



Newcastle Learning Disability Partnership Board:



Changing the way people with learning disabilities are involved in Newcastle Learning Disability Partnership Board's decision-making

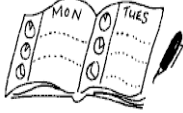



Monday, 03 March 2008

Background


	<p>Last year the Partnership Board and the User Forum have talked about changing the way self advocates are involved in making decisions.</p>
	<p>The User Forum came up with the idea of a User Parliament, but the Board thought this needed a lot of work</p>
	<p>Bill Norman and Dave Norman met towards the end of last year to come up with different ideas. This report tells everyone about the ideas</p>

How does the User Forum work at the moment?

	<p>At the moment, the User Forum holds open meetings during the year on a number of different topics. These are based on what the Partnership Board is talking about.</p>
	<p>Anyone with a learning disability can come along to these. There is money to pay for people's transport and support.</p>
	<p>At the moment, there are seven places for self advocates on the Board and five of</p>


	these are filled as Maureen Hudson has just resigned.
	Anyone with a learning disability can stand for election to one of these seven places.
	At the moment the Partnership Board does not have a rule about how long the User Forum representatives are elected for.
	Voting happens by post, using the User Forum mailing list. We also take 400 copies of information and voting papers to Welford and Westerhope Centres.
	There are two main reasons for suggesting change. The first reason is self advocates on the Board are asked at the moment to be experts in all the different parts of Valuing People. This is difficult for people to do.
	The second reason is that some existing services, organisations and networks are not connected very well to the work of the Partnership Board.

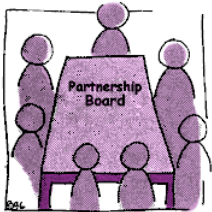
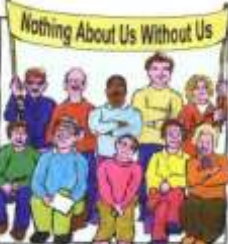
What is being suggested now?

	The first thing that is being suggested is that there should be a self advocate who is a 'Theme Champion' for every Partnership Board theme.
	This means there will be nine self advocate members of the Board



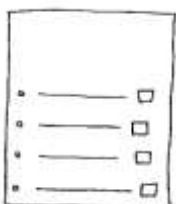

 <p>NO</p>	<p>The Theme Champions would not be chosen by voting.</p>
	<p>The Champions would be paid jobs, and people would be chosen after an interview.</p>
	<p>The Champions would visit lots of different services and organisations to get the views of people with learning disabilities. They would also tell people what the Partnership Board were doing.</p>
	<p>There might be times when some of the Theme Champions would organise special meetings or events about things. We would be flexible about this.</p>
	<p>The Champions would then do a report for the Partnership Board when it came to their particular theme.</p>





What are the good things this model will do?

	<p>Makes the most of how people have their say now like groups who meet anyway</p>
---	--

	<p>Link them to the Partnership Board -as a two way process</p>
	<p>Better representation from disadvantaged groups such as people living at home with no services, people living in ISLs and no other services</p>


What needs to happen when?

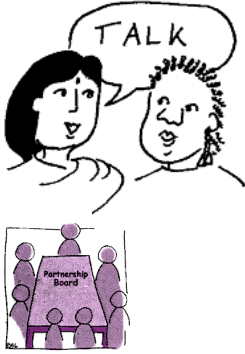


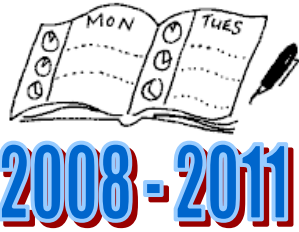

	<p>This report has already been talked about by the User Forum reps at their February meeting. They really liked the ideas being put forward in this paper.</p>
	<p>If this way of doing things is agreed by the Board , then during April, May and June, there will be two big jobs to be done.</p>
	<p>The first job is to make a big list of how services and organisations involve people with learning disabilities now</p>
	<p>The second big job is to advertise the Theme Champion jobs and hold the interviews. People will be given support throughout the interview process</p>


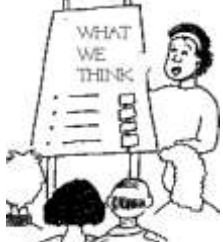


	<p>During July and August, we will find out what training needs the new Champions had. We would then come up with a plan for meeting these training needs.</p>
	<p>During September to December, all of the Theme Champions would visit all the services and organisations on the big list.</p> <p>We will ask them how what they do now could link to the Partnership Board and how they could work with the Theme Champions</p>
	<p>We would want the new way of doing things to be working smoothly by April 2009.</p>
<p>What you think</p> 	<p>While these new systems are being set up, we will have to find a way of making sure people with learning disabilities still have the chance to say what they think.</p>

Theme Champion – what is the job?

If someone wanted to apply for one of the jobs, what would we say to them?




