

# Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Summary Final report – April 2009



**There were 12 projects paid by the LDDF from April 2008 to March 2009**

This is who they are, how much LDDF they got, and what they did

## **Developing the Wider Workforce: £5,500**

- Met with Speak Out Advocacy Service and discussed the aims of the scheme and launched a competition to design a sticker scheme
- Produced a draft pledge for mainstream providers to sign up to and have a winner for design a logo competition.
- We have received quotes to produce a DVD. These were higher than we expected so we are looking at other quotes to produce the DVD.

### **The future:**

We will continue the work over the next financial year



## **Carers Link Group: £8,543**



- From the beginning of the year Carers' Centre and Amaze each supported one carer representative to take part in the Partnership Board Meetings.
- In the last months of the year the Carers' Centre identified two new Carer representatives (the previous rep stood down) and started to arrange for learning disability carers and their representatives to meet each other and work on the mechanisms for consultation
- One carer attended the Carers Forum and the Learning Disability / Supporting People Consultation day and raised concerns about the lack of suitable housing for people with learning disabilities
- In the last months of the year Amaze identified a second Carer representative and supported their two parent representatives to come to the Learning Disability Partnership Board meetings.
- One is the co-chair of the Parent and Carers Council and also talked to the Parents with Teenagers get together in March at Amaze. The other carer works with Amaze, delivering training for parents about the transition to adulthood. She is also the parent representative for the Transition Forum.

### **The Future:**

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This project got more LDDF money to keep going in 2009/10.



## **Travel Buddy Project: £10,350**

- Recruitment and training of trainees and their travel buddies happened all through the year

• One walking bus was set up. The walking bus goes from Grace Eyre to College and back to Grace Eyre.



- Brighton & Hove City Council highlighted the Travel Buddy Scheme as an example of 'Best Practice', covering participation, empowerment and freedom from discrimination. Also, the council won the National Bus Award for Accessibility and the Travel Buddy Scheme got highlighted as part of this award as a pioneering project.
- 2 trainees learnt to travel independently and still feedback to the co-ordinator after their journeys.
- There is a high demand for the Travel Training. This includes learning how to cross roads safely and how to use busses. It is very person centred because every participant can choose a destination on a weekly rota basis
- The Travel Buddy Scheme linked up with Age Concern's Lifeline project and with the Brighton & Hove Bus and Coach Company.



## **The future...**

A major achievement this year is that the project secured funding to keep going for another 2 years! So far they raised £63,300 to continue the work until April 2012.

## **Person Centred Transition Reviews: £12,995**



- Patcham House School have introduced Person Centred Reviews for all their pupils starting in Year 7. All students at the school have Person Centred Transition Reviews from Year 9 onwards.

• 5 Teaching staff and 5 parents at Patcham House had training about Person Centred Transition Reviews

- At Downs View School 2 Young people had Person Centred Transition

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Review meetings facilitated through the project and that involved 10 professionals and 3 parents.

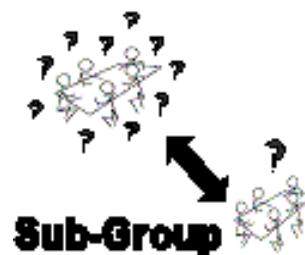
- At Cedar Centre Special School the Head Teacher had an information session about Person Centred Transition Review meetings.
- At the Alternative Centre for Education the Head Teacher and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator had information sessions about Person Centred Transition Review meetings
- 135 parents received the Amaze handbook Through the Next Maze which is all about a person centred approach to transition planning
- 20 parents learnt more about Self Directed Support through this project
- 5 parents received one to one support with their child's Person Centred Transition Review meetings through the project

### The Future:

This is the end of the funding from the Learning Disability Development Fund for this Project. The Partnership Board will think about different projects to keep improving transitions for young people

