

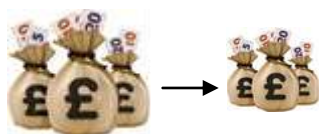
The Leicestershire Learning Disabilities Partnership Board

Annual Report 2013-14

Introduction

The Leicestershire Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (LLDPB) would like to tell you about the Board and what it has done over the last year to help make a difference to the lives of people with a learning disability and their carers who live in Leicestershire.

This year has been a challenge to the Board members as we have had to “go it alone” since the review of the Valuing People team. This meant that the team were no longer able to support the Board and we had to organise and do things ourselves.



We also had a reduction in the amount of money that the Board got from the County Council to support its work and the groups that work with the Partnership Board.



Thanks to the good support provided by the Steering Group members, we think that we have done a good job of keeping the Board and its groups working well. We hope that you think so too when you have read this report.

The LLDPB

This year has seen membership increase. This includes key partners and people from organisations that commission (buy) and provide services for people with learning disabilities and their carers.

We have also welcomed young adults and students as regular visitors to the Board.



Self advocates remain a key part of our Board and this year has seen a change to the way they are supported to speak up and shape the work of organisations.



Speech and Language students from DeMontfort University (DMU) have been giving up their time to support self advocates at the Board's pre-meetings. This gives self advocates a chance to look at the programme and presentation slides before the meeting and talk about the things that are important to tell presenters about their services.

A big thank you to Rachel and Charlie we hope you

remember us and tell people how we can help when you get jobs in Health.



The LLDPB has four meetings a year and this year we decided to talk about four topics (big things) that are important to us ~

- Good quality services
- Better health
- Choice and control
- Awareness raising



We invited speakers from organisations to tell us about their service and what changes were being thought about and we helped them to understand what the changes would mean to us and our lives and offered advice about how we could help to shape things with them.



We did this by listening to the presentations and discussing them in our groups. We collected our conversations on a flip chart and they were used to feed back to the presenters. We also provided written copies so that they could discuss this with their managers to help them make things better.

The LLDPB Steering Group



The job of the Steering Group is to help to organise and plan the LLDPB meetings and to say what is working well at the meetings and what is not.

The Steering Group meets one week after each Board meeting to talk about the presentations and decide what to feedback to presenters. The Steering Group also decides if the money we get from the County Council is being used as it should be and that we are getting good value for our money.



The Steering Group receives regular updates from locality groups and subgroups telling us what they are talking about and the work they are doing – we call this an action plan.



The Board and the Steering Group have an administrator called Maureen who helps us sort things out and books rooms, transport and parking for our meetings. Maureen also sorts out the papers and presentations for us and lots more things called admin tasks. The Board and Steering Group members would like to thank Maureen for doing such a good job this year.

Things that the Board and Steering Group have done this year



- We have put together the Members' Handbook. This tells everyone who we are and what we do. It also reminds members to tell other people in their organisations or groups about the things we talk about and how we can help to shape good quality services.



- We have started a new subgroup to talk about Quality Checkers who will work with providers and people who use services to make sure things are good and that people feel safe and keep well. We have set up a group of self-advocates and supporters to work with social care workers and have had two training sessions so far. The Safeguarding Adults Board has given us some money to help to pay for some checks in the first year.



- The Better Lives website has not been working well for us and needed to be updated. A new subgroup was formed to look at how we can use this better for the work of the Board and the locality groups. The website now looks better and is easier to use. We hope that the group will continue to meet to help us make this even better in the future. We will use the website to let everyone know what's happening at the Partnership Board meetings, the locality groups and subgroups. We can also use it to tell people about services and events.

- Members have taken part in a number of consultations and talks about services to help organisations decide on the services that are needed for people with learning disabilities in Leicestershire, including short breaks, health and social care self-assessment, local authority savings, carers support services and many more.

Locality Groups

The Board supports six locality groups.



Charnwood Action Group



Harborough Action Team (HAT)



Hinckley and Bosworth Action Group



Action in Melton



North West Leicestershire Locality Group



Oadby, Wigston, and Blaby Locality Group



The main role of the locality groups is to find out about the needs and priorities of people in the local area and help to make things better.

The groups meet once a month in their localities.



Each group makes a plan of what is important and what they need to do and who they need to help them.



The locality groups each have some money from the Board to help them do this and have to tell the Board how they will spend the money to add value.

