

Newcastle Learning Disabilities Partnership Board



Notes of the meeting held 7 October 2008

Who was at the meeting?

Councillor Brenda Hindmarsh	Councillor , Chair
Bill Norman	Learning Disabilities Partnership Board
Lesley Mountain	Better Days
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
Les Pickering	Primary Care Trust
Trevor Moon	Parent/Carer
Louise Moon	Guest
Rod Ferguson	Connexions
Lynne Gray	Parent/Carer
Dr Rick Brannen	Learning and Skills Council
Hazel Allen	Edward Lloyd Trust
Peter Miller	Self Advocate, User Forum
Annie Carden	Northeast Special Needs Network
Helen Milner	Newcastle Special Needs Network
James Todd	Self Advocate, User Forum
Chris Anderson	Self advocate, Co Chair
Liz Langfield	City Councillor

Sue Leake	Interactive Development
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Who could not make the meeting?

These were members who gave their apologies

Jacqui Jobson	Newcastle Advocacy Centre
Doreen McCarthy	Adult Education
Tim Keilty	Person Centred Planning Co-ordinator
Hamish Hamilton	Newcastle College
Joanne Burke	Better Days
Barbara Taylor	Mencap
Allison Ferris	FANE
Cath Williams	Adult Social Services
Janis White	Coquet Trust – Supported Living Forum representative
Van Brunning	Parent/Carer
Christine Walker	Jobcentre Plus
Liz Wright	Skills for People
Nicola Hilson	Deputy Chief Exec Skills for People

Guests:

Ann Davison and Helen Hodgson from Community Links Team

Lee Turner, Louise Hewitt and Guests from Welford Day Centre

The Happy Chicks Group from Westerhope Centre

A group from ID.

Kingsley Straker – NHS

Yvonne Fox – New Prospects

Louise Telford – Social Services

Caterina Hackney-Huck – Keyring

Guy Ramshaw – Newcastle College

Venue

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

Brenda welcomed everyone to the meeting.



Rules

Chris read through the rules



Message from Deputy Co Chair

Barbara gave her message to the board.

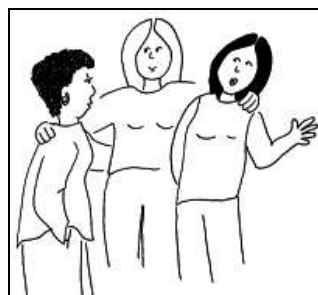


User Forum –

No User Forum Report for this meeting

What Barbara wants to say about today's theme - Community.

- Barbara leads a full life and does different things each day.
- Barbara goes shopping, sees friends and family.



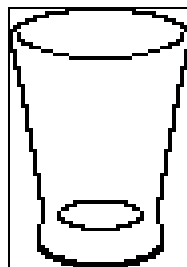
- Barbara feels part of the community involved in lots of things locally.

- Barbara is aware that others do not get the same chances that she does.
- Barbara has good staff and a supportive family.



We then had a slideshow of James Todd's life and "What living in the community means to me".

- James likes 60's music and a beer now and again.



- We saw where James lives and found out that he is happy there, however recently he had to move because his flat was being renovated. This made quite a mess but it got sorted and James helped out with the decorating and got new carpets, washing machine and T.V.
- Some of James' friends are Carol, Richard, Kevin and Joseph and of course his mother.
- Like Barbara he also has good staff, Rob, Nancy and Chris.
- A lot of the places in James' life are within walking distance. E.g. His church, which he attends every Sunday, the chippy, newsagent, barbers, little supermarket, chemist and Doctors.



- James also likes to travel a bit further and get out and about. He recently went to Middlesbrough and to Spain. Next year he hopes to try Portugal.



Small Sparks

This is a scheme which the Partnership Board funds that gives groups an amount of up to £250 to arrange something – it might be an event or another activity that involves the local community.



For 2008 the scheme has been promoted in the Fawdon /Kenton and Blakelaw areas and the day before there was a celebration day to recognise the people and events which took place.

Graham Newton told everyone about the Small Sparks Event he arranged. This was a Fun Racing Afternoon. Graham had help with the leaflets but he arranged the room booking and food. Graham worked closely with community development workers and a community volunteer to make the day happen.



Although it was a very wet day, people turned up and Graham met some new people and caught up with others he had met in the past.

It was a fun day and some comments received showed this. “Good Fun”, “Well done”, “Brilliant Afternoon” were some of the things people said.

Graham had £40 left and wants help deciding what to do with it. He personally had a great time and proved he could organise it when he had only 2 weeks and others had 6 weeks.