### Carers' Support Project: £14,547

- Information about the Project sent to carers via newsletter and website and to doctors' practices, the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board network.
- Met with staff at day centres to advertise the project
- Article on Carers' Support Project published in 'Putting People First without putting carers second' Crossroads/Princess Royal Trust magazine and published in a Princess Royal Trust briefing paper
- Met and worked with Carers Care Manager, Health Facilitator and Natalya Garzon from Brighton and Hove Housing Options team
- Met and worked with the Person Centred Planning sub group and A Place to live sub group.
- Chris Lau (our director) facilitated a 'Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy' discussion table for learning disability carers at our Carers' Forum
- 5 carers in first four months, 17 in next four months, and 13 in final four months received one-to-one support for information, advocacy and emotional support around their caring roles through regular one-to-one sessions and by



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telephone.

- This included a diversity of carers including some with complex needs, some from the BME community and some using direct payments
- A number of carers were referred for or had a Carers Assessment/Review or received Carers Special Grant money for self-care activities



## Future:

This project ended in March 2009



## Link Project: £14,961

- Membership was usually 7 people with learning disabilities. All Partnership Boards and Big Meetings during the year were attended.
- Feedback given to Partnership Board about the meetings.
- Feedback given on labels, person centred planning in the city and about the choices people get at home and how able they are to complain about the service they get. Gave opinions about day service changes to Better Lives group.
- Link Group sent questionnaires for all subgroups and also sent the Link project questionnaire to Partnership Board members to see if Link Project work is making a difference.
- Worked with council on training and interviewing staff and have been involved in doing a video about Good Staff Support for Speak out training.
- Members wrote articles for 2 editions of network news, talked at the Speak out AGM and were involved in the consultation about the proposed housing development at Wellington Road.
- Link Group gave a presentation to February Big Meeting about the work they do at the Partnership Board.
- Link Group took part in Big Meeting evaluation in December. Feedback given to the Big Meeting from the Partnership Board.
- Two group members visited the West Sussex Partnership Board. Members visited two Brighton & Hove sub groups



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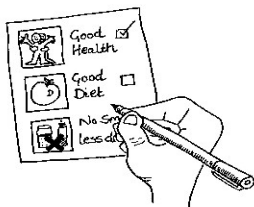
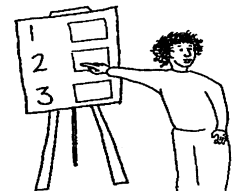


## The Future

This project got LDDF funding in 2009/10 to continue the work

### Health Action Plans & Better Health: £19,000

- 32 out of the 47 GP practices are now doing health checks and health action plans for their patients with a learning disability. Work is going on to get more practices doing this.
- A big achievement is that one of the practices had always said they could not do the new service, but Natalie talked to them a lot and helped them see it was a good thing to do
- 29 practices have been given special training so far
- A training pack for staff and family carers has been made.
- Worked with the Primary Care Trust to get better information about the health and needs of people with a learning disability in Brighton & Hove.



- Some practices told us that they have found out about problems with people's health that they didn't know about before doing the health check.
- The Health Facilitator gave 2 workshops to 21 staff about 'Being a Health Supporter'.



- A problem was that not everyone who gets invited for a health check has gone to get one. We thought this might be because people were not sure what would happen. So Natalie wrote some information about health checks for the GP practices to send out.

• A year ago we knew that 697 people with a learning disability in the City were on GP practice lists. Natalie helped the GP practices to make sure they had the right people on their learning disability lists. Now there are 873 people on GP practice learning disability lists in the City. This helps to make sure people get a letter telling them they can have their health check and health action plan.

- 753 people are registered with a GP practice where they can have their health check and health action plan.



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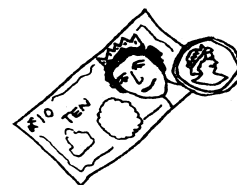


looking at ways for those that are left to get a check as well

- Natalie and some people from the Community Learning Disability Team had a stall at the Healthy Living Day at Jubilee Library. This was a big public event where people could find out about ways to be healthy.

