

Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report



Name of project: Learning Disabilities Together Network



Project Lead: Neil Holmes

Sub Group overseeing project:

Taking Part in the City / Work & Skills

Project Targets from original bid:

- Support the network with Valuing People Now and person centred approaches
- Improve access to services for people with a learning disability
- Improve the standards of services and help people to be more included
- Assist the network to identify funding for additional services
- Assist organisations to secure more jobs, volunteering, sports and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability

How the project will do this work:

1. Creating a network of organisations involved in ensuring that people with learning disabilities are enabled to live valued lives as part of their mainstream community
 - I. Mapping Exercise to identify relevant local networks and mainstream providers
 - II. Establish an advisory group for people with learning disabilities, ensuring ongoing network representation
 - III. Initial consultation and workshops with potential members to identify need and decide format of the network, focussing on 'Valuing People' empowerment and employment objectives
 - IV. Marketing activity to engage relevant organisations not represented on local groups

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in particular user involvement

- III. Identify and secure ongoing funding to continue the network's activities
- IV. Encourage partnership working and resource sharing between network members
- V. Identify and promote capacity building opportunities for network organisations
- VI. Work in collaboration with network members and key stakeholders to produce an analysis of new and existing funding for learning disability services
- VII. Develop long-term effective relationships with public sector bodies, procurers and commissioners on behalf of the network to ensure that learning disabilities remains high on the agenda

How much 2009/10 LDDF money the project gets: £28,860

Name of person completing this report:

Neil Holmes / Karen Barford

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What the project has done in April through July 2009:

- Operational group set up between Care Co-ops and Impetus – group members:
 - Neil Holmes, Karen Barford, Claire Smith (Care Co-ops)
 - Andy Seares, Jan Aram (Impetus)
- Service user training secured with The Working Together Project for Autumn 2009, to ensure service user involvement in the working group and network
- Work Plan created with key objectives and activities
- Initial mapping exercise carried out to establish LD organisations and relevant mainstream providers, in areas such as leisure and transport
- Initial consultation event planned for 29th September to decide on format and direction of the network:
 - Invitations created in an accessible format
 - Invitations circulated through key stakeholders, local networks and direct contact with relevant local leisure and transport providers
 - Venue secured – Brighton Town Hall
 - Event to include presentations, workshops, a 'comments wall', 'who is missing' and event/network feedback
 - Feedback mechanism developed to include qualitative and quantitative data in verbal and written forms
 - External speaker to present on good practice and key issues when developing a network: Jackie Griggs, Money Advice and Community Support Service
 - Delegate packs to include literature on Valuing People and Personalisation
- Follow-up event planned for 14th December 2009
- Potential future funding assessed and a range of options identified
- Learning Disability Together Network logo created to enhance brand awareness