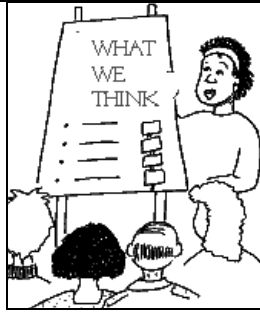
As a bonus Graham is to assist at St. Mary’s Church Xmas Fair and will lend out his horses and dice to anyone who wants to borrow them.



Karen helped Graham in his presentation and wanted people at the meeting today to decide if

- this area should get funding again as they are more aware of things now and would do more events or
- Whether another area should get a chance.

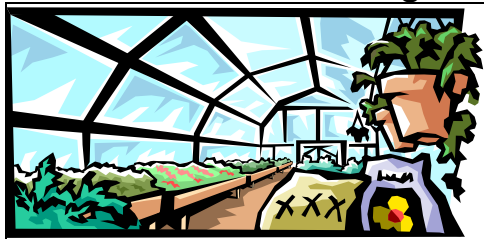
Members were asked to say what they thought on a flip chart.



The Community Empowerment Team was also involved in this. Plans are being made on how we can continue the work across the city.

A group from ID then told us about their Community Project at Ouseburn Farm. They get involved in the local community and learn new skills e.g. speaking, listening, numeracy, literacy and independence.

One project was a plastic bottle greenhouse, they used 1500 bottles and were helped by volunteers. It took 3 days to build but much longer to collect the bottles!



There is also a garden at Ouseburn where they grow vegetables and strawberries. Walker Road Allotment have helped by donating plants and seeds as well as giving some advice.



Other areas where the group have helped are Artworks Gallery and Recycle YBike. They hope to volunteer at more places.

They were involved at the Green Festival at Leazes Park and presented their projects.

This year they hope to develop a garden vegetable Co-Op

and volunteer to work with some new businesses. They want to develop skills to use in the community.



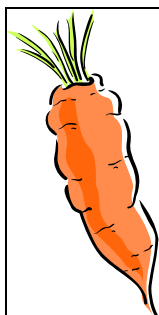
Community Theme Report – Karen Inglis

Citizens First

- Wants people to get involved in the community and not just spend their time in building based service.
- To find out what's going on in their community
- Find out how issues are resolved

Some group activities that have taken place in the past year.

- Happy Chicks – A group of ladies based at Westerhope but who go to Lemington on a Monday. They felt they wanted to be more involved in the area and did a “Sloppy Slippers” Project using participatory budget fund to help old people get new slippers. They fund raise themselves but are struggling for funds.
- Community gardening – helped out tidying up the park and gave away some vegetables as part of a Small Sparks project. As a result people donated their recipes and these were all collected together to make a recipe book.



- Yip Yap Amigos – this is a theatre group who have also been involved with Small Sparks and some Partnership Board work.
- Health Group – have been working with Outer West pool and looking to work with a GP practice.

Health



- Blue Card scheme – this may develop into a social enterprise.
- Golf group – Have been helping older people get into golf, which is beneficial to fitness and health as well as having a good time.
- Community Links Team – still working with individuals.

Some new activities taking place

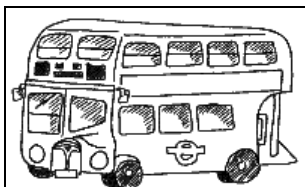
- Gardening – Volunteering to help at Great Walker Project, not supported by Day Services but supported by volunteers.
- City of Peace – Welford team active in how to be involved.
- Ward committees – involvement in development of ward changes. How money is spent.



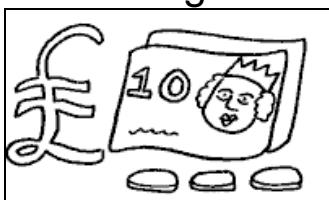
- Volunteer mentoring scheme – Community links team are involved . Also working with CVS on how to develop the scheme.
- Kenton Café – Hope to provide healthy food at the Kenton Centre, running a community café that will provide job opportunities.

- Green paper/newsletter group – looking to develop a pack to assist people in voting.

Things that Stop People taking part in the community.
Karen listed some areas which had come to her attention



- Transport – Consistent support is needed. There is a buddying scheme run by Nexus. Volunteers are needed to assist with travel training, although there has been publicity about, only 2 volunteers have been recruited so far. Karen asked if anyone had any more ideas of ho to get volunteers then please lend a hand.
- Support – look at what people need as individuals, they might not need constant support only to get there and back. Appropriate support needs to be recognised.



- Finance – the cost of doing something different. Need to check people are getting the correct benefits and concessions.
- Physical Access – As reported at the last meeting the changing places campaign is ongoing and there are links to the Disability Go scheme and website.
- Common goals – organisations have different ideas about what independence and community mean
- Funding for organisations – aware of funding issues, lots of companies are struggling and going out of operation e.g. Time exchanges at Arthur's Hill - need to consider the impact

Some things that need to be discussed and decided on :

We then had a group discussion and Bill Norman noted the comments on flip charts.

