

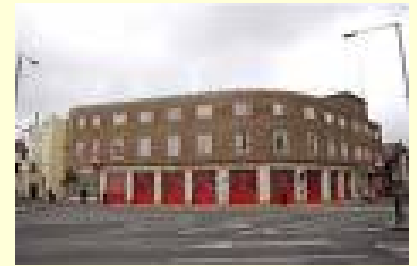
Feedback from the Link Group, Big Meeting and Advocacy Groups



News from Self Advocacy Groups

The Self Advocacy groups have been talking to lots of services in the city

- The Tuesday Group are visiting the Fire station
- Two people from the groups trained managers and staff from homes in getting residents cooking more.
- The Wednesday Group have been doing more work with City Clean and City Parks



- The Tuesday Group went to the library. Some people joined for the first time and took out DVDs. Getting support to go back is an issue for some people.



- The Wednesday Group visited the Brighton Centre. They gave them advice on making information better.



- Two people from the group were worried about cuts to services went to the protest



What we talked about at the Big Meeting

- 26 people with learning disabilities came to the Big Meeting. We had people come from 3 new services
- We talked about 2 subjects. The Chairs Planning Group asked the Big Meeting to talk about **the Budget**. The Link Group had a new idea for people to be **Secret Shoppers**



The Budget



- We divided into four groups and asked 3 questions
- The Council are not going to give extra money to services to take into account things getting more expensive this year. This is called Inflationary Uplift. What do you think of that?
- The Council want to save money by more people being on self directed support. What do you know about self directed support or individual budgets?
- The Council want residential homes to share their staff. When one home is short staffed, staff can come to help from another home. What do you think about this idea?



What do you know about Individual Budgets or self directed support?

- Only 2 people knew what an Individual Budget or Self Directed Support was
- Everyone else said it is too difficult to understand
- People at the Big Meeting and in the Link Group think that they need information that is easy to understand about Self Directed Support
- 2 people have self directed support. One person said it is 'confusing and mentally draining'. The other person talked about having to pay for extra support to go to meetings which he can't really afford.



Residential homes sharing staff if they are short staffed

- People had a lot of different views about homes sharing staff
- People were worried that their needs would not be met if they did not have staff they know supporting them
- People talked about making sure that the staff have the right training to work in different houses. This includes training to use hoists and understanding what individual residents need
- People were worried that they might not be able to get out into the community if they did not have enough staff to support them



- People also talked about the good side of sharing staff.
- Some people already live in homes that share staff with other homes. They think this is ok as they know the staff who do swaps.
- Some people said they liked the idea of different staff helping them. They like meeting different people as long as it is not always a new person.
- Some people were not happy about the idea of strangers being in the house



No increase in money for services

- People do not think it is good to give less money to services.
- They are worried they will not get the support they need.
- They think the council should give more cash!



Being Secret Shoppers

- The Link Group asked people at the Big Meeting if they want to be secret shoppers. Secret Shoppers check out how good services are for people with learning disabilities.



- The Big Meeting loved this idea!!
- 5 people volunteered to be Secret Shoppers. They will report back to the next Big Meeting what they found out.