



Brighton & Hove  
Learning Disability Partnership Board  
[www.brightpart.org](http://www.brightpart.org)

Work and Skills Group  
Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 5 August 2010

- Present: Maureen Pasmore (Chair, BHCC Supported Employment)  
Jenny Fensome (BHCC Employment Support Team)  
Neil Holmes (Care Co-ops)  
Chris Bland (Grace Eyre Foundation)  
Cherrie Thaxter (Minute taker)
- Apologies: Suzette Attwood (BHCC Volunteer Work Project)  
Liz Hall (Carousel)  
Jacqui Streeter (Local Authority Day Services)  
Diana Bernhardt (BHCC Leading Commissioner for Learning Disabilities)
- Absent: Yvonne Elliott (City College)

**Minutes of last meeting 8 June 2010**

**Matters arising:**

Jenny handed out a report called "Employment and Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment: Official Statistics". The report has been written by the Government's Department for Work and Pensions.

The report is about people with disabilities who have applied for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). The report explains about:

- The numbers of people who have gone through this process
- The results of their assessments

The numbers help us understand how benefits will change for people with



disabilities.

Everyone talked about the changes to benefits for disabled people.

Everyone talked about the changes to funding for services in the future. This was about where the money will come from to pay for things like:

- day services
- training for people with learning disabilities
- personal care
- help with getting jobs

#### ONGOING ACTIONS

1. Maureen to send out list of benefit changes
2. Liz and Maureen to get together to make a poster for the Employment Plan
3. Maureen to meet Yvonne Elliott



#### Changes at Brighton and Hove City Council

Maureen talked about the changes at the Council. The changes affect staff and the way the Council works.



#### Our Employment Plan

Maureen thanked everyone for their comments on the plan. Some suggestions for changes were:

1. The plan needs more actions
2. The plan needs more emphasis on young people services including transition
3. Some people and groups cannot do the things they were asked to.
4. The new employment group will not go ahead.

Ideas in the plan that need more work:

1. Social Enterprises (Small businesses run by people with Learning Disabilities)



## 2. Specific Projects

Maureen talked more about transition and the Transitions Forum. Maureen thinks the Transitions Forum should have a special group to promote employment of young people with learning disabilities. Everyone talked about this.

**Action:** Maureen to send out some bullet points for everyone to think about.

**Action:** Maureen and Cherrie: Membership of works and skills group to go on next agenda



### LDDF Projects 2010/2011

#### SHARE

Chris thanked Liz for all her work on this project. SHARE is a magazine by and for people with Learning Disabilities. The project is going very well. There is a professional editor and a group of sub editors who are service users. The sub editors have meetings and come up with lots of ideas. They write articles for SHARE. They are paid for going to the meetings and for writing articles. The sub editors have a meeting with the editor who helps with finishing off the magazine. The first edition is due out soon. Then the sub editors will get feedback. This means everyone who has the magazine can say what they like and did not like and give their ideas for future editions. There will be another two editions by Christmas. There are lots of things planned for the future including:

- A launch party (but not too big because there's not much money for it)
- Different formats – talking versions, computer versions
- Articles to tell everyone about events they might like to go to



- Advertising
- Social enterprises
- Special stands for magazines in venues

## THE LEARNING DISABILITY TOGETHER NETWORK

Neil talked about the final delivery plan and thanked everyone for their comments and suggestions. Diana had suggested focussing on Social Enterprises. Chris thinks the Provider Forum could be invited to join the Network. This would help to broaden the network and save work being done twice. Jenny said the plan needs:

- More details
- More actions
- How actions will get done

Everyone talked about the suggestions. Neil talked about the work plan that supports the network. Things that may happen are:

- Expansion - getting more people involved including service users
- Linking in with Thumbs Up

Neil's report to the Learning Disability Board will develop and show these ideas. Maureen asked Neil to prepare a shortened report using bullet points to go on the Brightpart website.

### ACTIONS

Neil to update report for partnership board and send bullet points to Maureen.



Brighton & Hove  
Learning Disability Partnership Board  
[www.brightpart.org](http://www.brightpart.org)

### Update from Members

Jenny

A new manager has been offered and accepted the Supported Employment Team (SET) manager job. Their name will be announced soon.

Steve Halliday has been appointed as the new Supported Business manager.

Jenny and Matt Day from the supported



employment team have been updating the marketing literature. Matt Day has given a presentation to SET about social media:

- Twitter
- Yammer
- Facebook

These all offer good opportunities to publicise our services.

SET have had training in benefits.

Jenny talked about the delay to work preparation and other work related training in day centres.

Maureen read out Jacqui' s update:

Day Services are half way through our staff consultation which is proving interesting and positive.

The Choices events were a success:

- Information is being collected
- More interest than last year from outside the service
- Excellent feedback received

Service users and staff have had training on social enterprises. The feedback from service users and staff was very positive.

Jacqui has been finding out about the legal side of setting up a social enterprise. She will be talking to more experts in September about what to do next.

Neil

Neil is having a meeting about a voucher scheme, to help people move between services and have more choice. Another meeting will happen as more work needs to be done to get the scheme to work.

Neil talked about looking into the option of a new organisation that will be user lead.

The organisation would be run by and for people with learning difficulties. It will raise awareness of and campaign for the rights of people with learning difficulties.

The organisation will support self



advocacy. This means that it will help people with learning disabilities speak for themselves about their problems.

Maureen

Skillnet is a jobs action network based in Kent. Some people from Skillnet are coming to Brighton on Friday 27 August at 3pm. Maureen will be meeting them and she asked if anyone else would like to come to the meeting.

Chris

Grace Eyre has a new manager – Katy White. They are advertising for their employment post.

The Travel Buddy scheme has been identified as a Good Practice scheme.



**Any Other Business**

**Action:** Maureen is to set up a meeting about Social Enterprise schemes.

Cherrie suggested that the SHARE project may be of interest to schools. This may strengthen links with the transition process. Chris thought that the sub editors could go into schools and talk about what they do.



**Next Meeting:**

**RESCHEDULED MEETING: Thursday 21 October 10 – 11.30**