WHAT IS STOPPING PEOPLE TAKING PART IN THE COMMUNITY – GROUP DISCUSSION

Transport



- Taxi Link
- Support for bus routes you don't know
- Old buses – more low liners
- Securing people on buses
- Information – timetables
- Information to help use Travel Line
- Making things accessible
- If we need a group to keep looking at transport – Chris and Graham will help.

Attitudes of Drivers

- Don't give people time to sit down
- Take back to TFA
- Bridge Card – Still some people who don't know what they are.
- Tyne & Wear wide accreditation for training.

Other Areas

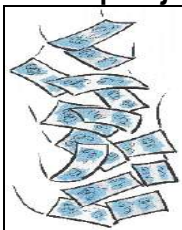
We need to be clear about

- What are people's individual expectations of getting about? Often people still go out as groups. This can turn into a "Learning Disability" activity – not just people getting out.
- Bill and Karen suggested a Partnership Agreement between agencies as one way of doing this.

- How to give and enable people to have opportunities as individuals?
- Whatever should happen should always be underpinned by support plans



- Need support worker who understand communities
- Using community mapping and others as tools to discover what is going on
- Wendy's Youth Club
- Set network
- What can we do to offer communities
- Different ideas of inclusion – we need common goals.
- Beyond /building upon fulfilling lives forum idea. How do we support person to make sure whole package is right.
- Barbara said people should be in control ; staff should do what I want.
- How do we reach people who are not engaged?
- More facilities in the community – Angela
- Funding for small groups - it's not just starting up – project basis – how do we keep them going?



- Mixture of raising funds – continuous fund raising.
- Small organisations tend to get left out.
- Needs to be flexible – agreement framework of understanding and expectations – but allowing

provides and people to be creative.

- Inconsistent ideas of what is independence
- It was agreed we need a special meeting of the Board in January to look at this
- Trevor asked about funding through ward committees. This can be bureaucratic - can it be made easier. Brenda said she could not comment on how other ward committees are run and all have their rules and ways of doing things. Nevertheless she could take this up with fellow w Councillors . This problem is recognized but there is a lot of work to be done. Linking back to wider Council wide transformation.
- Peter said about accessing ward committees we should keep asking questions
- Being scared about going to go out.



- Support workers – what about how staff should support people.
- Will there be enough support to help people do new or different things. Barbara agreed with this point
- Kevin said would this mean services being cut Brenda and Karen said it was really important to keep looking at how we do things and this might doing things differently. What it should mean is that people get a better service and more options to do things they want.

Other updates

Health

- Les asked for a ten minute slot on a later meeting to explain how money spent on services by Health at the moment would go straight to Council



- Les told everyone about Healthcare for all – Annual Health Check – guidance on this. £100 to GP's for every person – GP will be paid – People with severe and moderate disabilities.
 - Identity people
 - Give GP's and their staff some training

Checks need to start this year

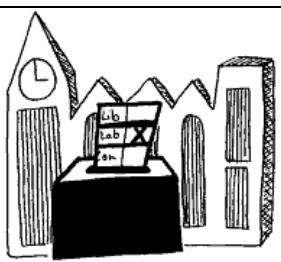
- Health assessment framework: There had been a lot of work happening on this in September with two Health Check days and a lot of follow up work . Lynne said the Carers Centre had asked for a copy of the framework to complete from their point of view . Our completed framework would go back to the Strategic Health Authority by the end of October and we would expect feedback by January . We would be talking about this more detail at the February meeting when we are next due to report on Health.

Support provider for Champions

Bill said that there had been interviews taking place for Providers and everyone would know who had been successful by 20th October. After that we need to start thinking about how to recruit the champions.

He also reminded everyone about Citizens First launch on 17th.

Peter Miller then gave an update on Voting.



Brenda had been to the meeting and everyone agreed that people should be encouraged to vote. It's their right whether disabled or not.

Voting and Human Rights Act is being looked at by Legal Services and there seems to be some difficulty – may need independent advice.

The newsletter group are doing a pack to help people and it's looking good. We might be the first in the country to do this.

Some things that need to happen

- Promote postal voting



- Educate the public and where necessary people who provide support.
- Make things easy to understand – parties manifesto etc
- Build up a picture of opinion to help people make a choice.
- People may need independent help to vote.
- We need Council to agree it will do all it can.
- Might need to be a national issue.

City for Peace Day Tomorrow. Debbie Frost will be there looking at Citizenship.

Brenda thanked everyone for attending



Date, time and venue of next meeting

Tuesday 4th November 2008 10am start, 9.40 for coffee,
At Disability North, The Dene Centre, Castle Farm Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PH

**Next meeting to discuss Family and Carers
Update on Valuing People Now
Update on Theme Champions**