## The Future:

This project got more LDDF money to keep going in 2009/10. The Primary Care Trust (who plan and pay for all health services in the City) said they would pay for the Health Facilitator job when our LDDF money runs out in September 2009. This means the job is now permanent.



## Self-Directed Support Project: £ 21,753.00

- Made a plan to make it easier for people to direct their own support. The most important parts of the plan were talked about at the Learning Disability Partnership Board meeting on 7th July 2008.
- Helped young people who are about to become adults to think about Self Directed Support.
- Spoke to the Children's Services Communication group and the staff at the Transition Team about Self Directed Support options for young people becoming adults.
- Talked to people with learning disabilities and their families at events. Put on an evaluation event, an event for providers and an event about the commissioning strategy.
- Visited support groups like Amaze and Avondale day centre.
- Produced Self Directed Support Newsletters. The 'Learning Disability News' has now replaced this. Self Directed Support updates and stories will feature in that newsletter from April 2009.



- Produced a 'Self Directed Support Guide' for parents, carers and supporters that is available on [www.brightpart.org](http://www.brightpart.org).

- Produced an accessible contract for arrangements between people and

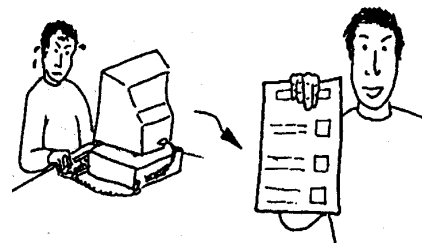
their providers which is available now on [www.brightpart.org](http://www.brightpart.org)



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- Helped people with complex needs access Individual Budgets which has led to more work including: developing a brokerage contract; discovering the issues around tenancies and mental capacity; helping people move back to Brighton from out of area
- The project produced an 'Outcomes report' and the most important bits of information from this report were shared at the Self Directed Support Strategic (planning) meeting.
- Talked about Self Directed Support at Federation for Disabled People events.
- We have updated service LD service providers and member of the public about Self Directed Support through LD Commissioning Information Event in February.
- We now have 109 people with learning disabilities using Self Directed Support (either an Individual Budgets or Direct Payments). This far exceeds the project's targets.



## The Future:

- Although the LDDF funding has ended this work will continue as part of the council's personalisation of social services.

## Voluntary Work Project: £24,823

- Most of the targets were achieved by November 2008.
- In total 21 people with learning disabilities started new volunteer work through this project this year. They work in lots of places like Age Concern, council offices and a fish and chip shop!
- As well as helping people get new jobs the project is always helping about 22 people who are already doing voluntary work.
- The project does development plans with them. This helps people develop their roles and skills at work.



- Martyn, who works at the Museum, is now handing out leaflets in Pavilion Gardens and is was in City News in July of 2009.
- Sam who worked at Starbucks has now met with the Employment Support Team and hopes to find paid work soon.



- The 'Papermates' group from Buckingham Road are doing mailshots for charities and the council.

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- We helped Debs do work experience at Starbucks
- Developed partnership with Starbucks and a further three people had work experience in three Starbucks coffee shops.
- Helped one person get a 'working interview' with City Clean.



- Talked to groups of staff about supporting people doing voluntary work and went to one meeting in London about Supported Employment.
  - Joined the Work & Skills Sub Group
  - Two clients did work experience as recycling operatives with the council. The council then employed them both in paid work.
- One staff from Wellington House worked for this project one day per week.
- The Buckingham Road Makaton group have been doing some great work at St Luke's Junior school. The school children and staff are very pleased to see them every Thursday.



