

Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board

together



Employment sub-group Minutes of the September Meeting



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Employment sub-group

Reports from sub-groups

Anna Fedeczko works for Manchester Learning Disability Partnership as a Senior Quality Development Officer. She has been Chair of the Quality Sub-group since January 2005. There are 10 members who meet every 6 weeks.

“Quality means that learning-disabled people have the things that make life worthwhile, such as choice, privacy, comfort, belonging, relationships, good health and social activities.



“To make sure this happens, there has to be the right sort of support and resources and a way of making sure that people can comment and review what is being offered. This would make it easier to alter things if they were not working.

“The group is looking at how to make it easier for people who use services to be involved in reviewing them and to make sure ordinary services for the general public are serving learning disabled people”.

together



Our Address

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



September Meeting



1. Introductions

2. Minutes from the last meeting

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were true.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Ring and Ride

Manchester People First now go to Ring and Ride meetings. Stephen Hughes said the meetings were 'interesting' and they would carry on going.

Janet Flood said Ring and Ride had not answered her question from the last meeting.

Action: Paul Cassidy agreed to follow-up Janet's point.



4. Workforce development plan

Sue George, from the Council's Personnel Department, told everyone about what the Workforce Development sub-group had been doing. Sue said the group is writing a Citywide Workforce Development Plan. The Department has the information it needs on council services, but is still getting information on the independent sector.

The sub-group is looking at what information is being asked for, how that information is recorded and who works in social care jobs in Manchester.

Next year the sub-group will make sure:

- Collects information that will help it plan things.
- Collects information that is needed for 'Best Value' and 'Valuing People'.
- More young people are interested in social care work.
- More organizations have a training plan.
- More workers do Level 1 and 2 of the LADF, PCP and registered managers award.

Web based system

▶ A new idea is a web-based system: Organisations will be able to put their own information on the site and securely look at information like bed vacancies and workforce development.

Paul Cassidy asked if the numbers of learning disabled people in work is being recorded. Social Services needs to meet these targets if it wants other organisations to employ learning disabled people.

Sue Cooley said this target is not recorded, but can be.



A new project is about to start: 'Care for a Carer Scheme', part of a National Care Ambassador Scheme. The aim is to get people who are keen and happy in their job, to talk to community groups, schools and colleges about their work. It is likely that a qualification will be available for people who take part in the project.

Anna asked how much say learning disabled adults will have on the people who support them. Much work has been done to see the skills learning disabled people see as needed. She said this information could be included on the website. The views of learning disabled adults and parent carers are very important and this information could help all providers.

Award



▶ It was asked if the Council could recognise this good practice with an 'award'. Paul said this might be hard because other care providers in other areas have different standards.

It might be possible to have a 'regional standard'.

The Commission for Social Care Inspectorate or the Valuing People Support Team would be the organisations best placed to take this issue forward.

Action: Paul agreed to contact Martin Routledge (VPST) with the proposal to introduce this standard on a wider basis.

5. Direct payment progress report

Mags Doherty, Acting Team Leader of the CLDT updated the Board on Direct Payments.

Peter Wright from the Direct Payments Team, had met with organisations but had still not got many referrals.

There is a lead person for DP in each of the CLDT's.

A series of meetings took place and a Direct Payments Event will be held on Thursday 29 September 2005 at Platt Lane Conference Centre between 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Board members are invited to attend the event.

Care Managers do have Direct Payments targets to meet and Mags said things needed to become more person centred.

There is a need to focus on transition and Peter Wright will attend 'coffee mornings' to promote Direct Payments.

Mencap, Manchester People First and other organisations will need to be targeted to promote a better take-up.

Mags said the 25 people who get DP and parent-carers have been invited to the event to support a wider take-up of DP.

In the Central CLDT, a Care Manager is available with Peter Wright for 1 hour a month to encourage the use of DP.

It is hoped this will also be done in North Manchester.