<p>Help</p> 	<p>You will have loads of support in doing the job from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Norman and Skills for People • Bill Norman and the Partnership Board • Other Theme Team members • Adult Services' Work first Team
	<p>The whole point of the job is to make life better for people with learning disabilities.</p>

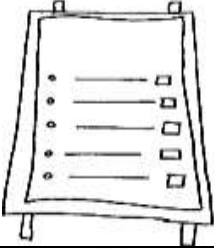





	<p>You will do this by speaking up for all people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>You will make sure the Partnership Board listens to what Champions are saying, and acts on it.</p>
	<p>The job of Theme Champion is to speak up for all people with learning disabilities about the Theme they are champion for like for instance Housing , Health or Having a voice and making choices</p>
	<p>People who get the jobs will get all the support and training they need to do the job.</p>
	<p>This will include support from other members of their particular Theme Team – carer , officer and elected member</p>
	<p>The job will last for 3 years.</p>
	<p>Champions will need to speak up at Partnership Board meetings, sub group meetings and other meetings.</p>

	<p>The job will involve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visiting lots of different organisations, meetings and services to listen to what people think.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Recording the things that people say, and using this to do reports for the Partnership Board and its sub groups.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Presenting these reports to the Partnership Board and its sub groups.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Finding out what things are happening in other areas, and telling the Partnership Board about these.

What skills and experience do people need to do the job? What kind of person do people need to be to do the job?

Essential - What people must have to do the jobs

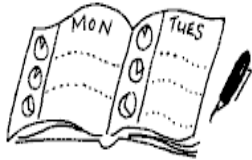
	<p>Person with a learning disability who lives somewhere in the area covered by Newcastle Learning Disability Partnership Board</p>
	<p>The person will be over the age of 18.</p>
	<p>Person must be good at listening to what people say.</p>

	<p>Person will need to be able to sum up what people say after you have listened to them.</p>
	<p>Person will need to be able to put together reports and presentations. BUT remember you will have loads of help to do this</p>
	<p>Person will need to be able to speak up and present information to Partnership Boards and other meetings.</p>
	<p>Person will need to be able to work well in a team with other people</p>
	<p>Person will need to be able to come to all Partnership Board, sub groups, Theme Champions and other meetings. This means the job will entail about 5 days every month. Some months will be a bit less time and some a bit more time.</p>
	<p>Person will need to be able to travel around Newcastle</p>
	<p>Person must want to do a really good job.</p>



Person must be committed to the ideas in 'Valuing People' and "Citizens First"

Desirable – Things that would be useful fro people to have



To have had at least 3 years' experience of speaking up in a group, committee or other regular meetings.



Person with an outgoing personality

Issues raised by User Forum




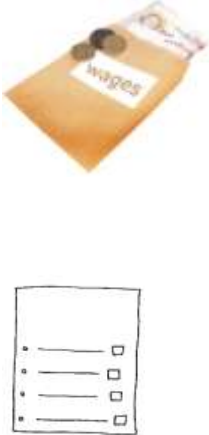

Nature and level of support


More detailed work needs to be done in the run up to the Board meeting to identify the typical minimum nature and level of support a Champion might need to do their job







Responsibilities

Champions must be made aware that this is a job and they have responsibilities of being employed. They need to be aware of commitment they need to make to attend meetings



	<p>Co Chairs There will still be a Co Chair and Deputy Co Chair. They will carry out the duties in addition to be Champions for particular themes</p>
	<p>Co chairs will be supported by all of the champions at the Board meetings. It is really important that we find out Champions' particular skills in supporting their colleagues to chair meetings e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A talent for listening to user voices and knowing when someone wants to speak • Time keeping • Changing subjects sensitively <p>In our view people with learning disabilities have such skills in abundance and we have not used these at meetings.</p>
	<p>Salary and Effects upon benefits The salary of the job will need to be determined after consultations with welfare rights to ensure no negative effect upon people's levels of benefits.</p> <p>People who get the jobs would also need to have individual benefit checks to look at their own particular circumstances</p>
	<p>Existing User Forum members and the proposed job Existing members would still need to go through an application process like anyone else because this is a different paid job</p>

	<p>Methods of reporting</p> <p>We would encourage Theme champions to use non paper media to report e.g. role play, DVDs audio recordings</p>
---	---

Will this model need more funding?

	<p>Yes, though we need to be clearer about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What we will NOT be doing that we have been doing now • What would be salary • What support people might need • What extra resources we might need
	<p>At the moment we have £19,000 for involvement – it is suggested we use this first</p>
	<p>We will ask for Learning Disabilities Development Fund</p>
	<p>It might be a good idea to find out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any extras funds we know for definite will need • Bid for this with a reserve for extra that we can give back if we don't use it

Recommendation

	<p>Putting aside that we have to be clear about impact of benefits we think this is a really good idea and would ask you to say yes to taking this forward</p>
<p>What you think</p> 	<p>And now its your turn – tell us what you think</p>