## The Future:

Although the Voluntary Work project will not be able to run at the same capacity now the LDDF funding has ended, it will still exist on a smaller scale



## Partnership Board Development: £29,853

### Helped the LDPB 'Develop' itself and it's work

- Fixed the terms of reference, membership list, job descriptions, website and sub group list



- Helped the Partnership Board agree to a policy about giving out LDDF money each year. Then helped the Board follow the policy all year
- We have a new way of doing the LDDF reports to check on the projects.
- Set up the new Make It Happen group
- Wrote the Make It Happen Plan
- Arranged for Jean Collins to come to our meeting in May

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## Told people about the LDPB, being a contact person

- Did a presentations about the Partnership Board at the Provider's forum, the Big Meeting and the Carers Listening Lunch
- Lots of people contact Karen about the Partnership Board all the time – too many to count



## Helped LDPB members represent the LDPB

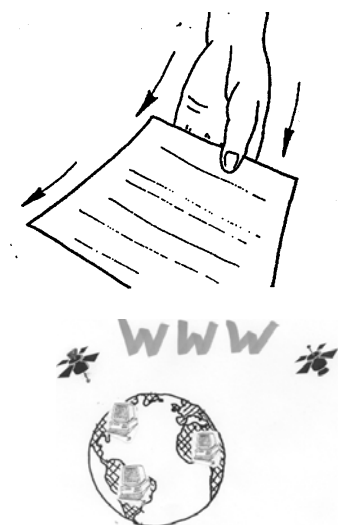
- Ran an information session about Valuing People now
- Wrote the Partnership Board's yearly report and took it to two councillor meetings
- Went to the Valuing People launch event for Partnership Boards and worked on a plan to make Valuing People Now happen in Brighton & Hove

## LDPB meetings

- Helped the co-chairs keep the agendas and meetings on time by planning agendas and talking to people before the meetings
  - Met with Link group before some Partnership Board meetings to review the agenda with them and answer any questions before the meeting
  - Improved equipment and information and processes for Partnership Board meetings. Helped the new co-chair, Cllr Caulfield, get used to her role
1. Gave several reports at every meeting

## Sharing information

- Sent out many, many emails with information for people – far too many to count! And put lots of information on the Brightpart website
- Arranged information sessions after each Board meeting
- Took care of the website – that takes almost half a day each week



**Future:** the Partnership Board decided to give this project another year of funding from the LDDF.

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## Advocacy Network: £38,800

37 people have attended advocacy groups in total throughout the year. Total actions for year exceed 115. The groups have done many actions, including:



- Written letters, phoned and spoken to library services about charging for CD's.



- Wrote letters and made phone calls about poor street lighting, offensive remarks made by radio DJ's and road safety issues in Portslade and contacted City College about new charges for college courses

- Took part in consultations for the council
- Attended the Regional Forum for People with Learning Disabilities and Shaping the Future Events
- Did Roving Reporters film for Transitions Forum and pilot team and did 2 films from the Big Meeting for the Partnership Board
- Wrote many items for Network news and were involved in production of Network News.



## Network News

Speaking Up and Partnership Board Newsletter

- 5 Big Meetings happened. Up to 11 groups attended the meetings (including

Speak Out Groups).

- Speak Out staff also attend meetings like Providers' Forum, sub groups and consultation events.
- 3 advocacy group members put themselves up for election as co chair of Partnership Board. Candidates did a speech and Big Meeting voted. Matthew Hellett elected as co chair.
- Work has started to link in with complex needs services across the city so more people get represented. People with complex needs and their Speak Out advocates as well as complex needs reps from day services now attending the Big Meeting.
- One group are advisors to the Theatre Royal on their Access Committee.



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- Had a stall at the Travel Buddies Event.
- At a big Meeting had a workshop on staying safe.
- Group members spoke about their lives at Speak Out AGM. Another group member hosted the evening.
- Did more consultation work on accessible Housing Tenancy Agreements for Housing Options Officer
- Representatives from 3 groups were involved in making a film about Good Staff Support for future training.
- Two groups have done groundwork on finding out more about a dating agency for people with learning disabilities. Groups are making links with a local service who are proposing to set up a dating agency.
- The Tuesday group invited and hosted a visit from the local police and Community Safety team about staying safe.
- 2 group members attended the Regional forum in London where they talked about Valuing People Now. Group members made links with the South east rep.
- We held a Big meeting evaluation in December and in February talked about the choice and control people have in their homes. Some people revealed that they are not allowed to have a drink when they want one. They also do not feel able to question the staff or complain. Their findings were taken to the Partnership Board who agreed to make a plan of how to make this better for people.
- Members arranged for future visits to their groups from outside agencies including the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership, People First training on Campaigning, further visits to Theatre Royal to give more thoughts about accessibility of the venue.



