

Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board

# together

Issue 24 • Free • Every two months

May and June 2008

# Valuing People Feedback



Manchester  
Learning Disability  
Partnership Board

In this issue: Minutes of March Meeting

[www.partnershipboard.org](http://www.partnershipboard.org)

# together



## Welcome

Welcome to issue 24 of the newsletter from the Manchester Learning Disability Partnership Board.



## Meetings for 2008

Meetings start at 10:30am

Tuesday 20 May

Tuesday 8 July

Tuesday 9 September

Tuesday 11 November

At Manchester People First's office.

Limited car parking is available outside the office.

There is barrier free access and an accessible toilet.



## Contact



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# March Meeting

Councillor Curley welcomed Rachel Walker a student from Manchester University to the meeting. Part of her degree, is about how inclusive Partnership Boards are for members who are self advocates.

## **Minutes from the last meeting**

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

## **Matters arising**

No matters were raised.

## **Learning and Skills Council funding for college placements**

Susan Heyes was not able to be at the meeting, but will come to one in the future.

## **Transforming social care**

Diane Eaton came on behalf of the City Council's Adult Social Care department. She told us about changes to the department, called 'Care for the Future, a life not a service'.

The aim of the changes is to put people first and to promote re-ablement. This will be done by:

- Locality working
- Individualised Budgets
- Prevention strategy
- Dignity in Care

Diane asked Board members to look at how accessible the self assessment form was. Manchester People First agreed to be involved. It was agreed that the Person Centred Planning Audit Group would also look at it.



Bernie Woods asked how a document that is universal could be accessible?

Councillor Curley said that the document has to be universal to make sure people get the services they need etc. There has to be an equality standard to the process.

The assessment form will be standardised, but the Support Plan will identify individual needs to make sure the funding allocation is what is needed.

### **Valuing People Now Consultation**

Paul Brannick talked about the event organised by Manchester People First, on 28 January 2008 to start the Valuing People Now Consultation.

Over 120 people came from across Manchester.

There were 4 workshops:

- Choice and control
- Where you live
- Doing things in the day and night and at work
- Being healthy and getting a good service from doctors

Anna Fedeczko told the Board members about some of the feedback people gave during the consultation, such as:

#### **Choice and Control:**

- Direct Payments had increased to £320 making it harder to get the Individual Living Fund.
- There needs to be a 'bridging fund' to help transition to individualised budgets.
- Risk Assessments stop people doing what they want.
- Organisations really need to work together.

### **Where you Live:**

- Not enough social housing.
- Tenants having to cope with staff changes.
- Learning disabled people not offered houses in 'nice areas'.
- More accessible homes need to be built.

### **Things they do and work:**

- Need to change the benefits system.
- Not everyone wants to work.
- When in work people want proper wages.
- Big organisations to employ more learning disabled adults.
- Work places need learning disability awareness training.

### **Health Services:**

- More money needed to make hospitals and community services better for learning disabled people.
- Hospital bosses need to make sure staff follow clear policies, guidance and meet learning disability targets.
- Better training and information for all health staff.
- Hospitals do not understand the needs of people with more complex needs.
- Parents often have to sleep in a chair at the side of the bed of the person being cared for.
- Change needs to happen at the top of the Health and Social Care Services.
- Person Centred Plans help to plan the future.
- More understanding of cultural issues is needed.

It has been agreed that there will be a two-year transition period, where services transfer funding from existing services to the Individualised Budget Scheme.

The group were told about the shared ownership scheme at Chatsworth Grove in Whalley Range.

This is a 'shared ownership' property in the City that is about to open. The scheme will let learning disabled adults buy part of the property.

The scheme is being helped by a national charity called 4-Ability. Learning disabled people can take out a mortgage and benefits will not be affected.

Partnership Board members said they would like to see the scheme before it opens.

Action: Mark Burton to arrange a visit for interested Partnership Board members. He will ask a member of 4-Ability to come and talk to the Board.

Janet Flood agreed that there is a need for more clear information generally. She gave an example regarding medication and the side effects of stopping the medication without any help.

Councillor Curley told everyone that Ivan Lewis was very impressed with the launch event organised by Manchester People First and the work they do. He also said the people on the Board were a very important group and that they are doing a good job.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Board membership**

Janet Flood asked if her Board membership details could be changed from 'Mencap' to 'self advocate'.

#### **Leisure Services**

Kathy told the group that there is now in Leisure Services a Strategic Disability Sports Manager for Manchester called Nicky Boothroyd.

It was agreed she would come and talk to the Board.



#### **Date of the next meeting**

Tuesday 20 May 2008 from 10:30am.

# Web site

The Partnership Board has a web site at:

**[www.partnershipboard.org](http://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.

# Library

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.

Please tell us if you found any parts hard.

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



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