

# Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report



**Name of project: Carers Link Group**

**Project Lead: Sheila Killick**

**Project Targets from bid:**

Recruited and trained **two** carers of adults and those in transition to be skilled and confident to present the views of carers and able to challenge and actively participate in planning and attending Partnership Board meetings

Feedback and participation in sub-groups as necessary, e.g. Healthy Lives (one per sub-group)

One session of feedback at a joint meeting with Link group members.

**How the bid says the project will do this work:**

The project would recruit carers and provide them with regular meetings, including preparation meetings before the Board where the agenda and papers can be discussed in advance and comments/questions fed back, and a follow up meeting afterwards. This group would also interact with the sub-groups as required, and with the Link group itself.

We would provide training around assertiveness and communication skills as well as how to be a representative for the group rather than just themselves (using the Partners in Policymaking concept).

**How much LDDF money the project got in 2008/9: £8,543**

**Name of person completing this report:**

**Sue Winter, Amaze**

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## What the Carers Link Group has done April to July:



### THE CARERS' CENTRE

- Nicola Lytle, Support & Outreach

Worker, identified a carer representative, who is an older carer, to take part in the Learning Disability Partnership Board Meetings



- Nicola and Debbie, Carers' Centre Director met with Reg, the carer representative to go through his role
- Nicola and Debbie also looked through the minutes of the last LDPB meeting with Reg and the agenda for the next one for his first meeting in May
- Nicola attended the LDPB meeting in May with Reg, introduced him to the group and supported him with contributing to the meeting
- Nicola spent some time with Reg after the meeting to go through any questions he had about it
- Sheila (Adult Carers Team Manager) and Debbie went through this same process with Reg for his attendance at his second LDPB meeting in July
- We gave Reg a voucher for taking part in the meetings



### WHAT AMAZE HAS DONE

- Sue Winter from Amaze has continued to work with Ian Stephenson as a carer representative on LDPB meeting
- Advertised the opportunity to become a carer representative in the Amaze newsletter
- A carer came forward who was keen to be involved but later got part time job and decided she did not have time.
- Amaze is setting up a Parent Carers Council for carers to talk to each other. It had its initial meeting in July. Will be launched in September.
- Idea is that parent carers will select their own representative who will be supported by Amaze and report back to parents. Parent representatives who go to other meetings will also report back to the group and discuss issues with the group.

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## What the project has done August to November:



### What Amaze has done:

- Claire Peligry who is a member of the Parent Carers Council is the new parent representative for parents with young people in transition to adulthood.
- Sue Winter discussed with Claire what her role would be at the Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Sue supported Claire at her first Learning Disability Partnership Board meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008. They met afterwards to discuss Claire's impressions of the meeting and so that Sue could answer questions Claire had about it.
- Claire is paid as a parent representative through Amaze using LDDF money, for her time attending the meeting and is reimbursed for her travel expenses.

## What the Carers Link Group has done January – March '09



- Sent new information about the new LDDF funding from April '09- April '10 to extend the capacity of the Carers' Linkgroup to two representatives (inviting a new representative to volunteer), to all the carers of adults with learning disabilities on our database
- Identified two new Carer Representatives, Joan Hicks and Heather Hayes, for this role. Reg Biggs is standing down after generously having given his time this financial year
- Met with Caroline Orsola, newly appointed Carers' Engagement Worker, to explore developing further mechanisms for consultation between the carers and the Representatives
- Invited Heather Hayes and Joan Hicks to meet with Caroline and myself for information on the training and support for their roles
- Started to arrange a 'Listening Lunch' for learning disability carers and

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the Carers' Representatives to meet each other and discuss the mechanisms for consultation

- Liaised with Amaze about our joint work
- Heather Hayes attended the Learning Disability consultation table at the Carers Forum and raised concerns about the lack of suitable housing for people with learning disabilities
- Heather Hayes attended the Learning Disability /Supporting People Consultation day at the Brighthelm and raised above concerns with Mark Hendriks from 'Place to Live' subgroup
- Carers attended the Information Session on Healthy Lives at Hove Town Hall



Amaze is supporting the two parent representatives who have teenagers on the Carers Link Project.

What Amaze has done since January 2009 up until the end of March 2009.

- We now have 2 parent representatives, Debbie Collins and Claire Peligry, who come to the Learning Disability Partnership Board meetings.
- Debbie Collins is also the co-chair of the Parent and Carers Council, so she can share information between the Learning Disability Partnership Board and the Parent and Carers' Council. Debbie's daughter will be planning for life after school soon.
- Debbie came to the Parents with Teenagers get together in March at Amaze and told 18 parents there about her role on the Learning Disability Partnership Board and her work on the Parent and Carers' Council. She listened to the parents' experiences of supporting teenagers as they are becoming adults.
- Claire Peligry, does a lot of work with Sue at Amaze, delivering training for parents about transition to adulthood. Claire is also the parent representative for the Transition Forum. Claire's daughter is in the middle of planning for life after school.
- Sue has meetings and conversations over the telephone with Claire and Debbie about the work of the Learning Disability Partnership Board and

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their role on the Board.

- All 4 of the parent and carers from Amaze and the Carers Centre who are part of the Learning Disability Partnership Board's Carers Link Project will meet together with workers from Amaze and the Carers Centre to talk about their role representing other parents and carers of people who have learning disabilities.

## **The Future:**

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