

**The Learning Disability Partnership Board has funded short-term projects with the Learning Disability Development Fund 2012-13.**

**The projects aimed to support the 6 priority areas in the Learning Disability Partnership Work Plan for 2012-13:**

- Getting people ready for the next step and getting older – projects to support people developing life skills, supporting people to move, increasing awareness of housing options
- Information – providing accessible information or working with others to make information more accessible
- Making sure we include everyone – projects that support hard to reach groups to be represented
- Being healthy and getting Health Checks – projects that improve health or increase take up of health checks
- People being safe in services and the community – helping people be safe in the community, involving people with learning disabilities in checking the quality of services
- Making sure rights of people with learning disabilities are protected – increase understanding of people’s rights as citizens including the Mental Capacity Act

**Please use this document to record your project’s progress and project evaluation to date and return by **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013** to [mark.hendriks@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:mark.hendriks@brighton-hove.gov.uk)**

**Project name:** Preparing for Adulthood: Information sessions for parents of teenagers

**Name of the organisation:** Amaze

**LDDF monies awarded:** £2,250

**Is your project complete?:** YES

**Expected project completion date\*:**

**Contact details for the project:**

**Name:** Sue Winter

**Tel number:** 234806

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\*NB: If your project (as funded through LDDF monies) will not be complete by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, we will ask for a final evaluation according to the completion dates supplied.

**Please provide a short (no longer than one page) description of project progress to date:**

From April 2012 – March 2013 Amaze ran a number of information sessions and focus groups for parents of children and young people with learning disabilities which included:

**Day Services Review** – joint meeting with the Carers Centre and council workers responsible for engaging with carers about this review 6.9.12  
**3 parents** of teens with a learning disability attended

Understanding the **Mental Capacity Act** and what it means for parents of teenagers with a learning disability 13.9.12  
**7 parents** of teens attended

Understanding **Individual Budgets** 25.9.12  
**18 parents** attended, 12 who have teenagers with a learning disability

Amaze / Parent and Carer Council **Transport Focus** group 23.10.12  
**14 parents** attended, 5 who are parents of teens

Changes to **Disability Living Allowance – Personal Independence Payments (PIP)** 13.11.12  
**18 parents** of teens attended

**Housing and support** for learning disabled young people 29.1.13  
**18 parents** of teens attended

Drawing up a **Will or a Trust** 6.2.13  
**13 parents** attended, 9 who have teenagers with a learning disability

Parent and Carer Council – **Talk Health** Follow up event 20.3.13  
**14 parents** attended, 7 parents of teenagers with a learning disability

Can your child see? – **Visual Processing and how it affects children and young people with learning disabilities** 26.3.13

**25 parents** attended – 7 parents of teenagers with a learning disability

**With reference to one or more of the 6 priority areas in the Learning Disability Partnership Work Plan for 2012-13, please comment briefly on:**

**1. How has the project benefited people with learning disabilities?**

- Parents of young people with a learning disability have a better understanding about the **Mental Capacity Act** and what this means about supporting their young person to make decisions.
- They know how **Individual Budgets** work and may feel more confident to choose this option to get support for their young people with learning disabilities.
- They understand the changes to **Disability Living Allowance (DLA) – Personal Independence Payments (PIP)** to ensure their young person doesn't miss out on this benefit
- They have a better idea about **Housing options** for their children in the future.
- They are aware of how to draw up a **Will or a Trust** so that when they die, their young person will benefit financially.
- They know how someone with a learning disability's **eyesight** might be affected and will be able to support their young person with a learning disability better.

Parents have also heard more about and had input into the Council's **Day Services Review**, how **Health Services** are run in the city and how **home to school / college transport** can be improved. Parents have had the opportunity to **influence improvements to these services that impact on their teenagers with learning disabilities.**

**2. What difference did the project make?**

(Something extra that was not happening already)

Parents have a greater understanding of a number of issues and will be able to support their children with learning disabilities better. Parents

have influenced how services are delivered to their children with learning disabilities.

### **3. How will this project benefit people with learning disabilities in the long term?**

More parents will **support their young people with learning disabilities to make decisions** and understand they have a **legal duty** under the Mental Capacity Act to do this.

More parents know about the changes to DLA / PIP and so will know how to **claim PIP** for their teenager with learning disabilities.

More parents know about **how Individual Budgets work** and whether this might be a better way for them and their teenager to organise their support.

More parents know that there are different housing options in the city, so they will be able to **support their young person into the right housing option when it comes time for them to leave home.**

Parents will set up the appropriate Will or Trust so that when they die their **young person will benefit financially.**

Because parents understand **how their young person with a learning disability may be affected by their eyesight**, they will be able to take this into account and **support them better.**

Because parents have had a say about how services for people with learning disabilities are run, hopefully **people who run those services will take their views into account and improve them.**

### **4. Will the project continue – YES & please explain why.**

Amaze is committed to providing parents of teenagers with learning disabilities key information about things that affect their lives. We are seeking further funding to continue this work.

**Is there anything else you want us to know?**

We were unable to run the session about using the Q-Kit for checking quality of services because we had to run a session for parents about the Council's Day Services Review instead.

Because of the snow which meant that all the Special Schools were closed, we were unable to run the information session about the Shared Lives Scheme because no parents were able to attend. We did, however, interview the parent and young person about their experience of Shared Lives and we will be sending a transcript of it to all the parents who had booked to come along to hear it. Information about Shared Lives and the quotes from what they said will be included in the chapter in our handbook for parents 'Through the Next Maze' and the Amaze Website.

**Many Thanks for your project and for making a difference to people with learning disabilities.**

**The Learning Disability Partnership may invite some projects to present at a future board meeting.**