Pam McCormick said that 21 children get DP and have funding ready for when they transfer to adult services.

There needs to be support for people to carry on getting Direct Payments.

John Craig asked what was available for people in 24-hour supported accommodation. It was agreed that the current 'block contract' arrangement for this service needs to be looked at. DP is used in Physical Disability Services.

John also said that the majority of people in Calderstones Community Service have severe disabilities with no carer or family support and a lack of advocacy services available.

Councillor Sue Cooley said this was a valuable piece of work, there was a need to identify outcomes, figures, etc.



Judd Skelton informed the group that Manchester Mencap have been awarded a grant from the 'Young People's Fund'. Although the actual project is wider, it would be good to link in with this piece of work.



6. Refreshment break



7. Newsletter update

Richard Hughes, Chair of Manchester People First, updated the Board on the Partnership Newsletter. Eight issues of 'Together' have been produced and 1000 copies are distributed. A reference copy is also available in each of the 24 libraries in Manchester. There are 12 copies sent out on audio CD. No one has asked for it in Braille. A copy is also sent to the VPST. Positive feedback. There is a PDF version on Manchester City Council's and Manchester Learning Disability Partnership's web sites. Manchester People First have added a Partnership Board page to their web site.

Board web site



Richard proposed that the Partnership Board should have its own web site. Manchester People First would complete this task at a cost of £150–£200 per year to host 'partnershipboard.org'. There would be a one-off cost to design the site of about £400 and an on-going cost of £25 per month to update the site.

Sue Cooley felt that the money could be made available.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Recruitment of Disabled People

Janet talked about advertising companies that are recruiting disabled people to advertise their products, e.g. Levi Jeans.

8.2 PCP Implementation Group – VP Audit Tool

The Person Centred Planning Co-ordinator has arranged a training day on the 20 October 2005.

The Valuing People Audit Tool aims to target members of the Board. This interactive audit tool has been established to identify what has been done, what needs to be done and how to proceed.

If members were unable to attend for the full day, it would still be worthwhile to come for some of it.

8.3 Agenda Items for the next Board meeting

8.3.1. Update on Leisure Services and Julia's role in service.

8.3.2. Employment sub-group update

Lorraine told the group that Richard Hughes has been nominated as the 'champion' for employment, the Board members approved this proposal.

8.4 Wythenshawe Park

Sue Cooley and Paul Cassidy visited Wythenshawe Park to look if more work experience opportunities might be available. Sue said a number of learning disabled people work at the Park and that the Park would not be as good without their work. However there is concern that these people are working, without payment to prop-up leisure services. At the meeting, opportunities for making changes were discussed. It was noted that there is lots of help from Government for people with mental health, physical disabilities, etc. into work, but not as much for learning disabled adults.

It was agreed that a scoping exercise is needed, perhaps from the Chief Executives Department, perhaps to set-up a small company.

It was noted that other parks could do this sort of work and offer training and qualifications.

Lorraine suggested that the Employment sub-group should get involved in this work.



The Employment sub-group has made links with the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) and Annie Smith a representative from the Employment and Local Economic Partnership (ELEP) is now a member of the sub-group.



Karin Rodgers spoke about representing the Employment sub-group on the exchange visit with Denmark, where the majority of activities undertaken were very productive, of a high standard and brought funding back into the service.

8.5 Adult Placement Service



The Adult Placement Service, a home care service for learning disabled adults, has just received a Charter Mark from the Government.

8.6 Modernising Day Services Agenda

Paul Murphy told the Board that in line with the modernisation agenda for day services, a new small day service in the community has opened at Buckthorn House. Councillor Cooley said the Board could have a meeting there. Action: Paul agreed to review the opportunity of holding a Board meeting at Buckthorn House

8.7 Board meetings in 2006

It was agreed that Board meetings would be held every 8 weeks in 2006.



9. Date of next meeting

10:30am Tuesday 8 November 2005
at Wilson's Park Business Centre.

