



Notes from the meeting  
on  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
at  
Dorchester Cricket Pavilion

## **Who was there?**

Debbie Ward	Dorset County Council, Director of Adult and Community Services
Tim Rose	Family Carer, Co-chair, Learning Disability Partnership Board
Richard Maxfield	Learning Disability Partnership Board, Co-chair
Sally Scott	Dorset People First
Kerry Martin	Dorset People First
Chris Watson	Dorset County Council/NHS Dorset, Programme Manager
Rona Sturmeay	Family Carer
Lesley Mellor	Dorset Parent Carer Council
Shirley Smith	Family Carer
Andrew Mulford	Dorset People First
Frances Stevens	NHS Dorset
Sally Hunt	Connexions Transition Manager
Mary Steppin	East Borough Housing Association, Housing Support Manager
Mike Felstead	Dorset County Council, Policy Manager (Children)
Paul St Quintin	Dorset County Council, Strategic Commissioning Manager
Allyson Evans	Learning Disability Partnership Board, Project Officer, Dorset County Council

## **Guests**

Julie Berger	Move on Opportunities Project Worker – Learning Disabilities Partnership Board
Philip Ware	(Part)
Janet Beauchamp	(Part) Curriculum and Qualifications and Learner Services Service Manager, Adult Education

## Who couldn't come?

Glen Gocoul	Head of Adult Services, Dorset County Council
Les Ames	Dorset County Council Member
Pete Lawrence	Dorset People First
Teri Roberts	Dorset Police
Anwar Al Mutawa	Dorset People First
Val Morton	Parent Carer

## 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting



We all introduced ourselves  
We all agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 were correct after the following changes had been made:

- Add Chris Pacey to 'Who couldn't come'.

## 2. Matters Arising



### a. Transport Action Plan

Dorset People First presented the Transport Plan to Dorset Strategic Partnership Theme Group and the matter has now been raised within Dorset County Council transport services. Now action is being taken to see how the 'Bus Buddies' idea can be taken forward. The 'Big Travel Challenge Day' will be on 26<sup>th</sup> August with a free barbeque at the Cricket Pavilion put on by the Cricket Club for anyone who gets there by public transport.



### b. Transition Strategy

A couple of things need finalising then it will go into Easy Read.  
Mike Felstead



### c. People outside services

This will be presented at the next meeting.



#### **d. Family Carers**

Rachel goes to meetings of carers' groups at some centres and at others she meets them on an as and when basis. At the moment most of her time is used on transition work.



#### **e. Safeguarding**

This will be talked about at the next meeting.



#### **f. Holidays**

This information is now being put onto the Learning Disability Partnership Board website.



#### **g. Big High Needs Day**

Not that many people went to the day. People said that there were not enough staff to enable them to be there. Lots of the general public go out on Bank Holidays and it should be the same for people with a learning disability. Dorset People First will be doing some work on this at the next group meetings.



#### **h. 10k Race for Life**

The Chair reported that Kerry Martin completed the 10k Race for Life in 2 hours and 21 minutes and everyone congratulated her. People who sponsored her now need to 'pay up'!



#### **i. Annual Conference**

Allyson said that the programme for the day was almost finished. There are still places for the event, please contact Allyson if you want to book a place. **All to book or pass on the information.**



#### **j. Annual Report**

The way the report had to be laid out meant there was not much chance to write in our own words to say what we are doing in Dorset. What was helpful was an Easy Read follow-up report of good practice from around South West. SW Valuing People will be looking at ways of making things work better in some areas, for example places where family carers are not well represented. There are great differences between areas. The South West Valuing People Team will be finishing, and the Family Carer regional group will be stopping unless some other arrangements can be made as it will not be paid for by government money any longer. It will be down to Local Authorities to decide how they will carry forward the work of Valuing People Now.

Sally reported that the South West Forum is looking to keep going and seeking alternative sources of funding.

### 3. Adult Education Programme



Janet Beauchamp from Adult Education gave presentation about what they can offer people. A link to their information will soon be put onto the Learning Disability Partnership Board website.



