

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 28th March 2013 to mark.hendriks@brighton-hove.gov.uk**

Project name: Speaking Out

Name of the organisation: Community Learning

LDDF monies awarded: £5950

Is your project complete?: YES

Expected project completion date*: 31st March 2013

Contact details for the project:

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***NB: If your project (as funded through LDDF monies) will not be complete by 31st 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:

We ran two courses in central locations. Both ran for 2 hours a week over ten weeks. Both involved learners in planning the programmes.

One was called ‘Use your Voice’ in a central community location, aimed at encouraging learners to access services, and social groups, and to become more involved in their community. This also covered communication skills, and a visit to the mayor and Police station.

We also ran a course entitled ‘Looking after Yourself’ aimed at providing learners with information and tools which would improve their safety at home and in the community. This involved representatives from organisations delivering sessions, facilitated by a qualified tutor. Organisations represented included the Police, Trading Standards, Fire and Rescue service, the City Council’s Road Safety team, the Community Safety team, and Impetus – a charity which advocates for adults with learning disabilities.

Attendance and retention rates were very good– despite bad weather over the 10 weeks of each course.

[Empty form area for progress and evaluation details]

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?

Learners reported that they had learnt new skills, increased confidence and improved their health and wellbeing. They had also enjoyed meeting new people. A minority said that it had improved their job prospects.

2. What difference did the project make? Two learners have now started volunteering. Learners reported increased sociability, self sufficiency, independence and less reliance on support workers. There could be a decreased risk from crime at home and out in the community, and a decreased risk of fire and accidents at home. There could also be less risk of being involved in traffic accidents.

3. How will this project benefit people with learning disabilities in the long term? All the above are benefits which will hopefully enable participants to lead more independent lives, and to participate more fully in their communities.

4. Will the project continue – We are currently organising a confidence building course for this client group to run in the Summer Term, in response to the learners' requests.

Is there anything else you want us to know?

Learners reported that they would like to do more courses, such as healthy eating and basic cookery, and also budgeting.

This client group needs high level of encouragement and support. The hard to reach, or those not already are supported by services are very difficult to access; this programme has enabled us to develop better links

with services working with adults with disabilities, which we hope will enable us to build on this work in future.

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.