**The Future:** this project got LDDF funding in 2009/10 to continue the work

## **Better Work Project: £39,875 (24 bullets)**

- Funding was for one officer, Martin Mitchener, to work with learning disability day services, and other agencies, to develop work related skills training and business opportunities.
- 1. pilot scheme to deliver accredited training in catering**
- A National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) 'Skills for Working Life' course in catering has been accepted by City College. This will give a nationally recognised level 2 qualification

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- Better Work Options and Nourish negotiated with City College to be the registered centre and access Learning Skills Council (LSC) funding
- Staff from day services support the candidates to achieve the qualification. Delivery is within a practical working catering environment. Summer 2009 is the date for completion by the first candidates.
- Work based learning where candidates get hands on experience is viewed as a practical way for learning disabled people to learn new skills and gain qualifications
- This will enable Brighton & Hove City Council with its partners, to develop further accredited NPTC catering courses, and diversify into other areas of training with City College.
- A current example of the way progression, through work based learning and skills training can progress, are the people at 80 Buckingham Road who have developed catering as a business and have put on a number of paid events run by learning disabled people supported by staff. This is a model for future development

**The Future:** A successful course will prove to City College and LSC, that the council day services and Nourish are competent educational providers and therefore able to deliver future training, in catering and other areas

## 2. business model for recycling scheme



- The recycling project is at Belgrave day service in Portslade. It is open Wednesday and Thursday all day, and half day on Friday morning
- 22 service users participate in the re-cycling, including people with complex and multiple needs
- Participants have formed service user groups to discuss how profits can be shared
- Aluminum cans are collected from local business. This develops partnerships with the local community and gives a community presence to people with a learning disability. Fifteen businesses are regular savers of cans and these partnerships are growing

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- Participants are taught the benefits of recycling. They sort and crush the cans, and then share proceeds after the cans are sold
- A leaflet was produced explaining the project
- The small profits from can recycling do not make this viable to support a business with rent overheads. Attempts to link with other recyclers in the area proved to be unworkable as there were issues over safety, or not enough common areas that could be beneficial to both parties

**The Future:** Funding was identified within existing day service budgets to keep the recycling development worker for 16 hours a week so the scheme is continuing as part of the Belgrave day service.

### 3. Enable artists to exhibit, and sell, artwork to the community

- Twenty- one artists have shown artwork in many locations. Eight have sold work totaling £480. Each day service has established a way for the artists to be rewarded for sales
- The artwork is marketed under the collective heading of “Our Art”. An “Our Art” leaflet was produced explaining the project.
- “Our Art” have continued to hold regular meeting of artists with learning disabilities to discuss projects, costs and exhibitions. Up to 10 artists have attended these meetings with staff support
- “Our Art” meetings are organised so the artists can be a central part of the decision-making processes
- Exhibitions were staged at the Jubilee library, public buildings, Borders coffee shop in Churchill Square, Emmaus and Wellington House (part of the Open House part of the Brighton festival)
- A group of artists from the Connaught day service made three large mosaics for the Forager public house. The opening ceremony was covered by the media, Meridian TV, Evening Argus, and City News
- Creative Futures displays ‘Our Art’ work alongside other artists they



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represent. Two exhibitions were held, at the Brighton Media Centre, and the “Tight Modern” exhibition that was part of the Brighton Festival. Work is also displayed for sale on the Creative Futures web site

- Better Work Options has made links with the Brighton library service. “Our Art” from artists at Wellington House, Belgrave, Buckingham Road and Grace Eyre can be displayed at the libraries of Hove, Portslade, Hangleton, Whitehawk, Coldean and Hangleton

**The Future:** the scheme is continuing as part of the council’s day services.