

Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board

together

Valuing People Now Consultation Event



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www.partnershipboard.org

together



Welcome

Welcome to issue 23 of the newsletter from the Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board.



Meetings for 2008

Meetings start at 10:30am

Tuesday 11 March

Tuesday 20 May

Tuesday 8 July

Tuesday 9 September

Tuesday 11 November

At Manchester People First's office.



Cover shows Ivan Lewis MP at the Valuing People Consultation.



Contact

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

January Meeting

Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.



Re-launch of Valuing People

Visit from Minister / Manchester Consultation

Stephen Hughes told the meeting that Manchester People First have met Ivan Lewis MP. He will come to The Valuing People Now consultation event they are holding on 28 January 2008, from 10am to 2.30pm at The Mechanics Institute.

Ivan Lewis will be there for 2 hours and give a speech.

Councillor Basil Curley will talk about Manchester's good points and things that need to be worked on.

There will be time for people to 'meet and greet'.

The rest of the day will be taken up by lunch and workshops:

- Health and Person Centred Planning
- Employment and Housing

The event will end with everyone joining up to give feedback from the workshops.

Anna Fedeczko said it would help if people could look at the consultation process and documents before the event.

Jean Roper said the consultation event and local findings will help us know what work needs to be done about:

- Follow on document from 'Promises Promises'
- Partnership Board Audit
- PATH process

Janet Flood said there should be more information on the group at Government level.

Befriending Service

A Befriending Service started in October 2007 at Talbot House for 2 days per week. They have a worker to support isolated older carers in their homes. This can involve going out with carers on visits to family, friends, the cemetery, hospital, doctors appointments, shopping etc.

Older parent carers are sometimes nervous about someone coming into their homes. To get over this, first introductions were done at Talbot House. Good relationships have developed between the older carers and the worker.

The client group is mainly women, but 2 men are also being supported. The worker has introduced these 2 men to each other and they now meet socially.

Referrals for the service are sent to Talbot House.

A volunteer is being recruited to work with the project worker. It was agreed that the service needs to be promoted, so Talbot House is producing a leaflet. Another thing might be to advertise the service in the Partnership Board Newsletter and website.

Ethnicity Update

Because Kay Ahmed could not come to the meeting, Mark Burton told us about the first meeting of the Ethnicity Group which was held in November 2007.

Mark said the meeting was not a great success mainly because not many people were there. Also, some people from larger organisations felt they would not be able to be actively involved in group's work.

There is an Asian Carers Group who might be able to work with the Ethnicity Group.

It was felt that there is a need to work with Manchester City Council to develop individual issues to give people confidence.

It was suggested that the formal group should be put on hold until work has been done on individual issues and the membership of the group has been built up.

Manchester People First gave their support to the group. Mark said People First's help would be valuable.

Jobs Event

Stephen Hughes told the Partnership Board about the recent Jobs Event they hosted in Manchester.

The event was very well attended including young people from schools across Manchester. Job opportunities came from the event and the stallholders felt it was worthwhile. Stephen is hoping to build on the success and get funding for a bigger event next year.

Councillor Basil Curley supported events that include Jobcentre Plus and Connexions, banks, Primary Care Trusts and Local Authorities, as they show opportunities for people with mobility and disability issues and show a united front. He gave a number of contacts and agreed to work with MPF.

Following the restructure of the Education Department and the retirement of the previous education representative, there is no one from Education on the Partnership Board. It was suggested that when Mancat and City College merge, a new representative should be got.

It was also agreed that someone from both Children's Services and the Learning and Skills Council should be on the Partnership Board.

Mark Burton told the meeting that he has put in a 'Getting a Life' proposal on behalf of Manchester. The project aims to help young people who are learning disabled to get a life.



This will involve partnership working with young people, their family and carers, Manchester People First, Talbot House, Himmat, as well as statutory groups and organisations that are contracted to work in the field of employment.

Paul Brannick said there are no longer courses provided during the day, only courses running in the evening.

Janet Flood said that 2 colleges close to her home, Wythenshawe and Fielden College, are now closed. The land apparently cannot be used for 5 years. It was noted that there have been problems with selling assets following Government rules.

Any Other Business

Employment Group

Richard Hughes asked when the employment sub group are next due to meet? Jean gave out the details.

Mencap Funding

Paul Brannick raised the issue of loss of funding for Mencap's Physical Activity Service. It was noted that Anna Wolstenholme visited the Partnership Board meeting a couple of months ago to discuss the service, which was financed through the National Lottery.

Denise agreed to check with Mencap and feedback to Basil Curley, Paul Cassidy and the Partnership Board.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 11 March 2008, 10.30 am
at Manchester People First's offices.

Web site

The Partnership Board has a web site at:

www.partnershipboard.org

Here you can download any issue of our newsletter as a pdf, or a plain text file. An audio version of the latest issue is also available to listen to in mp3 format.

There are also pdf versions of some of the Partnership Board's reports.

Formats

We try to make the newsletter available in different ways to make it accessible to all. We can send you the newsletter by post, or send it you as a pdf or plain text file by email.

We can send you an audio version on CD or cassette tape by post, or as an mp3 file by email. We can also produce a braille version.

If you want to be sent a copy of the newsletter in one of these formats, fill in the form on the back page and send it to us.

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All libraries in Manchester have a reference copy of the newsletter. You can ask to see it, but you cannot take it out of the library.



Questions

Your view ▶ How have we done?



We have tried to make this newsletter easier to read by using big print and easier words.

We really want this information to be easy to understand.

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Tell us what we can do to make it better, things such as:



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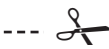


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