

Summer 2009

Volume 2 No 1,

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# DORSET LDPB NEWSLETTER

**Away Day October 15th all about  
HEALTH**



We are looking forward to having a second day together with guests and invited presenters at Weymouth College from 10.00 for 10.30 to about 16.00. We will be thinking about how the experiences of people with learning disabilities who use health services could be improved. This will include using your local doctor (GP), hospital services and other health support like dentists. We will hear from people working in local and hospital based services and have a chance to talk together about the things they raise. A detailed programme for the day will be sent out to everyone who has booked early in September.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EVENT

IS NOW FULLY BOOKED



## VALUING EMPLOYMENT NOW

The government has issued this report about how people with a learning disability should be supported to get and keep a job. You can find an Easy to Read version at [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_101401](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_101401)

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### Inside this issue:

Ready for work?	2
Me,Myself,,I	3
Friendship Club	3
Learning Disability Database	4
Bertha Norwood Bequest	4
Sensory Garden	4

### CHANGING PLACE

Work is going on to provide a Changing Place in Bridport. It is due to open for use at the end of September!

### OUR WEBSITE

The LDPB website is now fully working, and many of you will be reading this online! For those who are not, please visit us at <http://dorset.ldpb.info>

## ARE YOU READY FOR WORK?

Congratulations to the 8 people who have just completed our first pilot "Are you ready for work?" course. They are all now looking forward to moving into more training, voluntary or paid work.

Dorset Learning Disability Partnership Board has given funding to help Dorset County Council's vocational services and Dorset Adult Learning run courses to support people with learning disabilities to prepare for work. The course covered travelling to work, hygiene and appearance, health and safety, interview skills and responsibilities in the workplace. Visiting speakers also discussed work opportunities in the county. Everyone did a work experience placement, ranging from reception to work with Dorset Countryside rangers.

One of the learners, Andrew from Weymouth, said:

"It's a good course. It gives you good skills to get a job. I am now working in a kitchen for a few hours each week in Dorchester, and am paid for what I do."

Everyone was awarded a Certificate of Achievement by Steve Pitt, county council director of adult and community services, at a special celebration event at the Greenwood Centre. You can see them all in the photo below!

Steve said:

"I am delighted that we are able to offer these courses to disabled residents to increase their confidence when entering the workplace. This kind of support is particularly important in the current economic climate."

Vocational services are very excited about running more courses across Dorset to help others get ready for work.





At the Dorchester Exhibition in Dorchester museum in May they had a video playing. They also had salt dough sculptures on display made by a group of adults who have learning disabilities. The project was all about who the people who did it are and where they come from.

# Me, Myself, I



People went out with cameras to take photos of where they had come from and things were important to them they also made pictures of themselves which were hanging on the walls they also made a map about where they came from which was also hanging on the wall. There is a picture of the map on the left! One person who took part was Paul who said he felt excited to take part in the project and it made him happy. Paul is shown on the left working on the computer during the project. (report by Richard Maxfield).



## Friendship Club

Email [laura@eastonfarmpark.co.uk](mailto:laura@eastonfarmpark.co.uk)

Tel 07970 240555

A lot of activity has been going on with the Friendship Club expanding to meet in 10 different locations around Dorset and with over 250 different people having attended at the last count! To help you get an idea of how it is going, here are some pictures of recent events:



## Summer 2009

Dorchester Local  
Office  
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DT1 1SH  
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"Nothing about  
us without us"

Thank you to  
everyone who  
replied to the  
database  
survey!

BERTHA  
WOOD NOR-  
FUND

We are pleased to re-  
port that since the last  
newsletter several success-  
ful applications have been  
made for funding from this  
source, including purchase  
of a harness to ensure safe  
travel by car for one per-  
son, and a special chair for  
another individual. If you  
know of a special case  
which might be suitable,  
please contact Allyson

## Learning Disability Database

The database project is now complete with just over 1,000 peoples details being registered before the closing date. The plan is for it to be put together with the new Adult and Community services information system so that details can be added and updated in the future. Information collected has already been used to help with planning services.

We say good bye and good luck to Ryan who worked on this project for the Partnership Board and who is moving to a new job at the end of July. An Easy to Read version of the Partnership Board's website, after Ryan has presented it at the Board's meeting on 23 July 2009.



**Ryan Matthews, LD  
Database Support Officer**

## LEARNING DISABILITY DEVELOPMENT FUND NEWS

### OPENING OF THE SENSORY GARDEN AT THE HUB

The official opening of The Hub (Verwood Community Centre) Sensory Garden took place on Tuesday 14th July. The ribbon was cut by Verwood Mayor Mike Dolan and the ceremony was attended by service users from the Verwood Day Service and children from Emmanuel Middle School who have been involved in the construction of the garden. Funding for the garden has been raised by Dorset Wildlife Trust, Learning Disability Partnership Board and Verwood Day Service. The garden has been created in the shape of a spiral, with different sensory areas and will have a wild-flower meadow. It is wheelchair accessible and will be maintained by service users from Verwood Day Service and local school children. This is how it looks so far -

