

Name of Project:

**Link Project**

Name and contact details of person leading the project:

**Sarah Pickard**

Which Partnership Board Sub Group is leading this area of work?

**Making it Happen & Involving everyone - Chairs Planning group**

How much LDDF money does your project want in 2009-2010?

**£15,000** ( same budget as last 2 years)

What is the budget (how will you spend the money) for the project and is any other money also going to be used for this project?

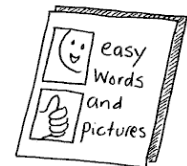
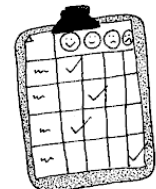
We expect the Link Project to continue for at least the next 3 years. It costs about £15,000 each year to support all the Link Project work:

Wages and payroll (14 hrs a week)	11,234
Phone, stationary & running costs	2,366
Travel & refreshments for group members	1,400
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>£15,000</b>

Tell us about the Project, how it will work, what it will do, who will do it and things like that:

The Link project will help the Partnership Board to:

- Hear the views of lots of people with learning difficulties so it can make services better.
- Check that it is really making change happen.
- Do things to make it easy for everyone to understand & take part in.



The Link Group has already helped make the meetings easier to take part in. They have made sure that the views of people with learning disabilities are heard at Partnership Board meetings. The Link project has encouraged the sub groups to talk to the 130 plus people in the Advocacy Groups Network. We want to work for a third year to continue this work.

**These are the things Speak Out will do with money.**

- **Link group:** We will continue to support a group of people with learning difficulties to take part in Partnership Board meetings. We will support people to understand Valuing People Now, what Partnership boards do, and what their job is.
- **Checking:** We will check that the Partnership Board is making change happen and doing what it said it would.



- **Sharing views:** will present the film or report from each Big Meeting to the Partnership Board. They will make sure that the views of people with learning disabilities are heard by the Partnership Board.



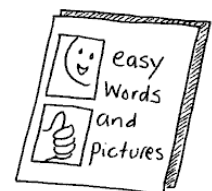
- **Big Meetings:** the Link Group will listen to everyone's views. They will tell people about the work of the Partnership Board.



- **Co chair support:** We will give regular support to the co chair to help them plan the agenda at the chairs planning meetings, and to chair the meetings.

- **Sub Groups:** We will help the sub groups plan services based on what people in the advocacy groups network think and experience

- **Help the Partnership Board:** The Link Group will continue to remind the Partnership Board and sub groups to make meetings easier to take part in.



- **Regional and National Learning Disabilities Forum:** the Link group will develop links and share information with the Partnership Board.

- **Network News:** Link Group will tell others about Partnership Board work using Network News.



What outcomes, targets or goals would your project achieve?

- 3-6 people supported to be part of Link Group
- Link group attend 6 Partnership Board meetings and 6 Big Meetings, and present views of each.
- Link Group give feedback after each Partnership Board meeting on how easy it was to take part.
- Link Group report on Partnership Board work in Network News.
- Work with sub groups to help them get views on services from the Advocacy Groups Network.
- Co chair to be supported at Chairs planning meetings and to chair Partnership Board meetings
- Speak Out staff give views on draft policies or plans.
- Advocacy Groups give views on draft policies or plans.
- Speak Out staff attend most Partnership Board and some sub group meetings.

Is there anything else you want us to know?

Speak Out has used the following ways to see what is going well and what isn't from the first 2 years of the Link Project:

- A questionnaire to all Partnership Board members
- Group evaluation by the Link Group
- Subjective evaluation by Speak Out staff
- Comments supplied over the year by observers and participants in Partnership Board meetings.

This is what most people have said about the Link project:

- Partnership Board meetings are easier for everyone to understand and take part in. They are more enjoyable. The voices of people with learning disabilities are really heard now.
- Reports, notes of the meetings and presentations by sub group chairs are easier to understand. They also have more useful information in them.
- The Link group are speaking up more at meetings. They challenge service managers and ask why some decisions are made. They feel they are being listened to and taken seriously now.
- The Link group now work closely with Karen. This means they help plan how things are done in meetings so that everyone understands.
- Some sub groups are now asking for views on services from everyone in the advocacy groups, some are still asking only the Link Group to speak for everyone. There is more work to be done to change this.
- More people are coming to Partnership Board meetings as observers.
- The work of the Link project is helping change happen in a way people with learning disabilities want.
- Several Council managers have learned from Speak Out how to write reports or plans in a way that people with learning disabilities find easier to understand.

We think the Link Project is helping the Partnership Board listen to the views of people in the Advocacy Groups Network. We think the Link Project is helping to check that work is what people with learning disabilities want. It is helping managers of lots of different services hear what people with learning disabilities experience and need.