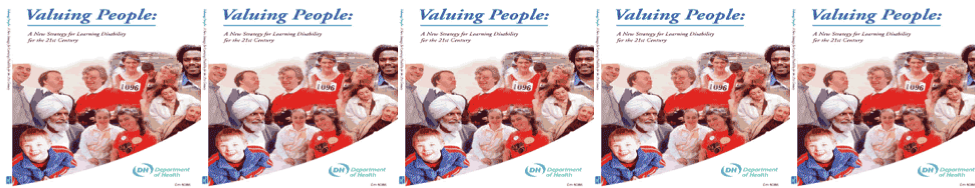


## Newcastle Learning Disabilities Partnership Board

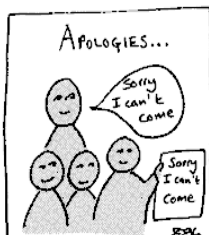


### Notes of the meeting held 12 February 2008

#### Who was at the meeting?

Councillor Brenda Hindmarsh	Councillor , Chair
Chris Anderson	Self advocate, Co Chair
Trevor Moon	Parent/Carer
Van Brunning	Parent/Carer
Peter Miller	Self Advocate, User Forum
Graham Newton	Self Advocate, User Forum
Barbara Chapman	Self Advocate, User Forum, Deputy Co Chair
Dave Norman	Skills For People, User Forum support
Karen Inglis	Adult Social Services
Colin Douglas	Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust
Nichola Hilson	Deputy Chief Exec Skills for People
Hazel Allen	Edward Lloyd Trust
Dr Rick Brannen	Learning and Skills Council
Bill Norman	Learning Disabilities Partnership Board
Cath Williams	Adult Social Services
Sue Leake	Interactive Development
Tim Keilty	Person Centred Planning Co-ordinator
Morag Hunter	Northumberland/Tyne Wear NHS Trust
James Todd	Self Advocate, User Forum

Guy Ramshaw	Newcastle College
Barry Irving	Learning and Skills Council



### Who could not make the meeting?

These were members who gave their apologies

Liz Wright	Skills for People
Doreen McCarthy	Adult Education
Rod Ferguson	Connexions
Lesley Mountain	Better Days
Joanne Burke	
Maureen Hudson	Self Advocate, User Forum
Helen Milner	Newcastle Special Needs Network
Lynne Gray	Parent/Carer
Allison Ferris	FANE
Kim Wheeler	Newcastle Special Needs Network
Jacqui Jobson	Newcastle Advocacy Centre
Barbara Taylor	Mencap
Ruby Mc Carron	Edward Lloyd Trust
Janis White	Coquet Trust – Supported Living Forum representative

### Guests:

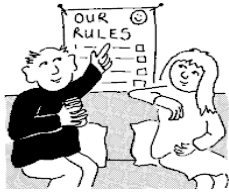
**Rebecca Eadie**

**Simon Bonnin**

**Jean Louis**

## Venue

Brenda apologised for the confusion over the last minute change of venue. Staff at the Welford Centre were thanked for dropping everything and providing an alternative at very short notice



## Rules

Chris read through the rules



## Message from Deputy Co Chair

Barbara told the Board about her message



## User Forum Report

Graham and Dave gave feedback on their recent meeting with Health as a theme.

The main points were

- Training for Health Services staff about what people with Learning Disabilities need.
- What about getting people with learning disabilities to deliver training?
- What is happening in the Health Service in Newcastle – we need more information e.g. are doctors giving annual health checks?
- Health Action co-ordinator job – need someone to make things happen
- Health Action Plans will only happen if they are wanted and people need to be in charge of their own

HAP.

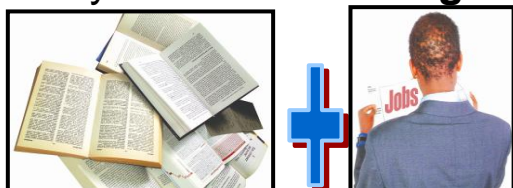
Graham asked if there were any questions



Cath asked if they were going to ask Doctors for information Dave replied this would need to be discussed further.

Bill pointed out it was important to get ideas on how training might happen and how to get people involved as some training may have already taken place.

The next presentation was made by Bill and based on today's theme **Learning and Employment**.



What does Learning and employment cover?

- Adult learning opportunities – and how this can help people get jobs
- Citizens First says that this is a new theme and there is lots of work going on but it all needs pulling together in a plan.
- An aim for 2008 is to get a plan and let the Board to sign up to it
- Employment levels for people with learning disabilities remains low and access to post 16 education continues to be a problem because of priority given to young people and people achieving level 2 qualifications.
- One major issue is the fear around benefits – losing them and not getting them back if the individual becomes unemployed.
- Other issues and gaps include - getting big

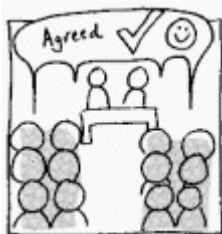
companies on board and the LSC getting a better view of local needs.

