

## Newcastle Learning Disabilities Partnership Board



### Notes of the meeting held 8 April 2008

#### Who was at the meeting?

Councillor Brenda Hindmarsh	Councillor , Chair
Chris Anderson	Self advocate, Co Chair
Janis White	Coquet Trust – Supported Living Forum representative
Tim Keilty	Person Centred Planning Co-ordinator
Rod Ferguson	Connexions
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
Janet Campbell replacing Colin Douglas	Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust
Trevor Moon and his daughter Louise	Parent/Carer
Hazel Allen and Sue Russell	Edward Lloyd Trust
Peter Miller	Self Advocate, User Forum
Steve Wingate replacing Jacqui Jobson	Newcastle Advocacy Centre
Cath Williams	Adult Social Services
Les Pickering	Primary Care Trust
James Todd	Self Advocate, User Forum
Lynne Gray	Parent/Carer



### Who could not make the meeting?

These were members who gave their apologies

Bill Norman	Learning Disabilities Partnership Board
Doreen McCarthy	Adult Education
Paul Bagnall	Interactive Development
Joanne Burke	Better Days
Helen Milner	Newcastle Special Needs Network
Allison Ferris	FANE
Van Brunning	Parent/Carer
Ruby Mc Carron	Edward Lloyd Trust
Barbara Taylor	Mencap
Liz Wright	Skills for People
Kim Wheeler	Newcastle Special Needs Network
Lesley Mountain	Better Days
Dr Rick Brannen	Learning and Skills Council
Nichola Hilson	Deputy Chief Exec Skills for People

### Guests:

**Louise Telford Learning Disability Team**

### Venue

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



### Rules

Chris read through the rules



### **Message from Deputy Co Chair**

Barbara was delayed today so the meeting began without her message.

Brenda welcomed everyone and gave Bill's apologies as he was poorly today. A shorter agenda than usual today with the main discussion around "People's involvement in the Board". Karen Inglis will update everyone on the InControl Pilot and we have a report on the recent Celebration Day event.



### **User Forum – “People’s Involvement in The Board”. Dave Norman and Graham Newton presented on the proposed changes to the Board.**

What happens now?

- Currently seven places on the Board, five filled.
- Anyone with a learning disability can stand for election, no rule about length of term.
- Postal voting, including papers to Welford & Westerhope centres.

Why Change?

- Self advocated asked to be experts in all areas which is difficult to do.
- Some existing services, organisations and networks not well connected to the work of the Board.

New Proposals

- “Theme Champion” for each Board theme
- Paid jobs – chosen by interview



- Visit lots of different services & organisations to get views of people with learning disabilities
- Champions report to the Board when their theme was on the agenda.

Some benefits of the proposal

- Makes the most of how people have their say.
- Potentially better representation for disadvantaged groups with no services.

There are some big jobs to do if the proposal is accepted.



**Questions and comments were then taken from the audience.**

Karen asked about the costs for the new proposals. The following had been estimated.

Overall cost £58,000

This includes

£8000 for meetings

£19000 for training and support

£7000 for travel

£11000 for PA's

£1000 for refreshments

£7000 payment for champions

£4500 for Admin, publicity etc.

Bill thinks there will be a shortfall of approximately £18000 which will need to come out of this years LDDF.



Cath asked if a job description had been written – yes but needs to be circulated

### **Action for Bill – Circulated job description for comments**

Other comments made

- Good idea but 9 people will need lots of support, with help from specialist mentors – could be costly
- We might need to look for people with a real interest in their theme or real experience
- The amount of support will get less over time
- We need back up to cover sickness for the representatives
- If we can't find all the money from LDDF we could ask organisations to help out.
- £58000 is a lot of money with only £7000 to come out to pay champions.
- A lot of the money is upfront payment for training

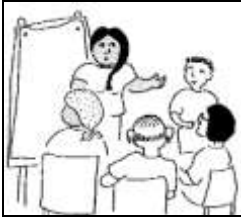


- If people only serving for 3 years will we need to spend the money again?
- Greater clarity needed about how it will work and what the money will pay for.
- The role will be more like an MP who gets payment and expenses
- People would need good training and support to fill in applications
- How would we change post holder if not fulfilling role correctly? Are there issues about wages? – They

would have an allowance not a salary.

