✓ We should try new things



**Things that we want to get rid of or need sorting out**



- Staff awareness of learning disabilities
- Choice Based Lettings
- Location of properties
- Slow rate of change – lots of talk but still for some people things are not changing



- Too many people still living in large groups
- Information is poor and it is confusing where to go for advice
- Lack of information
- Types of information – not all are accessible
- Being passed around when making housing enquiries and getting demotivated with the whole process

