

**Name of project: Speak Out Advocacy**

**Project Lead: Sarah Pickard**

**Sub Group overseeing project: Chairs Planning**

### Project Targets from original bid:

- **3 advocacy groups:** supported regular sessions.
- **Consultation:** Groups give views on plans for changes to learning disability services.
- **6 Big Meeting each year** (130 people represented): reps from all the groups plus 7 services user group take part. The Link group also go to hear what everyone thinks.
- **The Link Group:** Speak Out will support a small group of people with mild learning disabilities act as a 'link' between the Partnership Board and the Groups Network, helping everyone to understand what people think, and what has been decided and helping make change happen.
- **Partnership Board Meeting:** the Link Group go to meetings. They present report of each Big Meeting telling Partnership Board and sub groups what everyone thinks.
- **Election of Partnership Board co-chair:** Speak Out will help candidates understand the job, and prepare an election presentation.

We will support the elected co-chair to understand their role, and plan and take part in the work of the Link group, (understanding and representing people with learning disabilities at Partnership Board

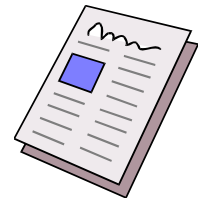


# Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report

meetings.)

They will take part in chairs planning meetings, co-chair and guide Partnership Board meetings

- **Network News:** Support people from the Groups Network to produce 2 each year.
- **Make sure everyone is included:** People with complex needs, autism, and from different cultures.



## How the project will do this work:

- 25-35 people taking part in 3 Speak Out advocacy groups.
- 100 advocacy actions by network groups to give views to sub groups, service managers and other public representatives.
- 6 Big Meeting representing over 130 people.
- Co-chair elections as needed
- 6 to 8 service user groups supported to take part in Big Meetings
- Big Meeting to give views to Partnership Board and/or sub groups in film or report.
- 2 Network News produced by Network participants each year.
- People with complex needs represented at Big Meeting.

**How much 2010/11 LDDF money the project got: £48,620**

**Name of person completing this report:**

**Sarah Pickard**

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# Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report

## Reporting period April 2010- September 2010

2 group members with learning disabilities facilitated learning disability awareness training for City Clean. As a result of the training, one group is now working with City Parks to consult on the regeneration of The Level in order that it is accessible to people with learning disabilities.

8 people met with Caroline Lucas to talk about people with learning disabilities understand the voting process and talk about cuts to services. She has agreed to raise awareness around LD issues at government.

1 person talked at an event launching the 'Thumbs Up' campaign, a council led initiative to enable local services to support people with learning disabilities better.

1 person wrote an article for the Share Newsletter following on from work with the Theatre Royal

One Network News has been produced. Articles written by 4 people with contributions from a further 8. Articles include meeting Caroline Lucas MP, issues around food and control, finding out BME issues from pwld's.

7 people attended and presented feedback to 3 Learning Disability Partnership Board. Issues as in Big Meeting feedback.

One group complained to local taxi firm re treatment of person with learning disabilities resulting in apology

1 person met Care Quality Commission inspectors and fed back that services for people with mild learning disabilities not adequate

6 people attended interviews for service manager at Community Learning Disability Team

We supported approximately 40 people to take part in Big Health Check



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PALS (NHS) have recently contacted us and asked for consultation about their accessible leaflet.

3 Big Meetings held. 25 different people attended since April 2010 representing people from 4 self advocacy groups and 7 different services. Issues raised include issues around control over people's diet and food. Many people still not allowed in kitchens in their homes or allowed to choose their own menu. Other issues include people not having the choice over who they live with, and concerns about Speak Out not getting LDDF money to support it's work in future. Health workshop also completed about how people with learning disabilities access health provision. Report about food issues has been sent to 3 subgroups.

Election held for new co chair of the Partnership Board. Meeting held to help her understand the role. Co chair has attended 2 chairs planning meetings

Groups have had meetings with and engaged with:

- Taxi company to complain about the treatment of someone in group by driver
- Bus company to talk about issues around safe bus travel
- Community Safety Team to talk about keeping safe when out
- Brighton Centre to start to find out how they help people with learning disabilities
- City Clean and City Parks, as above
- Fire Safety Team about keeping safe. Issue raised about need for accessible fire plans
- Brighton and Hove Food Partnership has met with 3 groups to talk about issues re choice and control about food in homes,
- Doctors surgery re accessibility for group member

31 people in total in 3 self advocacy group over the period.



# Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report

7 people in Link Group

The Link Group attended 3 Partnership Boards and represented the views of people with learning disabilities from the Big Meeting and Self Advocacy groups  
Link Group attended 3 Big Meetings and fed back info from the Partnership Board. They met fortnightly to plan their work.

2 Link Group members wrote articles or contributed to Network News.

The Link Group attended Regional Forum but were unimpressed with how it was organised leading to it feeling very stressful so sent a letter of concern.

Link Group met with CQC to give feedback about services in Brighton and Hove.

Members of the Link Group fed into plans for Employment Strategy.



# Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report

## Reporting period October 10 – March 11

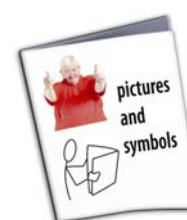
28 people in 3 self advocacy continued to be supported. Groups have continued to build positive and influential relationships with outside organisations and continue to support each other with issues within the groups.

Wednesday group (10 people) have continued relationship with City Clean and City Parks. Issues raised include problems people have around refuse collection due to access issues, access in parks and advise around easy to read information.

Tuesday group visited and joined library. Some members had not been before and want to continue borrowing but have not had support from homes to do this. Speak Out following this up. Members have built links with staff and talked about access issues in the libraries including poor signage with the possibility of future work together.

15 group members have been supported to write reviews of different city services for our online 'What's to do' directory. Services include cafes, leisure facilities and other services. Examples include one person visiting Hove Railway Station and checking out access issues for people in wheelchairs which were not good. He has since met the access manager to discuss.

2 groups (18 people) involved in giving advice to PALs (Patient advice liaison service) about the accessibility of their leaflet



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Wednesday group has visited Brighton Centre, Duke of Yorks cinema to raise awareness of access issues.

3 Big Meetings held. 30 different people attended since September 2011 from 8 services and 4 Speak Out group (12 groups in total).

Issues covered include health, socialising with friends, choice over food, the councils budget cuts and a review of group advocacy.

All feedback from the Big Meeting and advocacy groups taken to the Partnership Board by the Link Group. 5 members of the Link Group attended 3 Learning Disability Partnership Board meetings.

In the March Big Meeting, we talked about budget cuts at the request of the Partnership Board chairs planning group. Some issues about budgets were too difficult for people to understand however we found out that of 28 people with learning disabilities at the meeting only 2 knew anything about personalisation. We are setting up information session at the next Big Meeting to help inform people about this subject as it is crucial information to the future of their care. There is a need for the council to find ways to educate people with learning disabilities about personalisation.

Link Group took food issues to the Partnership Board after groups and Big Meeting had talked about lack of choice, control and education in food people eat.



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2 people ran 2 training sessions around food issues to LD service staff and managers and also talked to the Providers Forum. Training happened in partnership with B & H Food Partnership. Speak Out also produced a report highlighting these issues and circulated to local providers which resulted in the 'Choice and Involvement in Cooking Assessment' tool (from Person Centred Approaches Group).

On the back of this work, Speak Out has successfully received a grant to set up a pilot Food Advocacy Group starting in September.

Members of the Link Group suggested that the Big Meeting has a Secret Shopper slot which we started in March. This encourages people with learning disabilities to check out the accessibility and helpfulness of services to people with learning disabilities. Lots of people came forward to volunteer as Secret Shoppers. We hope to link this in with services signed up to Thumbs Up in the future.

Link Group lobbied councillors and commissioners about the value of the Speak Out Groups Network when facing council budget cuts. Group met with one new commissioner and had face to face contact with 2 councillors to promote the importance of people with learning disabilities having a say in how the city is run.

1 person attended conference in Bracknell re the future of Partnership Boards and gave a presentation about the joint working between the Partnership Board, Big Meeting and Advocacy



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# Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report

## Groups.

2 people were supported to join demonstration against public spending cuts in Brighton.

In the last 6 months, groups have talked to and met the following organisations to talk about access issues and raise awareness for people with learning disabilities:

- Hove Railway Station (Access Manager of Southern Rail), Fire Brigade, City Clean, City Parks, Learning Disability Providers Forum, Brighton Buses, PALS, Brighton and Hove Council, Food Partnership, Brighton Library, Brighton Centre, Duke of Yorks cinema.

## The Future:

The Advocacy network and Link Group work continues to be funded by the Learning Disability Development Fund

