



Reading Learning Disability Partnership

Meeting Notes

**24th June 2010-07
2-4pm**

Who was there.

Elsa Saranga - Co-Chair
Lyn Harrington - Co-Chair
David Griffiths - Service User Representative
Andrew Allen - Service User Representative
Carol Merenghi - Service User Representative
Peter Brown - Service User Representative
Dom Gray - Talkback
Lyn Griffiths - Talkback
Janette Searle - Strategy Team Manager
Robin Smith - Family Carer Representative
Debra Cole - Reading Learning Disability Partnership
Sue Wykes - Transitional Planning Co-ordinator
Kathy Taylor - National Transition Support Team
Kayleigh Hodges - Everybody Active
Sam Otorespec - NHS Berkshire West

Who couldn't make it.

Sylvia Cogliatti - Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
Hayley Edwards - Berkshire Autistic Society
Jane Woolridge - Royal Berkshire Hospital
Stephen Wise - Transport
Keith Irwin Hill - Dimensions
Chris Stevens - Service Manager, Children and families
Christine Edwards - Community Learning Disability Team Manager
Stephen Wellings - Family Carer Representative
Debbie Hunter - Transition Psychologist



Open meeting.

This morning's open event looked at employment for people with learning disabilities. Valuing Employment Now wants to make sure that more people with learning disabilities get real work especially those with more moderate and severe learning disabilities.

Currently less than 10% of people with learning disabilities who are receiving a service have any type of paid work. Valuing Employment Now wants most people to have real paid jobs that are at least 16 hours per week.

In Reading it is the Reading Learning Disability Partnership that needs to make sure that Valuing Employment Now together with Valuing People Now and our local strategy 'A Big Voice in our Lives' happen for people in Reading.

Most of this work is carried out through the Partnerships work groups and it is the 'learning & working' group that looks at training, further education and work. This work group makes sure that different organisations such as Jobcentreplus, New Directions, local schools, Connexions and supported employment organisations along with people with learning disabilities work together to help people into work.

Through our Learning Disability Development Fund and Campus Closure grants the Partnership has funded a variety of projects to make sure people are helped in to paid employment. Some of this work will be voluntary to start with but this is seen as a way of helping people develop the skills they need for work before going onto paid employment.

Making sure that Valuing Employment Now happens will mean a change in how we all work and think as we need to believe that people with learning disabilities can work. All services will need to change what they do to make sure people are prepared for work.

To show what people can do we watched the Valuing Employment Now DVD which shows a number of different people with learning disabilities in a variety of real jobs.

We then broke into work groups and asked people what they thought about people working, how we change the view that people can't work and what they think stops people working. We also asked what do we need to do to help people get real jobs and what information is missing.

People with learning disabilities who came to the meeting said they wanted to work.

Others said they thought people could work and should be able to work but that often the benefits system prevents them having paid work or their carers don't want them to work. Lots of people said that we should show the Valuing Employment Now DVD to employers and that people needed more information and guidance around benefits and what they can do to get work.

Generally there seems to be a lot of confusion around benefits and what hours people could work.

Milton Keynes Conference.



Elsa and David went to the South East Regional Valuing People Now conference at the Hilton Hotel in Milton Keynes. The conference was held over 2 days and lots of people attended. Both David and Elsa really enjoyed the conference and staying overnight at the hotel. They met lots of different people and felt that some people who stayed became more independent and more confident.

Members of the South East Regional Forum spoke at the meeting to let everyone know about their work. On the first day the candidates for the new regional representatives role talked about what they would do if they were elected. The voting took place on the

second day and Dawn from Kent and Barbara from Bracknell were elected. Both David and Elsa would like to put themselves forward for next years elections so we need to find out how they do this.

The conference gave people a chance to look at the good work that is going on around our area. For Reading David and Elsa told people about Teach to Reach. Both said it was good to hear what people are doing and to learn from each other.

The conference also looked at Valuing Employment Now and showed the DVD to show that people with moderate and severe learning disabilities can work. David said that some people had tears in their eyes.



Partnership Board Guidance.

We are in the process of developing guidance for all our members covering -

- What the Partnership does
- What a Partnership member does
- How we run our members meetings
- What money does the Partnership have

Our guidance will be based on the Valuing People guidance which has been published nationally and what we do locally in Reading.

We went through our draft guidance and members suggested that we need a picture which tells us where the Partnership sits and where members report to. We also need to show how and where the members of our work groups feed back what is going on.

We have also looked at the membership of the Partnership and now need to make sure that we have the right people as members so that we can make Valuing People Now happen for people in Reading.

The Partnership Board guidance also includes a list of people who should be members. We will get a small

group together and go through the list and our membership and see what we need to change and who is not currently taking part in our meetings or events.



Our open events for the rest of 2010.

These are the Partnerships open events for the rest of the year which are **open to everyone**.

- 25th August 2010. What's going on in the community. 10.00-12.30 in the Kennet Room at the Civic Offices.
- 24th September 2010. Being healthy from 10.00-12.30 in the Kennet Room at the Civic Offices.
- 24th November 2010. Housing from 10.00-12.30. The venue has not yet been arranged.



The next **Partnership Board members** meeting will be held on
24th September 2010
from 1.30pm- 4pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Civic Offices in Reading.