

Work and Skills Group

Meeting: Tuesday 13 October 2009

Present: Maureen Pasmore, MP (Chair)
 Suzette Attwood, SA (Volunteer Work Project)
 Jacqui Streeter, JS (Local Authority Day Services)
 Neil Holmes NH (Care Co-ops)
 Liz Hall (Carousel)
 Cherrie Thaxter (Minutes)

Apologies: Diana Bernhardt, DB (Lead Commissioner for Learning Disabilities)
 Chris Bland CB (Grace Eyre Foundation)

Item no		
1.	<p>Minutes from last meeting 14 July 2009</p> <p>- Minutes agreed</p>	
2.	<p>Strategy and Action Planning</p> <p>MP expressed concerns about the lack of strategic lead from the Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) and in particular their support for the employment aspect of “Valuing People Now” (VPN) – “Valuing Employment Now” (VEN). Employment is one of the key priorities nationally and regionally for people with a learning disability.</p> <p>MP proposed that The Work and Skills Group take responsibility for creating a local employment strategy for the LDPB that embraces the strategic goals identified in VEN - (see document entitled Draft Employment Strategy).</p> <p>The group noted that there needed to be fundamental shift across all areas of the LDPB work to make employment a reality for a greater number of people with a learning disability e.g. addressing limitations caused by where people live – residential care and shared lives.</p> <p>NH raised processes in mental health services as being a good pattern from which to gain ideas.</p> <p>The 13 strategic goals from VEN will form the basis of the local strategy.</p> <p>All contributed on various points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SA Increasing awareness of care home staff/carers of what work placement etc requires support wise. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NH: Developing the workforce. <p>MP sees the proposal as containing local goals, strategic goals and an action plan.</p> <p>Action: MP to arrange a visioning session (tentative 5 November 1pm at Castleham) and send draft document by email to the group. All to add any points they wish.</p> <p>MP to advise the LDPB of the work</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>MP</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Identifying and overcoming barriers</p> <p>All contributed to a discussion, points raised:</p> <p>SA – access to work of more than 16 hrs per week</p> <p>MP – Barriers from our service include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institutionalization ▪ Threat to benefits ▪ Adoption of a caring role ▪ Collusion ▪ Carers intransigence ▪ Threat to family income ▪ General resistance to change <p>SA – Employers are resistant to change</p> <p>NH – as we develop an action plan all these items will be covered. Issues around voluntary work being unpaid when it should be paid exist.</p> <p>Further discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Societal influence ▪ Benefits and government restrictions ▪ Employment support allowance ▪ Pathways to Work lack of understanding re LD requirements and lack of support groups generally ▪ Use of grants/benefits/pay not controlled by people with LDs themselves <p>LH – Role of Carousel – not able to offer weekly work may be able to offer a few hours per week – an element of work preparation. Difficult to get an understanding of peoples overall earning position.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Performance and Findings</p> <p>MP broadly discussed complexity of performance figures and pointed out that we are responsible for gathering info for NII46. Last set of data collected only shared with MP and JS last week.</p> <p>Action: MP to send out figures collected from Oct 08 to April 09 then group can review. MP then asked all for relevant statistics /performance indicators data. MP also asked all to consider measurements that are</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>All</p>

	important for local collection and performance management	
5.	<p>Learning Disabilities Together Network</p> <p>Introductory event held on 29th September with a good range of participants. General feedback to be discussed at the steering group on 16th October. Feedback will be distributed</p> <p>NH said the event had gone down well with attendees. The working groups ideas work needs evaluation.</p> <p>Launch event for the network 14th December 9.15 at Brighton Town Hall</p>	MP
6.	<p>LDDF funding 2010-11</p> <p>The LDPB voted us 7% of their budget for April 2010-March 2011 – not yet sure of the total amount. Group need to start thinking about how we would want to spend these funds linked to the Employment Strategy – possibly getting together with other groups to consider pooling funds.</p> <p>Action – Ideas for next ordinary meeting please</p>	All
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>JS – Issue raised at LDPB that people with Learning Disabilities are not allowed to control their own money and are not allowed to cook and would like to. It was recommended that this should be raised at the W & S sub group. All acknowledged that the issue of learning how to manage your money and right to retain and make decisions on what you earned, or what you received [benefits] should be included in the employment strategy. Although the general principle was an issue for all areas of LDPB work.</p> <p>Action – To confirm W&S remit to LDPB</p> <p>Oskar Bright film festival 17/18/19 November.</p> <p>Employment strategy to be ratified by Partnership Board at January 2010 meeting. Focus on employment to be p.m. session on that day</p>	MP
8.	<p>Next meeting: Thursday 10 December 10 am – 11.30, Venue: Castleham</p>	

	<p>Visioning Session 5 November, Time: Tentatively 1pm -2.30 pm Venue Castleham</p> <p>Future Meetings: all 10 am to 11.30 am Tuesday 2 February 2010 Thursday 8 April 2010 Tuesday 8 June 2010 Thursday 5 August 2010 Tuesday 5 October 2010.</p> <p>Actions: Please make suggestions for alternative venues to Castleham if required and arrange where possible.</p>	<p>All</p>
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