



Brighton & Hove
Learning Disability Partnership Board
www.brightpart.org

Work and Skills Group Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 10 December 2009

Present: Maureen Pasmore (Chair, BHCC Supported Employment)
Suzanne Attwood (BHCC Volunteer Work Project)
Jenny Fensome (BHCC Employment Support Team)
Neil Holmes (Care Co-ops)
Chris Bland (Grace Eyre Foundation)
Jacqui Streeter (Local Authority Day Services)
Cherrie Thaxter (Minute taker)

Apologies: Diana Bernhardt (BHCC Leading Commissioner for Learning Disabilities)
Liz Hall (Carousel)

Minutes of Meeting (13 October)

1. Maureen reminded everyone about the collection of data. This shows the number of people with learning disabilities to find paid jobs.
2. Maureen has had no replies to her letters to the Learning Disability Partnership Board or its Sub Groups. The letters were about starting a new way to help people with learning disabilities find jobs. This new way is called the VEN Employment Strategy. VEN means Valuing Employment Now and is a plan by the



Government.

The Learning Disability Partnership Board

Everyone talked about the strategy.

Things talked about were:

- The Learning Disability Partnership Board (now called the board)
- What the Government have said about how the board should work
- Lots of different groups of people should be on the board
- They should all work together
- People with learning disabilities should be members of the board

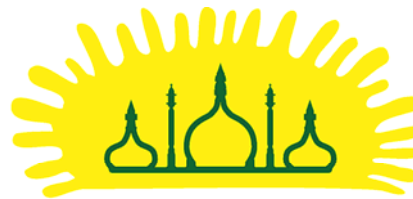
The VEN Employment Strategy.

Maureen, Jenny, Jade Marshall, Ian Metherall and Tania Macleod went to the launch of the VEN in London.

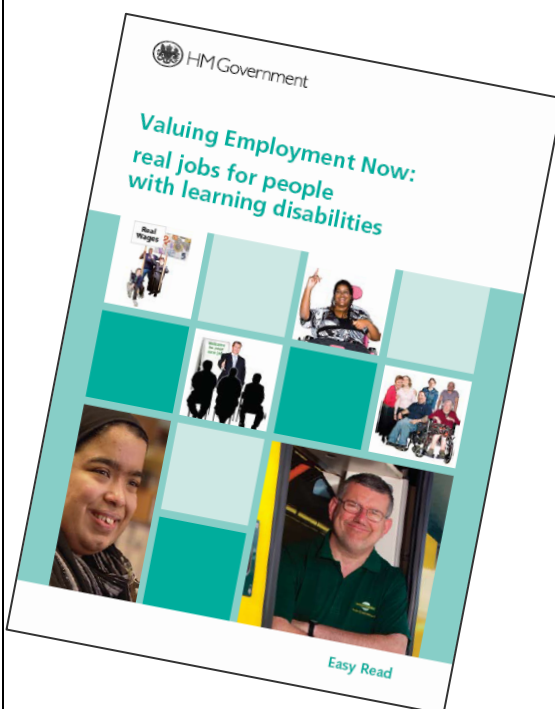
Thank you to Jade who gave a presentation.

Maureen told everyone about the day. Some important things talked about were:

- More working with schools and colleges
- More work experience for people with learning disabilities



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Update From Members

Diana (presented by Maureen)

Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) have been highly commended for their work with People with disabilities in the Comprehensive Area Assessment. This assessment is done by the Audit Commission for the Government. BHCC has been awarded a green flag for the proportion of people with learning disabilities in work.

Jacqui

Day Services have started an Employment Project. Nearly all day services are involved. There are employment champions. They help to:

- Identify service users who want to work.
- Get service users to think about working
- Tell service users about the benefits of work

There has been positive feedback to the work done so far.

Suzette

Suzette has stopped taking on new clients at the moment.

Interviews have been done for the Trainee Receptionist role at Denmark Villas. The successful applicant will be agreed soon.

Neil

Neil has been working with BHCC commissioning team about Individualised Service Budgets. This is



the new system for disabled people who use council and other services. It allows them to choose and pay for the services they wish to use. The meeting Neil went to talked about:

- Brokering – getting the money from the service user to the provider of service
- Long term development of the scheme
- Changing from services provided for groups to services for individuals.

Everyone talked about Individualised Service Budgets.

ACTIONS:

1. Maureen to report to Diana with learning opportunities for other groups helping disabled people
2. Individualised Service Budgets to stay on agenda
3. Maureen asked Neil to bring work from the group to the Work and Skills group if appropriate

Neil had a meeting with Diana about Social Enterprises.

ACTION:

Neil to prepare a brief paper about this

Jenny

Jenny attended the Link Up Link In conference in Crawley. Link Up Link In is a Government scheme for groups like the NHS, local governments and charities. They will all work together to help disadvantaged people get homes and jobs. Jenny said the conference was for “putting ideas in the pot”. A strategy will be worked out later from



**LINK UP
LINK IN**

**LINK UP
LINK IN**

these ideas. Here is the link to the website:
<http://www.hmg.gov.uk/linkuplinkin.aspx>

Maureen

Maureen has had a meeting with Yvonne Jennings at City College Brighton. The meeting was about learning opportunities for people with learning disabilities. Yvonne is the manager of Skills for Life at City College. Things that were talked about included:

- Valuing Employment Now
- The possible use of work experience in courses at City College
- Courses that may be useful – World of Work and Customer Care

Maureen will work more closely with Yvonne. Yvonne will attend future Work and Skills Group meeting whenever possible.

Everyone discussed learning opportunities including:

- Future of courses
- Foundation learning tier starting next year
- Charges and funding for courses

Maureen advised that the Community Support team need details of permitted work for people on benefits.

ACTION

Maureen will send information on Permitted Work and Supported Permitted work to the group.



Maureen will arrange a meeting with Yvonne to talk about next years college courses.

Chris

Chris wants all to consider ways to make apprenticeship a permanent route for getting jobs.

Chris talked about how the Grace Eyre Foundation is developing their travel buddy scheme.

In January the Grace Eyre Foundation will be changing the way they plan their services.



Learning Disability Together Network

The funding for 2009 has been used to create the network to support service users. Two events have been held where lots of useful ideas and connections have been made.

Learning Disability Development Fund 2010-2011

The Partnership Board has said that it will give 7% [up to £16,000 from a total pot of £230,000] of its funding to help people get paid jobs.

We need to decide how we want to spend these funds.

ACTION

Will everyone consider how they want this money to be spent and feedback to Maureen in a fortnight.

Maureen will tell people what we want to do and ask them to bid for the money if they want to help people get into work.



Any Other Business

The Adult Advancement Careers

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| Service is finishing in March 2009. Maureen talked about this. There will be a big meeting called "Frontliners' Conference on 10 February 2010. | |
| Meeting ended 11.30 | |
| Next meeting: 10 -11.30 am, Tuesday 2 February 2010 Venue: tba | |