

Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board

together



Minutes of November 2006 Meeting



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together



Welcome

Happy New Year and welcome to issue 16 of the newsletter from Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board.



Dates of meetings

Meetings start at 10.30 am on Tuesday:

9 January

13 March

8 May

10 July

11 September

13 November



Cover: Central Library in Manchester City Centre



Contact

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Partnership Board Newsletter
Manchester People First
Unit 21 Wilsons Park Business Centre
Monsall Road
Newton Heath
Manchester
M40 8WN

November Meeting

The meeting was held on 7 November 2006

1. Minutes from last meeting

Agreed to be true.

2. Matters arising

The Promises Book will be talked about as part of Any Other Business.

3. Autism presentation by Mari Saeki

Mari is from the National Autistic Society.

She talked about children and adults on the autistic spectrum and what the Government has said about the National Autism Plan, National Service Framework and Education Select Committee Report.

In Manchester, there are about 3400 people on the autistic spectrum. Diagnosis and assessment are getting better all the time and Manchester is good at this. For children, the National Autistic Society is running a campaign called 'Make School Make Sense' – to make education better. There are problems in social care about people getting services and getting short breaks.

Manchester is one of the 10 councils in Greater Manchester and is part of the Commissioning Standards Group. Services cost a lot of money. The goal is to save money by making local services more responsive.

There are 4 groups looking at things for children:

- transition
- training
- intervention
- assessment and diagnosis



Also, there is lots of development work for adults going on.

This is looking at:

- communication
- transition (re-employment, further education, housing)
- diagnosis and care pathway

The last piece of work is for adults with autistic spectrum disorders who are not learning disabled or have mental health problems. There is going to be an event to talk about ideas. Key staff from the health services have been invited.

Discussion ▶ Janet Flood said she had heard there was news about another therapy for autism.

Bernie Wood said schools need to know more and should be more honest about how well they can teach people.

Sue Cooley said schools should also teach social skills.

Richard Hughes wanted to know if people with autism can get training.

Mari said there is not enough social skills training.

Lorraine Gradwell talked about bullying in schools.

Children should be taught about 'difference' rather than about particular conditions. She also felt that person centred planning was important for this group, because a lot of detail was needed to give good support.

Mark Burton talked about the 'no gaps approach' in Fair Access to Services (FACS). The learning disability budget does fund some placements, but there is still a lot to do such as training Doctors to give a diagnosis. Mark also said he had read powerful stories written by people with autism and we needed to hear their own stories.

Lorraine asked about the next steps.

It was agreed that all of the sub groups would be interested in finding out more about autism.

Break



4. Access to leisure and swimming facilities

Sue Menzies from Manchester Learning Disability Partnership, said a lot of work had been done to help people use leisure services. One problem was how many different people in different departments had to be contacted. But now it may get easier as Manchester has a new Leisure Trust.

Edward Flanigan the Interim Chief Executive of the Leisure Trust spoke to the Board.

He explained that the trust runs the Aquatics Centre in the city centre and all the other council leisure centres.

A company called SERCO manages the centres for the council. The trust will soon be managing Sports City as well.

Edward said that a lot of the complaints about access can be sorted out by making small adaptations. He hoped that he would be able to get different organizations to work together to quickly sort out problems. He also said he would like to work with the Partnership Board.

Sue Cooley said Manchester had done what the law said it had to. But we should do more and meet the needs of people with MS, stroke patients etc. not just people with learning disabilities.

Lorraine said we should remember our successes, such as the Commonwealth Games and the volunteer programme.

She said the Manchester Disabled Access Group could be employed as consultants.

A person could be a member of the trust board under the Disability Equality Duty Scheme.

Bernie Wood and Helen Johnston gave some examples of the difficulties people have using leisure facilities.

Sue Cooley said we should do a presentation to the trust.

Edward said he would tell the trust about the suggestions.



5. Update on day services

Mark Burton on behalf of Dave Ruane, spoke to the board and gave out a copy of a report.

Mark talked about visits by board members to day centres. Board members would be sent a letter asking them to say what they wanted to see. Then a programme of visits will be arranged. Sue Cooley said Councilor Basil Curley could be involved in the visits.

There followed a brief talk on if visits should be announced or not. Mark asked if they were 'visits' or 'inspections'?

6. Dates for 2007

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7. Any other business

Mark Burton said we should look again at having a health representative on the board. He offered to raise this with the new Manchester Primary Care Trust.

Promises Book

Richard Hughes had asked about this at the last meeting. Mark Burton said the book had not been well used.

Government guidelines were introduced that overtook it. He said the Quality Sub Group could look at it again.

Anna Fedeczko agreed and suggested that as the original conference and development of the book had been a collaboration, Richard should be asked to work on this project. Richard agreed.

Next meeting

Tuesday 9 January 2007



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2
Turn right and walk
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3
At Piccadilly Gardens turn
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4
Get the 83, 84, or 184
Bus on Oldham Rd.



5
Get off at the junction
with Grimshaw Lane



6
Walk back to Monsall Rd
and walk down it.



7
Just after the railway
bridge on the left is
Wilson's Park. Walk in.



8
We are near the back,
on the right at Unit 21.

Unit 21 (People First's office)
Wilson's Park Business Centre
Monsall Road
Newton Heath
Manchester
M40 8WN

Tel: 0161 205 0800
Fax: 0161 205 3030
peoplefirst@another.com
www.manpf.org