

Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Progress report



Name of project: Carers Link Group

Project Lead: Sheila Killick

Sub Group overseeing project: Chairs Planning Group

Project Targets from original bid:

- Identify and support up to 4 carers of adults and those in transition to present views of carers and be able to actively participate in planning and attending Partnership Board meetings
- Feedback and participate in subgroups as necessary, eg) Healthy Lives
- Develop new methods of communication between carers, the Link Group and Partnership Board, eg) email, focus group

How the project will do this work:

- The Carers Centre and Amaze will recruit two more Carer Representatives for the Partnership Board
- The Carers Centre and Amaze will carry on supporting carers to be involved in Partnership Board meetings and Sub Groups
- The Carers Centre and Amaze will provide training (in assertiveness and communication skills) to the reps
- The workers at the Carers Centre and Amaze will also be key contacts in publicising this work and encouraging carers to let them know what they are concerned about

How much 2009/10 LDDF money the project gets: £12,060

Name of person completing this report:

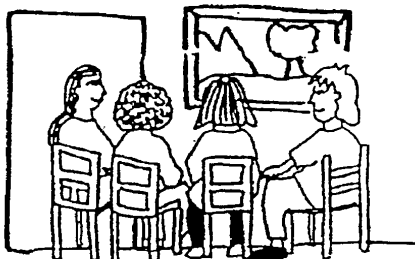
Nicola Lytle and Sue Winter (Amaze)

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What the project has done in April through July 2009:

- The Carers Centre has successfully recruited two new carer representatives, Joan Hicks and Heather Hayes
- Caroline met with Joan and Heather to identify the training that is on offer to inform this role. Joan has already completed a local course in confidence building
- The Carers Centre publicised the Listening Lunches (see below) very widely in local community venues, publications, day services etc
- The Carers Centre has run its first Listening Lunch on 2nd July, which was well attended and very successful. This is the new forum for local learning disability carers to meet with the new reps to voice their concerns/ideas/opinions on services. Karen Kingsland gave a very clear presentation on the history and function of the Partnership Board and joined in with the table discussions. Lots of salient issues were raised around Carers' rights, the importance of good communication from Social Care, and housing issues
- The Carers Centre Learning Disability Reps have fed back to the July Partnership Board meeting the main issues raised by the carers, primarily around Housing and communication issues
- The Carers Link group had a stall on behalf of the Chairs Planning Subgroup at the 'Adult Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee' to inform them about our Project
- The Carers Link group ran an information stall advertising its work at the 'Areas of Work information session' on Monday, 6th July



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What the project has done in April through July 2009:

Amaze has two parent / carer representatives, Claire Peligry and Debbie Collins, who have young people with learning disabilities approaching transition to adulthood. They attend the Learning Disability Partnership Board meetings with Sue Winter, Transition Development Worker from Amaze.

In May, we met with the new carer representatives from the Carers Centre. We all went to the Learning Disability Partnership Board meeting in May. In June, Amaze had a parents with teenagers get together where Debbie and Sue told parents about the Learning Disability Partnership Board and what Debbie and Claire's role is. Diana Bernhardt came to that meeting to talk about the Wellington Road housing development. Lots of parents said they wanted to know more about housing options for their young people.

Claire Peligry is the parent representative on the Transition Forum too. She attends this with Sue Winter.

In July, Amaze had another parents get together. Laura Clark from the Family Planning Association came and talked about her work with people with learning disabilities. We talked about how to support young people to have relationships. Parents said they would like more support to do this.

Claire Peligry attended the Learning Disability Partnership Board in July with Sue Winter.



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What the project has done from Aug to December 2009:



The Carers Centre

- **Listening Lunches**

The Carers Centre organised and facilitated two more successful Listening Lunches, where Joan and Heather consulted with other learning disability carers on their views on local services. Karen Kingsland also attended and had valuable input into the discussions. The first Listening Lunch focussed in more depth on housing issues and on strengthening the channels of communication between members of Carers Link and the LDPB. The second Listening Lunch focussed on health and the group had a very informative presentation by Natalie Winterton, health facilitator, on her role with Brighton and Hove GP practices. She also gave the group information on the roles of the Learning Disability Liaison Nurses, Alice Ellis and Linda Moore. The carers also had lively discussions around what services are currently important in maintaining their own health and in devising a 'wish list' for potential new services.