They work in about 100 places in Dorset and try to offer something for everyone. Learning should be fun. The Government funding focuses on courses for learning for jobs and moving on at work. Adult Learning also funds other groups to teach the courses. They offer learning for people recovering from long term illness. There is family based learning for parents and children to do together. Recently they have started supporting people to be qualified volunteers.



There is a specialised course called 'Are you ready for work'. If you do a maths or reading and writing course it is made to suit you. They also run arts, crafts, sports, independent travel training and manage your money courses. There are Life Skills courses, some linked with day centres. There is a brochure every year and people can suggest other things they want to learn about. They want to bid for some Government funding on sustainability and would like to work on a bid with other groups.



Kerry asked about the travel training. Up to now the course has been in the classroom but they hope to do practical training. There is funding for support on courses to help get qualifications. It is best to talk to Adult Education about which tutors are best. They work with Abilities to help people get into work. Janet will make sure they work with Job Centre Plus and Abilities with the 'Are you ready for work' course.

### 4. Giving Us a Voice



Philip Ware gave a presentation about this project run by BILD, Mencap and ARC to help make sure that people with a learning disability from black and minority ethnic groups (BME) are heard and supported. It runs until next March and is short-term like many projects for BME's. Funding comes from the Department of Communities and Local Government. Philip's presentation is on the Learning Disability Partnership Board website.

The project wants to work on a 'Charter for Inclusion' made by people with a learning disability, family carers and professionals. This fits with what Valuing People and Valuing People Now talked about (including everyone). Meetings in the 9 Valuing People



regions will help with the charter and our meeting will be on 1<sup>st</sup> November in Exeter. They want decision makers from all the Partnership Boards to be at the meetings.

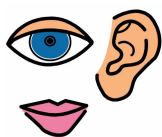


Sometimes people from BME's are worried about getting help because people might not take any notice of their needs such as religious and cultural. There are more than 92,000 people in the UK with a learning disability from BME's. The project wants to see what is and what is not working for these people when they need services.

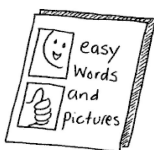


Mike Felstead said that information about the project would be very useful for people working with children of all ages. Philip said that help at transition needs to be worked on so people can get information they can understand. Children's Services need to work on problems in the same way. He said that ARC also runs the National Learning Disability and Ethnicity Network who have more information.

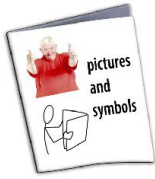
## 5 Communication for All



Paul St Quintin told us about the Dorset-wide Communication for All plan that can also be seen on the Learning Disability Partnership Board website: <http://dorset.ldpb.info>. It is about all kinds of communication and wants to make sure all people with a learning disability and staff who support them have the right training to help communicate in the best way. Paul wanted the Learning Disability Partnership Board to see if they can add anything to it. Please email any ideas to: [P.StQuintin@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:P.StQuintin@dorsetcc.gov.uk). There is a Communication For All Group for Dorset, Poole and Bournemouth led by Kirsty Mayhew, co-ordinated by Poole Forum and chaired by Paul St Quintin.



Shirley asked if the public funding cuts would affect the plan. Paul said he guessed they would not make it any easier. Val Cope and Jo Findlay from NHS Dorset are on the Group. Frances Stevens said there is a need to support health services staff who do not usually work with people with a learning disability. There is a plan to link the Learning Disability Partnership Board website to all available health information in Easy Read.



Sally Hunt asked about speech and language therapy at Transition. Paul will give Kirsty Mayhew's contact details to Sally. Paul and Frances will work together to see if Health can be involved. Sally Scott will give the Plan to Clare Tarling as she will soon be back from maternity leave.

## 6. Health Update



### a. Yellow Books

14 out of 17 planned events have happened. 7 in GP surgeries and 7 in Day Services. Others have included the Dorset Parent Carer Council event at Kingston Maurward College. About 600 people now have Yellow Books. The rest will be given out at GP surgeries and by the community learning disability nurses. GPs will be told who already has the books. It is hoped that Yellow Books will be given to young people at Transition. Rona Sturmey said it would have been helpful if parents had been told about the Yellow Book launch events.



