

Work of the Learning Disability Partnership Board since December 2007:



Partnership Board Meetings

The Partnership Board still meets on a Monday morning every second month. All presentations and reports are asked to use accessible, jargon free, language as much as possible. The meetings have in the past been held at Brighton Town hall. However, the Partnership Board decided to change venues beginning in 2009. From now on meetings will be held at the more accessible and more conveniently located Hove Town Hall.

Partnership Board meetings are arranged and administered by a Partnership Board Assistant provided by the council's Integrated Learning Disability Services. The PA to the Manager of Integrated Learning Disability Services fulfils this role.

Partnership Board Members

The Partnership Board has 27 members. This includes people with learning disabilities, family carers, council departments, and voluntary and community organisations. The full membership list is on the Partnership Board's website.

The Partnership Board has two co-chairs. Both the co-chairs are new to the Partnership Board this year. One of the co-chairs is the relevant council Cabinet Member, Cllr Maria Caulfield.

The other co-chair is elected by the Speak Out self-advocacy groups. In 2008 the Speak Out Advocacy Network had two elections for co-chair. The first election was because the previous co-chair, Ian Metherell, retired after seven years on the Partnership Board. However, the newly elected co-chair soon resigned so another election was held and Matthew Hellett was elected as co-chair.

There are two support workers to help people with learning disabilities and family carers who are members of the Partnership Board. The support workers attend the meetings and also meet with those board members before and after Partnership Board meetings to help them with their duties as Partnership Board members. The Learning Disability Development Fund pays for the support workers.

In April of 2008 the Partnership Board started using Learning Disability Development funding to pay for a development worker who helps the whole Partnership Board and the two co-chairs in particular.

Partnership Board Website

In July of 2007 the Partnership Board established a website, using Learning Disability Development Fund money. In 2008 the website name was chosen: www.brightpart.org.

In the summer of 2008 the maintenance of the website was given to the development worker. As a result the website has been updated this year to include a list of all the members of the partnership board, copies of all the partnership board policies, previous meeting minutes, news, and information about upcoming events. The Partnership Board development worker is now checking the website weekly and keeping all pages up to date and accurate.

Each sub group has a page on the website and those pages have also been updated. Chairs of the sub groups are now checking their pages regularly and keeping them up to date under the guidance of the development worker.

Partnership Board Achievements since December 2007

- Chose a new logo and gave the website a new name.
- Had a presentation from the Valuing People Support Team about Valuing People Now, the government's refresh of the original 2001 Valuing People paper
- Held a consultation event and fed into the consultation about Valuing People Now
- Supported the National Changing Places campaign for better public toilet facilities for disabled people
- Held two meetings to decide how to allocate the LDDF money for 2008/9
- Approved a policy to make it easier to allocate the LDDF money in the future
- Agreed a way of checking on the LDDF projects and got the first reports from the 2008/9 projects.
- Agreed how to allocate the 2009/10 LDDF money
- Received reports and information about: Family Carers Service, Training for Staff, Care Management Reviews, and 'How Person Centred Are We' in Brighton & Hove.
- Received two reports on the Safeguarding work undertaken by the Brighton & Hove Community Learning Disability Team. This report advises the Partnership Board on numbers and levels of alert and types of abuse and action taken. This gives the Partnership Board an overview of how we are keeping people with learning disabilities safe. (Safeguarding statistics are also included in the 'Annual Safeguarding Report' that is produced by Adult Social Care for the Adult Social Care Cabinet Member and for the Joint Commissioning Board).
- Created a new sub group for Work & Skills
- Found out how people with learning disabilities register with the library service so they do not have to pay for CDs and DVDs.
- Approved the new Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy
- Approved the 'New Idea' for a day options team within Integrated Learning Disability Services

Sub groups

Sub Groups do work for the Partnership Board. Each group has a web page on www.brightpart.org where the groups can put the details of their meetings, the work they are doing and their latest news.

Healthy Lives:



This sub group has run for many years. It works to help people with learning disabilities have better access to health care.

This sub group also oversees the Health Facilitator and Health Action Planning Project.

Person Centred Approaches:



This is another sub group that has run for many years.

In 2007-2008 this sub group managed the very successful 'How Person Centred Are We' project. This sub group also oversees the 'Self Directed Support Project' since the Self Directed Support working group merged with this group earlier in the year.

Taking Part in the City:



This sub group started in 2005 and was called the 'Better Lives Steering Group'. They have looked after lots of projects, like the Travel Buddies project and the Equal projects about volunteer work and work skills.

Before the Better Lives group there were different sub groups for day services, adult learning and employment. Now those groups work together along with people in leisure, transport, community support services, community safety and national Mencap.

In 2008 the Better Lives group decided that work & skills needed to be a separate group because there is so much work to do in that area. The remaining group changed their name to Taking Part in the City to show that they are focussing on helping people with learning disabilities experience full citizenship.

Work & Skills:



There used to be an employment sub group and then for three years the people working on employment were part of the Better Lives group. In October 2008 the Work & Skills group once again became a separate sub group because there is so much work to do in that area. This sub group has had a couple of meetings so far.

Workforce Development:



This active sub group has been going for several years. This group make sure our staff can be trained to do their jobs well. They are also looking at some ideas to help mainstream staff be more helpful for people with learning disabilities. This year the sub group launched the good practice guide, 'Choosing My Staff'.

This group manages the Developing the Wider Workforce project.

A Place to Live sub group:



This is another group that has changed over the years. Right now they are looking at plans for making sure people with learning disabilities have the same housing options as other citizens.

Since December 2007 they have completed a Best Value review of accommodation services and they are reviewing the Learning Disability Housing Strategy.

Fora (forums):

The fora are groups of people with similar interests. Fora work with the Partnership Board and are not directly accountable to the Partnership Board in the way that sub groups are.