During and following the presentation the following points were raised :-

- 16 hours is the cut off point for changes to benefits
- Good opportunities arise in the voluntary sector which does not affect benefits
- People often can't get into paid work and are kept on the minimum pay.
- The LSC is getting a better view by attending meetings like this one, learning providers have not stopped doing pre level 2 courses, there is funding for Train to Gain and staff development. They are talking to providers, users of courses and have regular discussions with providers about people with learning disabilities. Targets are in place to make sure that people with Learning Disabilities do not miss out, get job opportunities and progression – a chance to move on. They are looking to protect funding next year for this group of learners.
- Level 2 qualifications are GCSE level.
- More openness around who is selected for courses
- Job carving - breaking down a job into areas where people can do a part of a job either with support or on their own. The Council currently has 9 staff doing 4 hours per week which can be used as a stepping stone to other roles, training and learning opportunities. Council staff are “buddying” and this should enhance awareness and lead to other and better opportunities. An aim is to get other large employers on board.
- Courses – they usually last for a certain length of time but people with learning disabilities may need longer than some courses offer.
- It was agreed that we needed a sub group for Learning and Employment - Trevor volunteered to

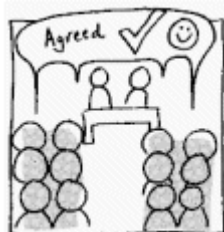
assist. The sub group could be part of the Learning Skills Board which also has large employers involved.

- Jane Collinson who was the manager for Workfirst now works at the Civic Centre and this will provide a good connection and keep us up to date with matters that involve us. Newcastle Futures helps anyone who needs a job including the unemployed and people with physical disabilities, helping them get new skills and then work. They also work with employers. Previously people with learning disabilities supported by social services had been bottom of their list for help with employment, but will now be included.

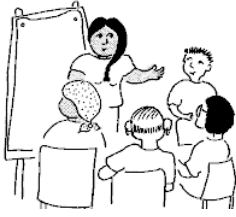


It was agreed Jane would be asked to co lead the theme

- Newcastle College is looking to increase student numbers overall but funding for people with learning disabilities is an issue. Guy as work placement officer covers supported work and voluntary but unsupported work is a difficulty.
- Large companies can absorb staff with learning disabilities but it is difficult for smaller companies. The sub group will need to approach the larger companies for information and support. People need real job experience.



**Simon offered to chair the sub group.**



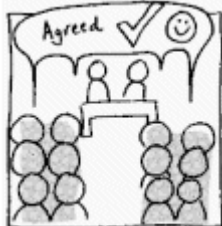
- Conference at Ramside Hall 6<sup>th</sup> March. Rick reminded the group of the importance of this day

### **Learning Disabilities Development Fund Presentation by Cath**

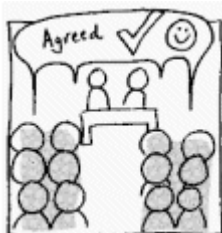


Cath said that

- We should be looking at how we want to spend funds
- Funding for 2008 – 09 has already been paid to the City Council and it is guaranteed for 3 years. There is an increase of £17500 for next year.
- Decisions to needed to be made for two posts, but we will have £95,000 even if we continue with posts.

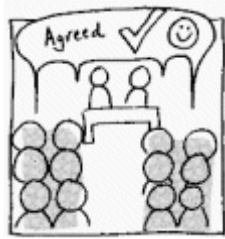


- The board agreed to keep the two posts Person Centred Planning Co-ordinator (Tim Keilty) and Valuing People Development Worker (Bill Norman). The jobs would be funded for three years



- The board also agreed to keep £25,000

in reserve to be spent on other areas e.g. courses as and when they are available.



- It was agreed was that the bidding for the rest of the funds is to be left until after the Citizens First consultation has been completed at the beginning of May



### **Health Theme report by Rebecca Eadie from Primacy Care Trust**

Following on from the areas discussed in December's meeting she talked about the full Health Theme Report that had now been shared with the Board. This included

- Better access to general health care – GPs, dentists, opticians, including good health information and promotion. Also to specialist care – hospitals.
- Offering people Health Action Plans and agreeing people to act as Health Facilitators
- Everyone has a right to good quality health

She reported the following

- Two posts have now been filled in the PCT – Head of Learning Disabilities (Les Pickering) and Mental Health Service Improvement Manager (Kingsley Straker) with another post of HAP Co-ordinator yet to be filled. These people will look at what's happening now and see what needs to be done. Rebecca confirmed that these posts are permanent

- Targets need to be measured, we need feedback and we need to know what's going on
- Bill told everyone about using a part of the Northumberland Tyne and wear NHS Trust website for easy read health information and information for carers and professionals. This could information developed locally or links to other websites. We would also look to see what gaps there in easy read information. Bill had proposed that each Partnership Board might need to make a small LDDF contribution to enable the gaps to be addressed. It was important to stress that Northumberland Tyne and wear NHS Trust had the capacity to keep the website up to date once it had been established. Bill had received one reply from other Boards so far; North Tyneside had agreed in principle.
- The voluntary sector could play a big part in delivering health messages creatively and we need to look at this further.
- Everyone, not only people with learning disabilities experiences problems with getting doctor's appointments.

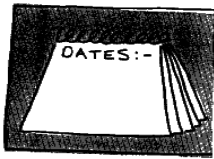
**Main Message – access to Health Care should be for everyone**



### **Good News Stories**

- A joint meeting with Gateshead was a good day and well attended by Newcastle. It was agreed we should look at getting together with other Boards as we would get better responses to issues and learn a lot from each other.

- There is an exhibition at Laing Art Gallery on 7<sup>th</sup> March which is a celebration of womens art work.



**Date, time and venue of next meeting**

Tuesday 11 March 2008

at Disability North, The Dene Centre, Castle Farm Road,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PH