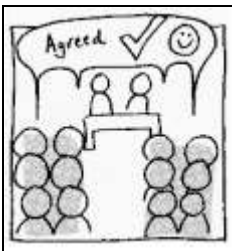
- Concerns that some issues might be missed if only discussed once a year – any areas of importance could be included on agenda for any meeting.

The meeting broke into 2 groups to discuss and make sure nothing left out and see if the proposal could be agreed.



Comments and notes from the groups.

- **Agree in principle with the RIGHT SUPPORT and FUNDING.**



- Access to additional support if needed
- Support at beginning to ensure people know what the role is and what commitment and skills are needed to be a rep.
- Help through application/interview process – for anyone that is interested.



- Back up for theme champions
- Would the visits be announced? Would there be pre visit preparation?
- Appraisal system? Who would do this?

accountability, professionalism

- Are there similar systems elsewhere? Are they working?
- Would we get better value for money by employing dedicated part-time support?
- Board has the commitment to listen to the voice of the people
- Looking at theme groups taking responsibility to also support named people
- Communication need to be good, grassroots up, over and back
- Other organisations support the developments of individuals to contribute – including college involvement
- Could LSC provide some funding for training?
- Keep user forum but use differently as it links to the national
- How do we keep representative on other working groups? e.g Better Days attend Newcastle Safety Partnership
- Who would be on panel for choosing reps? – suggestion self advocate from another area
- Information about the post needs to go everywhere
- Pre warn groups we know e.g. Supported Living as we need to give people time to apply – thinking 2 months

In Bill's absence it was agreed that he would look at these comments and be able to give more clarity at the next meeting.

**Everyone was advised to e-mail Bill if they had any further questions.**



Karen did a presentation on the InControl pilot.

This is a national pilot developing Self Directed Support.

- People are assessed to make sure they get the right amount of funds to meet their needs
- Support plans are developed with individuals and then need to be agreed. So they must be clear and involve others who support them.
- The budget needs to be managed.
- Individuals can choose how they get their support and pay for it. E.g. appointment of PA, training & guidance
- The Partnership Board could help with – brokerage, planning, training, information, flexible support, managing the money, workforce and other funding opportunities.

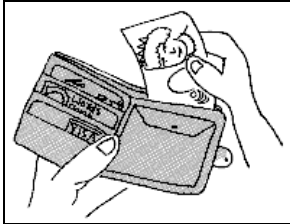


Some learning points from the pilot:

- Get more support involved, not just provider and immediate family.
- We need some examples of good plans
- More work around developing brokerage.
- More choice than traditional support but not going far enough.
- Plans need to be more creative – natural/community support.
- Sharing information between individuals and families
- A lot of support still too traditional

## Comments and questions

- More people have had the opportunity to have more control in their lives.
- People have had problems accessing or getting bank accounts
- Providers should get together to discuss what's happened
- Get families together to swap ideas



Cath told everyone that the Local Authority Directorate and Ewan Weir in particular were interested in personalisation. Colin Williams has been seconded to Newcastle to develop the personalisation agenda and see if we are going to be a Total Transformation site. Which means anybody receiving social care will be able to have an individual budget. The InControl report will help with the decision.

Things are looking up and should happen more quickly.



Cath went through Bill's report on the Celebration Day to give an overview of the day and the way forward.

Some of the main points are:

- Great stalls, soundbeam & Barbara, great venue & staff, powerful moving DVD's
- Everyone pulling together – partnership working
- Very good feedback was received in all areas and comments for improvement have been noted.

- People enjoyed themselves
- People found out useful information and meeting people.
- Proposed to hold the event every 2 years – to build up new things to celebrate

Karen mentioned the Small Sparks event which is ongoing in the Fawdon, Kenton, Blakelaw areas. Pack available to hand to anyone who may be interested. Applications need to be in by 21<sup>st</sup> April



### **Good News Stories**

No news today

### **What we will talk about next time**

Brenda thanked everyone for attending



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

Tuesday 3 June 2008 10am start, 9.40 for coffee,  
at Disability North, The Dene Centre, Castle Farm Road,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PH