



## Learning & Working Group

Notes from the meeting held on the  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2010



### What's been happening?

#### ConTact.

ConTact has written a report about the Employment Pilot they have been helping Reading Borough Council to run. We will meet with ConTact next week to look at the report and make sure it has all the information we need.

ConTact are working with 10 new people referred to them by the learning disability team to see what work they would like to do and what is available. Some of the people don't want to work and some of the family carers don't want people to work so it has been difficult to talk about work to those people. But there are people who really want to work.

So we can check what is happening when new people are referred for voluntary and paid work ConTact and Ways and Means will let us know how many people don't want to work and why. We will still check what is happening for those who do want to work.

#### Ways and Means.

Ways and Means have now got 17 opportunities for voluntary work but are finding it difficult to get enough people to take up these places. Not enough people are being referred so we will make sure that everyone knows about these places.

## **Dimensions.**

There are some people being supported by Dimensions that do work but people need to know more about it and how it will affect their income. We all need to talk to people about work more often but social workers also need to make sure they talk about it and encourage people to work.



## **Service User Representative.**

David is working to find out what is happening in learning and employment for people with learning disabilities in Reading. David is also talking to people with learning disabilities about what the Partnership is doing and what is happening with learning and working so that people have the information they need.

David recently went along to Thames Valley University's Open Evening to find out about the courses they run for people with learning disabilities and how they help people into work.

David found out that there are a lot of courses but they are aimed at young people up to the age of 25. These courses are at level 1 and 2. Some courses are aimed at helping people find work and the University has an employment team. Because they have this team the University do not have any problems finding work placements for their students.



## **Learning Disability Development Fund.**

We will be asking organisations to bid for some of the LDDF grant for 2010/2011 to help us make sure that people with learning disabilities have better opportunities to find paid work.

We looked at who the Partnership funded in 09/10 and what they did to help people into voluntary and paid work. We also looked at how many people were helped into work.

We looked at the outcomes and targets from 09/10

to see what we need to change or add so that we can make sure that more people are helped into work especially paid work.

We agreed that we need to -

- Get better a finding out how many people are working and what they are doing.
- Work with people, families, staff, professionals and employers to help them understand that people can work.
- Make sure people have the information they need about benefits and that they know they will have more money if they work.
- Make sure people have support to be able to travel to work and feel safe when they travel.

Members of the Partnership will look at all the outcomes and make sure they are right before we send them out to organisations so they can bid for money to help us make Valuing Employment Now happen in Reading. This will happen in March.



The next meetings will be held on the

- 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010 - 10.30-12.30pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> July 2010 - 2.30pm-4.30pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010 - 2.30pm-4.30pm
- 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011 - 2.30pm-4.30pm

All of the meetings will be held in Committee Room 5, Civic Offices.