

Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board

# together



## Minutes of May 2006 Meeting



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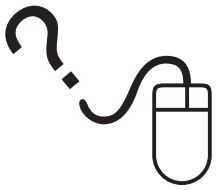
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## Welcome

Welcome to issue 13 of the newsletter from Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board.



In the last issue we had a questionnaire about the Partnership Board's web site. Thank you to those people who filled it in and sent it to us. We did not have many replies, so please help us by letting us know how we can make the web site better.



Cover picture is of Kathy Barton from the Friday Group.

## Contact

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# May Meeting

## 1. Changes to the agenda

Denmark Visit Presentation:

This agenda item had to be put off until the next meeting because the person giving it was ill.

Keeping People Healthy:

This will be talked about at the next meeting of the Board. We instead talked about the play 'Romeo and Juliet' by the Celebrity Pig Theatre Company.

## 2. Minutes from the last meeting

Agreed.

## 3. Matters arising

### 3.1 Partnership Newsletter and Website

Manchester People First gave out a report on how the web site and newsletter were doing.

### 3.2 Black Minority Ethnic Advocacy Service

Paul Cassidy asked Phillo, BME Advocacy Worker from Manchester People First, if there was anything that the Partnership Board could do to help her and Hamaira (People First's Asian Development Worker).

Action: Phillo and Hamaira will give a brief accessible presentation to next meeting.

### 3.3 Valuing People Traffic Light Document

It was agreed that Jean Roper would ask David Dunnico if it would be possible for this document to be added to the website for the Board.





### 3.4 Skill City Feedback

Lorraine Gradwell and Stephen Hughes have written to the organisers of Skill City. They have not had a reply yet.

Action: Paul Cassidy will chase up.

### 4. Individualised Budgets

Manchester is now running a 2 year pilot of the individualised budget scheme.

There will be another 13 pilot schemes running at the same time across the country.

Different councils will run it in different ways.

The Department of Health will work with each of the pilots to see the best way to run things.

It is planned that the scheme will be run across the country in 2010. Manchester's pilot will be available to people with learning disabilities, older people, cancer, renal, and long-term neurological patients.

There are 42 people in Manchester who get Direct Payments, we hope a lot of them will try 'Individualised Budgets'.

Paul said it was important to let people especially parents, carers and self-advocates know about Individualised Budgets.

To get an Individualised Budget, people will do a self-assessment. Resources will be given to help people run their own life. So it is important that funding from different bodies can be collected in one 'pot'. The government is very much in support of this and will be encouraging partner organisations to work together.

Unlike Direct Payments, 'Individualised Budgets' will allow people to buy services from the City Council if they wish, or they can choose services provided by the private or independent sector. This will help services be provided in a person centred way. Outcomes and standards will have to be done for each person to allow services to be monitored.



Individualised Budgets will let people use their own brokerage system. Work is currently ongoing to look at a range of options regarding brokerage, ranging from friends to professional bodies.

Mary Shaw said the Direct Payments scheme does not allow people to employ family members if they live in the same house. Individualised Budgets would work the same way.

Bernie Woods said that in the Direct Payment system she uses there is a 'payroll agency' and hours of work just need to be forwarded each week. The overall paperwork is audited every two years.

Paul said it is planned that this will be the way services are developed. Groups like Talbot House, who do this service for free, will be able to be paid to provide a brokerage and information service.

This person centred approach will change the way services are planned for and developed. People will be able to purchase a 'tailor made' package of support and care.

Julie told the group that regular interviews would take place with the individuals on the pilot to see its success and problems. The pilot scheme has not been established to create savings, but to give better value and quality services that are more effective and efficient.

Bryan Smith asked what links Manchester is planning to use with Valuing People and other 'In Control' pilot systems. It was stated that he was not sure if there would be any value in using the links as Manchester is signing up to 50 sites of 'In Control' across the country.

Paul Cassidy asked that members of the Partnership Board tell people about Manchester's Individualised Budget pilot.

## **5. Break**

## **6. Romeo and Juliet**

The Celebrity Pig Theatre Company with Christopher Eccleston are performing 'Romeo and Juliet' at the Lowry on:  
Monday 15 May 2006, 8.00 p.m.

Tuesday 16 May 2006, 2.30 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.

Each performance lasts for about 2 hours.

The storyline is based on the issues and barriers faced by people with learning disabilities.

Tickets costs between £5.00 and £7.50 if booked in advance. Tickets on the day cost £10.00.

Following the performances there will be an opportunity to ask the cast questions.

It was agreed that it would be good for members of the general public to see the performance to help with understanding the real issues faced by people with learning disabilities. There is also a possibility that the production may be available on a DVD at some point in the future.

## **7. Payments for meetings**

Manchester City Council has introduced a new financial system. This has meant a number of changes, one of these means departments no longer have their own petty cash system.

Manchester People First have therefore, very kindly offered to re-imburse Partnership Board members their normal travel costs which will then be passed on to the relevant budget by an invoice.

## 8. Any Other Business

Talbot House Staff:

Staff from Talbot House recently visited Melland School to talk about Person Centred Planning. The students were very impressed and now want their own plans.

Schools:

Paul Cassidy and Mark Burton recently visited The Grange School. The Grange will get Person Centred Planning information.

Parents are concerned that children leaving school at 19 do not meet up again. Arrangements are being made for young people to meet up a year later to let them talk about their experiences. This should help the transition process by allaying fears and concerns.

Bryan Smith, Person Centred Planning Co-ordinator informed the meeting that he is currently working on introducing Person Centred Planning Reviews during the transition process.

Breakthrough UK:

An open day is being held at the end of June at Breakthrough to tell people what Breakthrough can do for them.

Lorraine Gradwell said a lot of organisations set up by disabled people are losing their funding. Lorraine will be meeting with government representatives on 22 May 2006 to look at this.

Housing sub-group:

The Housing sub-group meet in April 2006 and it is planned to review the Action Plan at the next meeting. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of membership, and a request was put out for more people to become involved in reviewing the strategy, i.e. to identify what has been done, what still needs to be done and any new areas of work that need to be included.



Riz informed the meeting that there is a Housing Options Website, which gives a lot of information.

**DSS Funded Mortgage:**

This was briefly touched on, but there was not a lot of information on how the scheme worked. Julie McConnell agreed to try to find out more.

**Golden Lane Housing:**

National MENCAP Helpline can provide the contact telephone number for this organisation.

**Green Paper Benefit Reform:**

A lot of issues and responses were fed through to Annie Smith who is a member of the Economic Partnership Board.

**9. Date of the next meeting:**

Tuesday 11 July 2006, 10.30 am  
at Wilsons Park Business Centre.

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