Transitions Forum:



The main purpose of this forum is to create an interagency partnership that will promote effective transitions into adulthood, for young people with special needs and disabilities.

This forum oversees the 'Person Centred Transition Planning' project.

Learning Disability Providers' Forum:



This is a gathering for all organisations that have contracts with the council to provide services for people with learning disabilities. The Lead Commissioner is the chair of this forum.

Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF)

This is money the government gives to local authorities to help them implement the principles of Valuing People and Valuing People Now. The Partnership Board uses that money to pay for Partnership Board expenses and for special projects. There were 16 special projects funded in 2007-2008.

LDDF projects 2007 - 2008	LDDF funding
Advocacy Groups Network • 4 speaking up groups; Big Meetings; lobbying	£38,350
Blue Camel Club • Four Blue Camel Clubs; steered by a committee of learning disabled people	£14,385
Better Work Options • Learning resource; business opportunities; art-selling group; accredited training for people with learning disabilities	£24,500
Carers Forum • Information and support sessions for carers	£5,625
Day Services Development & Equal Project • Project management; support for Better Lives Steering Group & Improving Day Services group	£31,518

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Direct Payments / Individual Budgets	
• Undertake and increase work on Direct Payments and Individualised budgets	£12,037
Health Action Plans and Better Health	
• Improve health services received by people with learning disabilities	£15,300
How Person Centred Are We	
• Systems for measuring how we are doing on person-centred planning in the city	£10,000
LINK Project	
• 6 Big Meetings; 6 Partnership Board Meetings; Support to work with Sub Groups	£14,961
Older Carers	
• Information and planning for older people caring for someone with a learning disability	£15,564
Parents with Learning Disabilities	
• Group and information sessions run by parents	£5,653
Person Centred Transition Reviews	
• Schools implement Person Centred Transition Reviews; work with parents; link with national initiative	£15,339
Self Directed Support	
• Self-Directed Support for individuals; work with assessment teams; new Resource Allocation System	£15,000
Spiral Shop	
• Work skill training and experience; volunteering and work opportunities for 10 people.	£15,000
Travel Buddy Scheme	
• 20 trained travel buddies; 20 people with learning disabilities supported; future funding sought	£15,500
Voluntary work Project	
• 8 more people doing voluntary work; 25 people helped to continue in voluntary work; helps providers know how to support voluntary work	£6,588
Partnership Board Expenses	
	£15,000
Under spend that was carried over to next year's Self-Directed Support and Partnership Board Development projects	
	£18,000

Highlights from 2007 - 2008 projects

- The can-recycling project works with over 15 local business partners. More than 20 people with learning disabilities have been part of the collection and recycling of the cans.

- The Carers Forum held a successful housing event jointly with Brighton & Hove Council. 14 carers had individual advice sessions and those who attended benefited from a range of useful information stalls.
- The Link group made a DVD to be used as part of the Health Action Planning training for GP practices.
- The Travel Buddy Scheme was highlighted by the City Council as a "good practice" example against harassment (August '08).
- Melvin Redwood was highlighted in the local media because the Voluntary Work project helped him get his first paid job, at the age of 64.
- Artwork under the "Our Art" banner was widely sold and exhibited in the Brighton area. 10 exhibitions were held and Deirdre Waller had a solo exhibition at Hangleton library. A partnership was developed with Creative Futures to integrate "Our Art" with other disadvantaged local artists and art has been widely shown in exhibitions including the Brighton Festival.
- Service Users at Belgrave Day Service formed a Person-centred planning group and used innovative and creative ways of finding out what other service users in other services experience of person-centred planning.
- In September carers and professionals attended an information session about Health Action Planning.
- An information pack about learning disabilities and a training package were developed and delivered to GP practices.
- Accredited training in catering was developed. The council will be able to offer training for nationally recognised qualifications for adults with learning disabilities.
- 2 Travel Trainees who were supported by Travel Buddies began travelling independently.
- At Buckingham Road Day Service the staff developed catering opportunities for service users by establishing "Feast" which delivers catering events.
- 19 GP practices signed up to provide health checks and Health Action Plans between October 2007 and March 2008.
- One man realised a long-standing ambition to work at Starbucks at Gatwick Airport when the Voluntary Work Project arranged a work experience for him.
- Feedback about outcomes of person-centred plans is sent to the Person Centred Planning group and is put into a database.
- GP practices were helped to make a list of all their patients who have a learning disability.
- The Travel Buddy Scheme was part of the Car Free Day (September '08) and, together with the B&H City Council, won the Claudia Flanders Memorial Award for Accessibility in the 2008 UK Bus Awards.

LDDF Projects – 2008-2009:

There are 12 special projects in 2008-2009.

LDDF projects are now required to report back to the Partnership Board three times each year. This year the Partnership Board has approved a report form to use and the reports are put on the 'News' page of the website. The development worker writes a summary of all the reports and gives the summary to the Partnership Board.

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So far this year the projects have sent in one report (in August). Reports are available on the Partnership Board website. The final outcomes of this year's projects will be included in the Partnership Boards' next annual report.

LDDF projects 2008 - 2009	LDDF funding
Partnership Board Expenses	£8,000
Advocacy Groups Network	£38,800
Better Work Options	£39,875
Carers Link Group	£8,543
Carers Support – Family Involvement in personalised approaches	£14,547
Developing the Wider Workforce	£5,500
Health Action Plans and Better Health	£19,000
Partnership Board Development Worker	£20,853
Person Centred Transition Reviews	£12,995
Self Directed Support	£12,753
Supported Volunteer Work Scheme	£24,823
LINK Project	£14,961
Travel Buddy Scheme	£10,350

Annual Report written by Karen Kingsland, Project and Development Officer, January 2009