

Name of Project:
Learning Disabilities Together Network

Name and contact details of person leading the project:

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Which Partnership Board Sub Group is leading this area of work?
Taking Part in the City

How much LDDF money does your project want in 2010-2011?
Asked for £10,000 but was given £5,000

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?

The money will pay for part of a staffing post to deliver the project outcomes. We will be seeking to obtain funding from other sub-groups and grant or funding bodies.

We have been awarded £9200 by Awards for All, towards Year Two (2010-11) of the Together Network. Awards for All do not pay salaries; therefore, this budget is broken down as follows: £3,000 for training both organisations and people with LD. £3000 for events and room hire. £3000 for marketing and publicity.

To successfully run Year Two of the Together Network, the total budget needed £31,860. This is why we need £10,000 from the Taking Part sub-group.

We hope to secure the remaining funding through the Work and Skills Subgroup, alongside other funding applications which we have already submitted.

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

We aim to improve the quality of life for all residents of Brighton and Hove who have a Learning Disability (LD). At present we have around 50 organisations signed up to the network and we are investigating ways in which we can improve the links and services for people with LD through the network.

The network aims to develop a model of Good Practice with effective information sharing and support for network members by streamlining referrals between services and developing clear pathways towards learning, leisure, skills, training and employment.

The network wishes to act as a collective voice for dialogue with public sector procurers and commissioners and to influence the local policy agenda, for example, the Local Area Agreement, City Employment and Skills Plan and the Local Equalities and Diversity Agenda.

We will improve access to support by creating a directory of members and streamlining referrals between organisations. We will engage with local employers, training providers etc to ensure the equality of opportunity and developing pathways to work. We will be pro-active in the community in promoting the benefits of being a socially responsible employer and developing a diverse workforce, reflective of the local community in which the organisation is based.

There is a lack of representation from adults with a learning disability in local affairs. We will promote cross-sector policy change by leading through best practice and embedding service-user views into every aspect of our delivery model. We will provide training support for people with LD to enable them to engage with the management of the network and actively participate in the work of the network and its partners.

This network is unique as there is no other independent forum for organisations working with people with learning disabilities in Brighton and Hove to work together and improve services.

The Network and its services will be marketed to the local community through a variety of media and partners. The aim is to have a network of service organisations working together, thereby creating a joined-up model of engagement which will increase the effectiveness of reaching individuals who have yet to engage with any service, community activity or training.

The project will be jointly delivered by Care Co-ops and Impetus, with Care Co-ops being the lead organisation. This provides maximum benefits by providing greater expertise, skills and knowledge for successful project delivery.

What outcomes, targets or goals would your project achieve?

The overall project goal is to improve the quality of life for all 6000 people with a learning disability in Brighton and Hove.

This will be achieved directly through the Together Network activities and indirectly through improvements in communication, information and services for member organisations.

Objectives

The Together Network's direct objectives are as follows:

- To provide a strategic lead for its members in the development of choice, access and control of services for people with LD
- To engage people with LD in the management and running of the network
- To provide training and support for the network
- To provide information about funding and events to the network
- To co-ordinate and develop a strategic interface with funding bodies for the network
- To facilitate partnership working and collaboration
- To support the network to plan and deliver self-directed support
- To support the network with the development of policies which reflect best practice in Equality and Diversity

Outputs

The project aims to work with members of the Together Network and key partners, including procurers and commissioners, to provide the following outputs for the benefit of people with a learning disability:

- 10 new Leisure Services
- 1 new Dating Agency created
- 50 additional Volunteering and Work Placement Opportunities
- 20 additional Employment Opportunities
- 10 new Structured Training and Learning Activities

Outcomes

The anticipated outcomes, made possible through the development of the Network, are as follows:

- Increased number of people with LD gaining formal and informal learning opportunities
- Increased number of people with LD in voluntary placements
- Increased number of people with LD gaining sustainable, paid employment
- Increased choice and number of leisure activities available and taken up by people with LD, focussing on sports and exercise
- Increased number and diversity of social activities available to people with LD
- Reduction of fear and harassment experienced by people with LD

Reporting

The Together Network will:

- Report to the project's Steering Group on a pre-agreed basis.
- Carry out an evaluation process at the start of the period with all stakeholders to establish expectations; agreeing specific targets in line with funding requirements.
- Submit quarterly reports to measure and monitor the progress of the network against targets.
- Complete a final report at the end of the funding period.

Is there anything else you want us to know?

Both Care Co-ops and Impetus have a very strong track record working and supporting the health and social care sector. We have a highly skilled and diverse range of Trustees, many of whom have worked at regional and national level.

The organisations hold PCT, Supporting People, Local Authority, ESF and Lottery contracts and Impetus deliver capacity building to the voluntary sector. Therefore, we can bring a great deal of added value and knowledge to the project. We have good links and relationships with commissioners and procurers.

Impetus has access to a wide range of volunteers through the volunteer centre and can provide additional in-kind services. Care Co-ops delivers work placements through the Breakthrough project, funded by B&H Learning Partnership, and this service is open to people with a learning disability. Care Co-ops holds the MATRIX quality standard for information, advice and guidance for work and learning.

We work closely with other infrastructure organisations in the City and both Care Co-ops Dept CEO and Impetus CEO are elected representatives for the Local Involvement Network for social care and health (LINK).

We can bring real opportunities to develop the network into the future through our extensive experience of:

- partnership development support
- contract and tendering
- fundraising
- training and mentoring
- brokerage

We also have the following experience, which will add value to the network:

- working with groups working towards strategic partnership development
- working with adults with learning difficulties and the groups supporting them and the work of the LD Partnership Board
- working with groups towards strategic partnership development
- self directed support agenda, including coordinating the Direct Payments brokerage service at INTERACT
- cross-sector engagement and quality assurance development