- **Learning Disability Partnership Board meetings**

Joan and Heather attended the Learning Disability Partnership Board meetings to feed back key points from both Listening Lunches. Additionally, fuller notes from these discussions were recorded and sent to the Chair's Planning Group in advance, as requested.

- **Training**

Heather and Joan attended Carers Voice training on communication and assertiveness skills, run by Dr Carrie Britton.

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What Amaze has been doing

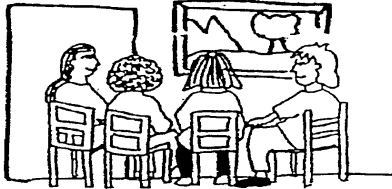
- Claire Peligry and Debbie Collins attended the Learning Disability Partnership Board meetings in September and November with Sue Winter.
- Claire, Debbie and Sue met after the November meeting to discuss what we would put in the next Amaze newsletter in February next year about the work of the LDPB.
- Claire attended the Transition Forum with Sue in October
- Debbie attended Amaze's Parents with Teens Get Together in October, where we looked at how parents could use the Resilient Therapy framework to help support their children as they become adults.

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What the Project has done in January through March 2010

Carers Centre



- **Listening Lunches**

On 22nd February 2010 we organised and facilitated another successful Listening Lunch, where Joan (Carers Rep) consulted with other carers of an adult with a learning disability on their views on local services. We facilitated, with input from Karen Kingsland, a discussion on identifying four potential 'big questions' for the three 2010-2011 LDPB 'big questions'.

- **Networking**

We attended the 'Big Bridge' launch at Hove Town Hall with Nick Fry, Communications and Development Manager at the Carers Centre, to see how he could create a link between the two websites. Joan also fed back to carers about this new website.

Learning Disability Carers also attended the Carers Day at Hove Town hall in March to consult with managers from local services.

- **Learning Disability Partnership Board**

Joan and Heather attended LDPB meetings to feed back key points from the carers at the Listening Lunch.

- **Training**

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Joan and Heather are booked to attend the Equalities training through the Carers Centre on 19th April 2010.

Amaze:

Publicising the work of the Learning Disability Partnership Board:

- Claire Peligry wrote an article for the Amaze Newsletter in February about her experience of being a member of the Learning Disability Partnership Board, what she gets out of being a member and also about the kind of issues that we discuss on the board. Out of Amaze Newsletter is sent to approximately 3,000 people including parents / carers in Brighton and Hove.

Linking the work of the Learning Disability Partnership Board with the work of Brighton and Hove's Transition Forum

- Claire is also a member of the Transition Forum. She is the parent carer link between the Learning Disability Partnership Board and the Transition Forum. Claire came to the Transition Forum meeting in March with Sue. Claire gave some helpful feedback about the new Transition Protocol that the Transition Forum is writing. A protocol makes it clear about workers' responsibilities to support young people and their families through the transition to adulthood and how things should happen to do this. Claire and Sue have met and discussed how a Transition project in Sheffield might help us in Brighton find better ways to support young people as they become adults and their families.

Finding a new parent representative:

- Debbie Collins had to give up her place on the Learning Disability Partnership Board as a parent representative as

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she's got a new job as the Parent Participation Worker at Amaze. Sue thanked Debbie for her contribution as a parent representative on the board. Debbie asked the Parent and Carer Council to nominate another representative. Juliette Teague has agreed to take Debbie's place. Juliette has a son who attends Downs View School. Sue and Juliette had a long conversation about the work of the Learning Disability Partnership Board and what the role is of the parent carers who are part of the Carers Link project. Juliette will be a link between what is discussed by parents on the Parent and Carer Council and what we talk about at the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

- Juliette and Claire attended the March Partnership Board meeting with Sue Winter from Amaze. We met afterwards so we could talk in more depth about the issues we discussed at the Board and how they affect parents and carers of young people. This was also a chance for Juliette to talk about how she felt about her first Partnership Board meeting. Juliette said she found it interesting and has committed to coming to future meetings.