### b. Annual Health Checks

In 2009/10 there were 267 checks. By May 2010 there have been 422 checks. The target is 850 checks. Just 4 surgeries are not taking part; any patients from these will be offered checks in other places.



### c. Annual Health Self-Assessment

The last "traffic lights" review was mostly "amber". On 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010 Geoff Barnes from the Strategic Health Authority will come to a review meeting about health support for people with a learning disability in Dorset.



### d. At Dorset County Hospital

There are now 20 learning disability 'Champions' in the hospital and things can still be improved.

Work is also going on to make guidelines on how to help people with a learning disability and early onset dementia. Shirley said a checklist for family carers about early onset dementia would be useful and offered to help with this.

### e. Looking after your own health

Dorset People First are helping to run a project about courses on looking after your own health and a Quality Check on surgeries.



Royal Crescent Surgery in Weymouth is the first one to have the course and it will cover other places over the next two years.



#### **f. Finance**

Over the next 3 years the NHS is being asked to look at making sure their money is spent well and that all groups of people have a chance to get the services they need. They will report back to the Learning Disability Partnership Board regularly.



#### **g. New website**

There is to be a new website for the South West to help support health staff working with people with a learning disability.

## **7. The Money Situation and Learning Disability Development Fund(LDDF)**



Debbie Ward apologised for being late as she was delayed at a meeting to prepare for an inspection.

Debbie said there are severe money problems we have to face because public funding is being cut and we have to make sure that everything we do helps people properly. There is a review about how the County Council will spend its money. At the moment there can be no new funding of LDDF bids. There will also be cuts in the Supporting People budget. The Learning Disability Partnership Board will be kept up to date about how everything is going.



3 LDDF bids have been approved in principle by the Learning Disability Joint Commissioning Board. Paul recommended putting into £3,000 to the Green Shed project as there is £20,000 for this from Chalk and Cheese and funding from Castle Gardens garden centre who will host the project. As soon as this is set up the people who worked at the White House could get back to regular activities. Parent carers and Dorset People First thought

the bid was a good idea. It was agreed the £3,000 is made available.



The other 2 bids, 1 about Relationships and 1 on setting up an online picture library were agreed, but cannot funded at the moment. We will have to think about other ways we can get funding to help those who use our services. The Friendship Club is funded up to December 2010. We agreed that the Learning Disability Partnership Board will be updated about the funding situation at the next full meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010.



Carol Burgess told us about the Charter that Mencap has made with the NHS. They want all PCTs and Hospital Trusts to sign up to it. It is not about funding but about the way you deal with people. There is a film on the Mencap website: [www.mencap.org.uk/gettingitright](http://www.mencap.org.uk/gettingitright). She asked if people would sign up to the Charter or fill in a card. Carol will keep the Learning Disability Partnership Board updated. She has been out with Val Cope and Jo Findlay to some of the Yellow Book launches and will promote the books as she goes round to talk to people about signing up to the Charter.

## 8. Any other business



### a. Bridport Centre Family Carers Group

Shirley Smithy talked about the planned move of Mountjoy School to Beaminster. The new headmaster spoke to the group and brought the plans for the new school. It all looks very good and it will be on the main school site. People were very positive and it shows you can change people's minds. The new building will have meeting rooms that can be used by the community in the evenings. It will have a Changing Place which will also be available outside school hours.



### b. Dorset Epilepsy Service

Tim Rose told everyone about the excellent service his family have received from the new service since his son was recently in Dorset County Hospital. The service is based at Poole and they have a consultant and 2 specialist nurses. Frances will pass on the good news.

## 9. Dates of future meetings

The next meeting of the Board will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010



Other dates are as follows:

### **Annual Conference 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

Full Learning Disability Partnership Board Meetings are on  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011

### **Annual Conference 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Action!** If someone needs to do something then it is highlighted like this.

### **Diversity Statement**



The Dorset Learning Disability partnership Board believe in treating people equally and valuing the differences.