Things that the locality groups have told us that they have done this year



- Growing strong -
 - The groups have tried hard to increase their membership and include professionals from local organisations
 - Secured advocacy support for the groups
 - Training for organising and managing meetings



- Raising awareness –
 - Production of newsletters and leaflets
 - Promotional (advertising) things like HAT bags.
 - Events and entertainment, including street entertainers



- Making things better –
 - Helping Hinckley District Council to design accessible offices
 - Anti-bullying
 - Health questionnaires
 - Hooray Day
 - Walking groups
 - Transport access

The Partnership board supports five sub groups

The subgroups take forward projects to improve services in Leicestershire.

1. Communication



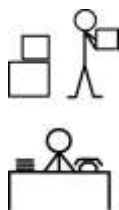
The group runs the Communication Plan for adults with learning disabilities. It develops standards around good communication, provides some training and tells people about the plan.

2. Better Health



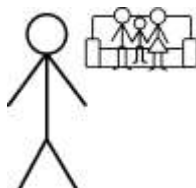
The Leicestershire and Rutland 'Better Health Group' aims to make sure that help people with a learning disability to lead healthy lives and get good health services

3. Employment



This group's focus is on issues around employment and volunteering for people with a learning disability and to provide a network to exchange ideas and good practice.

4. Family and Carers



The family carer group wants to help all families and unpaid carers of people with learning disabilities in any way we can. We also want to help all people who provide services to do it in a family friendly way.

We will try to keep up to date with important things which

affect families and our relatives. We will use the website to reach some people and look for other ways to reach others. We will talk to the County Council and the Partnership Board about things that affect families, listen to any ideas they have and explain to them how such ideas may affect families."

5 Keep Safe



This group looks at issues around Hate Crime and making sure people feel safe when they go out and about for example on buses, in town, on the computer and in their own home.



We now have two more subgroups for next year Quality checkers and Website developers.

How we spend our money



Leicestershire County Council, Adults and Communities department give us some money to help us do a good job.

This is how we spend the money.

Locality Groups	6 x £3000	=	£18,000
Family Carers	1 x £3000	=	£3,000
Website	1 x £500	=	£500
Admin	1 x £18000	=	£18,000
Sub Groups	4 x £500	=	£2,000
Expenses and Projects		=	£6,250
Total allocated			£47,750

Audited accounts will be available April 2014

We have used some of the money that we had in reserve to fund the Quality Checkers project and increased the Carers subgroup funds to help them pay for support to the group. A more detailed account of what we have spent in each area will be given to the subgroup in April 2014 when we have had all the bills to be paid. We will give back any money that we have left over to the County Council after we

have paid our bills to go towards the big savings they have to make over the next few years.

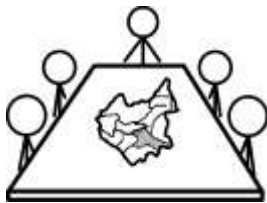
Report to Leicestershire County Council Managers (DMT)

A report was taken to the County Council, Adults and Communities Management team to show them what we spend our money on and the value that we can add to the services for people with learning disabilities and how we can help organisations make things better.

Mr Dave Houseman the Lead Member for Adult Social Care said;



"The Leicestershire Learning Disabilities Partnership Board was set up in 2001 after the Government brought out a White Paper called "Valuing People" which was re-born as "Valuing People Now" in 2008.



The Board meets to decide what needs to happen to help make the lives of people with learning disabilities better. Board members include people with learning disabilities, family carers, people who work in health, social care, education, the police, employment support and housing.



The Board has no power to tell organisations what they do or how they do it. But, the Board can give them their ideas, make suggestions and offer advice. This means that 'working together makes things better.'



I would like to say Thank You to all the members for working so hard over the last 12 months to make sure that the new Board has carried on their good work. I would like to give a special Thank You to Co Chair Helen Illsley, Vice Chair Kylie Jarvis and Heather Pick Co Chair."

On behalf of the vice chair and co-chairs of the Partnership Board I want to thank everyone who has been a part of the Partnership Board and its groups, visitors and supporters, officers and members for a great year of partnership working.

We are looking forward to our next year and the chances that it may bring for us to work together to make a difference in Leicestershire.



We sent out a questionnaire to ask members what they think about the Board and how we want things to work next year. These are the main things they said.



- We want the Board to continue and we think they are doing a good job
- It tells us about things that are important to us
- It tell us about things that are changing and why
- The meetings are better than before because we have more time to talk about things to help us understand
- We need to make sure that meetings make a difference
- The Board listens to what people with learning disabilities have to say

Heather Pick, Co-chair, Leicestershire Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.