



## Meeting Notes

16<sup>th</sup> November 09  
2-4pm

Academy Sport Leisure Centre  
Northumberland Avenue RG2 8DF

### Who was there.

Elsa Saranga - Co-Chair  
Lyn Harrington - Co-Chair  
Christine Edwards - Community Learning Disability Team Manager  
David Griffiths - Service User Representative  
Dom Gray - Talkback  
Stephen Wellings - Family Carer Representative  
Debra Cole - Reading Learning Disability Partnership  
Keith Irwin-Hill - New Dimensions  
Sue Wykes - Transitional Planning Co-ordinator

### Who couldn't make it.

Janette Searle - Strategy Team Manager  
Sylvia Cogliatti - Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust  
Hayley Edwards - Berkshire Autistic Society  
Jane Woolridge - Royal Berkshire Hospital  
Lynne Whiting - Webcas  
Stephen Wise - Transport



## **New committee members.**

The Reading Learning Disability Partnership now has a service user committee.

Talkback ran some meetings to let people know what the Partnership is and what it does for people in Reading. People who were interested in being a member of the committee and being a representative for each of the work groups were identified and helped to run an election campaign where people could vote for them.

Today we welcome two of those new representatives David who attends the Learning and Working group and Elsa who was voted as our new co-chair. Elsa is the representative for the Staff who Support us group



## **Treasure Hunt.**

In September the Reading Learning Disability Partnership held a treasure hunt which aimed to encourage people to use public transport. The venue was kept a secret until the day of the treasure hunt.

People who had registered to take part were given the Partnership's symbol which they had to take to the Reading Buses Travel Centre in Broad Street Mall and show they had travelled into Reading by bus or Readibus to get the clue to where it was being held. People were asked if they had a bus pass when they registered and were sent an application form if they said no.

The treasure hunt took place in the Forbury Gardens. People took part in teams and had to follow the photo clues to complete the hunt. Those who were the fastest won prizes which included tickets for a football match, the pantomime at the Hexagon, a river cruise and ten pin bowling.

Lots of different people took part including students from The Bridge at Prospect School who really enjoyed travelling on the bus into Reading. Everyone enjoyed themselves and said they would like to do a treasure

hunt every year.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped plan the treasure hunt and who helped out on the day.



### **Next open event.**

The next open event will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December at Christchurch Court, Christchurch Gardens from 10.30-12.30am.

At this event we will be looking at Telecare and how it can help people to live more independently. We will have lots of different equipment there for people to try out and we will ask people what they think about Telecare.

We will send out the details in our latest newsletter which can be found on our website [www.learningdisabilitiesinreading.co.uk](http://www.learningdisabilitiesinreading.co.uk) by clicking on 'news' or by contacting Debra at [Debra.cole@reading.gov.uk](mailto:Debra.cole@reading.gov.uk)

There will be another open meeting in March 2010 but the date needs to be changed so we will let you know the new date very soon.

At the March meeting we will be celebrating what the Partnership has been doing over the past year and we will make sure this helps us with the report the government has asked us to complete.

We all agreed that next year it would be a good idea if each of the work groups plans the open events.

### **Report.**

The government wants all Learning Disability Partnerships to send a report every year telling them what they are doing.



They have published a guide telling us how Partnership Boards should be working and who should be members. It also gives us the report so that we can

see what we need to do to fill it in. Debra will send this out to all members of the Partnership.



### **Membership of the Partnership and work groups.**

Debra has contacted several of the members who have not attended the recent meetings and only got one reply. We agreed that a more formal letter from the co-chairs will be sent followed by a phone call if there is no reply.

The new Partnership Board guidance tells us who should be members of the board so we will use this list when we are inviting new members to join us.

We will also update our terms of reference so people know what the Partnership does and what is expected of them as members. We will also say that if you do not attend three meetings in a row then we will assume that you no longer wish to be part of the Partnership and will look for another representative from your organisation or a similar one.

We now have more people attending the work group meetings and have good input from a lot of different people.

All of the service user representatives have agreed what work they will be doing for their group and are keen to start that work.



### **Transition.**

Jo Poynter from the Valuing People Support Team wants to come to one of our Partnership meetings to talk about the new transition toolkit which has been developed by Surrey. Jo will buy a copy for each Partnership but she would like to come along and find out what we are doing for young people in transition. We agreed that we will invite Jo to the meeting in March.

Staff from children and adult social services as well as staff from schools, health and other organisations have

been invited to a meeting to complete the transition assessment sent to us by the government. This will be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> December.



### **Valuing Employment Now.**

The South East Region will be holding a conference to tell us about Valuing Employment Now in London this week. Debra will attend and let the Partnership know what was said at the conference.

Keith asked if we could find out what is going to be done to make it quicker to get a person back onto benefits if they can no longer work.

The Learning and Working group will be looking at Valuing Employment Now at it's next meeting and will make sure that what we need to do to make this happen for people in Reading is in our action plan.

You can get a copy of Valuing Employment Now on the Valuing People Website, please go to [www.valuingpeople.gov.uk](http://www.valuingpeople.gov.uk)



### **Learning Disability Development Fund.**

We have allocated most of the money for both the Learning Disability Development Fund and Campus Closure grant.

We still have some money left over so we agreed to donate £1,000 to the Thames Valley Autism Alert Card through Berkshire Autistic Society.

For more information about the card please contact Hayley Edwards at [hayley@autisMBERKSHIRE.org.uk](mailto:hayley@autisMBERKSHIRE.org.uk)



### **Any other business.**

We agreed that it would be a good idea to invite other organisations to speak to us at our meetings. We would like to invite Readibus to one of our meetings to look at the Readibus service in Reading.



The next meeting will be held  
on 7<sup>th</sup> December 09  
from 2.30-4.30pm  
in Committee Room 1 at the Civic Offices in  
Reading.