

Winter 2010



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DORSET LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

GOOD NEWS!

Congratulations to The Friendship Club on the award of a grant of £280,000 from the Big Lottery. The money will allow the work of the Club to be developed and expanded over the next three years. Well done to everyone, but especially to Laura Kerr who worked so hard on the winning bid.



For the latest news about what the Friendship Club

is offering please go to

<http://dorset.ldpb.info/local-info/friendship-club.html>

or call Laura on 07970 240555.

AND MORE GOOD NEWS!

In Sherborne a project which relocates some of the activities that people with a learning disability were taking part in at The White House has just opened. The Green Shed is a result of joint working with Castle Gardens, who are hosting the project at their Sherborne garden centre. In addition to producing kindling for fires, the workshop group will be looking to work with the garden centre on washing/reusing flower pots and will be exploring other recycling opportunities. The Learning Disability Partnership Board was able to contribute £3,000 from the Development Fund to help with this exciting new venture. Read Kerry's report of the opening on page 3.



the green shed

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YOUR CO-CHAIR

Here are just some of the things Richard has been doing since last summer—

Chairing the Annual Conference with Tim Rose

Chairing the last full board meeting of the year with Paul St Quintin and Debbie Ward

Working on Quality Checking for Dorset County Council's day services for people with a learning disability

Taking part in the South West regional "Kindred Spirits" course to learn about being an effective advocate for people with a learning disability (we will be asking Richard to share some of what he has learned when the course ends next spring!)

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Opening of the Green Shed

Official opening of Green Shed at Sherborne Castle garden centre.

Lots of people turned out (despite the awful weather) including garden centre manager Mike Burks, staff from DCC, the Mayor and the soon to be employees of the Green Shed. Speeches were made about the fund raising and efforts put into getting the project going, a toast was made to thank all involved and wish the Green Shed success. We then all gathered outside for the Mayor to cut the ribbon. People were pleased to get out of the pouring rain and ventured into the shed to see everyone in action doing a job which they obviously enjoy. It was great to see how proud everyone was of what has been achieved. (Our thanks to Kerry Martin for this article).



ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON HOUSING

The LDPB conference this year was held at The Exchange in Sturminster Newton. 85 people including family carers and people with a learning disability got together to think about what housing solutions might work best. We wrote Action Plans for the different areas (to match up with district/borough councils who look after housing). These plans are on the LDPB website. Some main themes were around making it easier for people to know what is available in their area, how to apply for Housing Association places (there is a "Choice Based Lettings" system), setting up linked houses ("Keyring" arrangements) and chances for people to try out independent living.



Did you know?

ASC (Autistic Spectrum Condition, including Aspergers Syndrome) - between 1 out of every 3 and 1 out of every 5 people with a learning disability also have ASC

Work is going on at the moment to write a strategy for the whole of Dorset to cover recommendations from central government following the passing of the Autism Act in 2009. The final draft of the strategy will be available for consultation and feedback from the end of January, and the strategy will then go to NHS and county / borough councils for full approval. The strategy will include an implementation plan to show what is going to be done in a number of different areas of work to support people with ASC.

Trying out living independently— there is a way people with a learning disability can “have a go”

People with a learning disability who would like to have the chance to spend three nights at a weekend (with or without support , and with another person with a learning disability if they wish) can arrange to book a stay at Peter Grant Way in Ferndown. The bungalow is fully accessible and has assistive technology in place to support your stay. For more information have a look at the link from the front page of the LDPB website (go to

<http://dorset.ldpb.info>

and scroll down the page until you get to the bit about “ A chance to try out living on your own”.

Total Communications

There will be a directory for Total Communications information

Clare Tarling wants to put together a summary of useful places to get ideas/ information for Total Communications. If you have something that people would find useful Clare would like to hear from you by email at clare@dorsetpeoplefirst.co.uk , or call 01305 257600 on Mondays or Tuesdays.

2011 is Census Year!

The government will be sending every household a form to complete next spring. They will write guidance about this in Easy Read and we will put a link to it on the LDPB website as soon as it is available.

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► "Nothing about us without us"

Bertha Norwood Fund



This fund exists to help individuals with a learning disability to have a small amount of financial help for something which cannot be funded in any other way and which would be of particular help or personal importance to that individual.

We still have some funds available for the current financial year and it would be really good to use this money! Please contact Allyson Evans if you think you know of someone with a need which might be met in this way—thank you!

NEXT MEETING :

the next LDPB meeting will be the first one of 2011 and will be on 13th January at 2010 at the Cricket Pavilion, Weymouth Road, Dorchester.

Other meetings for 2011 will be held on
7th April

7th July

10th November

A date has been set for the 2011 conference—

6th October (we have yet to set the topic)

Learning Disability

Development Fund



We have been able to use the Fund for the first part of the year, but due to the present financial situation it has been "frozen" since June. We will not be able to consider new bids against the fund until further notice.

If you would like to know what the money has been spent on this year please go to the website "money" section at

<http://dorset.ldpb.info/data/file/LDDF%20spend%20in%20colour%202010-11.pdf>