

Name of project: Learning Disability Together Network



Project Lead: Neil Holmes

Sub Group overseeing project:

Taking Part in the City / Work & Skills

Project Targets from original bid:

This is the second year of the Brighton and Hove Learning Disability Together Network and we aim to achieve the following targets directly and indirectly through our members:

- Increase the number of people with a learning disability gaining formal and informal learning opportunities – our target is 10 new Structured Training and Learning Activities.
- Increase the number of people with learning disability in voluntary placements – our target is 50 additional Volunteering and Work Placement Opportunities.
- Increase the number of people with learning disability gaining sustainable, paid employment - our target is 20 additional Employment Opportunities.
- Increase the choice and number of leisure activities available and taken up by people with learning disability, focussing on sports and exercise – our target is 10 new Leisure Services.
- Increase the number and diversity of social activities available to people with learning disability – we aim to support the creation of 1 new Dating Agency.
- Reduction of fear and harassment experienced by people with a learning disability – we aim to work with members and projects, such as Thumbs Up, to improve this.

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How the project will do this work:

The project has come up with 10 Steps to enable it to meet its targets:

1. Acting as a central resource for members by developing a web page for useful information, sending important information via an e-mail list, producing leaflets about the project, representing the Network at events and holding regular meetings.
2. Encouraging members to network with each other to share ideas and opportunities.
3. Promoting the service to increase membership and link with other initiatives for people with a learning disability.
4. Linking with training and employment providers to raise awareness and increase referrals.
5. Providing advice and information to members to increase skills in work-focussed support.
6. Raising awareness and supporting local employers to provide work opportunities for people with a learning disability.
7. Encouraging leisure and day service providers to increase services accessible to people with a learning disability.
8. Providing training and support for people with a learning disability to be involved in the management and running of the network.
9. Acting as a collective, independent voice for organisations that support people with a Learning Disability with funders, commissioners and policy makers.
10. Making sure the Network can continue into Year 3 by effectively delivering against its targets and identifying appropriate funding.

How much 2010/11 LDDF money the project got: £18,100

Name of person completing this report:

Neil Holmes

What the project has done in April 2010 to October 2010

1. The Learning Disability Together Network has taken on a new partner organisation to make it more effective.

- Care Co-ops and Impetus are now working alongside the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) to deliver this project.



2. As well as the LDDF funding, the Learning Disability Together Network has received funding from Awards For All.

- One of the things this will do is provide training and support for people with a learning disability to be involved in the management and running of the Network.

3. A Delivery Plan and Communications Plan have been written.

- This will give the management group a clear picture of what needs to be achieved and how it will be done.

4. Together network events :

- The last event was on 28th September 2010 - approximately 30 people attended, 2 workshops were run, one on social enterprise, and one on intelligent commissioning. Feedback - everyone rated the event as good-excellent. With comments made emphasising the usefulness of the opportunity to build relationships, to network and learn about other projects and to find out
- Next meeting has been set - Wednesday 1st December 2010, 1.00pm to 4.30pm, venue to be confirmed. Members have been contacted to let them know.

5. The Network web page and literature:

1. Website – up and running but needs to be finished
2. Literature – Postcards and banner ready

6. The six week pilot between Grace Eyre and Sussex Police at John Street Police Station was a success.

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- This was initially set up last year by the Learning Disability Together Network.
- There will now be an increase from 4 to 6 volunteers doing car valeting and administration work.
- Each volunteer has an induction of the Facilities Department and is supported with their work by Grace Eyre. The aim is to reduce support and create more independence over time.
- Grace Eyre has written a guidance booklet called 'Supporting Me' for police employees working with volunteers with a learning disability.
- At the moment, all volunteers have to be accessing Grace Eyre to be accepted on this scheme, although it is hoped that the scheme will be rolled out to other organisations in the future.
- The police and Grace Eyre are looking at the potential for groups of volunteers to move into new departments after six months, freeing up the placement for new people. This increases skills, confidence and experience and is good for meeting new people and raising awareness of the benefits of working with people with a learning disability.
- There are currently no plans to provide paid employment on this scheme as the police are expecting their budgets to be cut by a quarter.

7. Thumbs Up is working in partnership with the Learning Disability Together Network.

- The aim to train and support up to 10 people with a learning disability to present the Thumbs Up scheme to employers and organisations across Brighton and Hove, is currently on hold.

8. Training will be available to ensure the network has representation from people with a learning disability.

- There will be training available for up to 3 people with a learning disability to be involved in the management of the Learning Disability Together Network itself. We are starting the recruitment for this in November 2010.
- The current management group have receive awareness training to make sure that new members are able to be fully involved.

9. The Learning Disability Together Network is involved in a wide range of new initiatives. For example:

- Our representative is taking a leading role within the Local Involvement Network (LINK) around learning disability matters which relate to health and social care. The LINK are about to commission a piece of engagement work, to enable people with a learning disability to express their views about any

issues or concerns relating to health and social care support and services.

- Our representative is taking part in a meeting with Grace Eyre and the local authority day activities' managers, exploring the idea of a voucher scheme to enable people with a learning disability to move between different services delivered by different organisations without the need for a formal transfer of their care package or going through a panel.
- Our representative has met with a number of organisations to explore social enterprise development specific to learning disability. They are currently looking at the creation of an online art gallery where people with a learning disability could sell any art or craft-based goods that they have produced. The representative is also looking at the possibility of developing a print workshop and exploring options for premises.
- Our representative attends the Adult Social Care Personalisation Partnership Board. They give advice and feedback regarding the developments around personalisation and the specific needs of people with a learning disability.
- Action for valuing people now is an action learning set commissioned by Brighton and Hove and delivered by Chichester University. Our representative is working with senior managers from various sectors around the implementation and delivery of the priorities for the Valuing People Now strategy.

10. The Learning Disability Together Network has been meeting with people and looking into the proposed changes to the government's employment programmes.

- This is to find out what impact it will have for people with a learning disability in Brighton and Hove.
- It is not clear yet what the new programme(s) will look like but it does seem that the new benefits system being discussed may allow more flexibility for adults with a learning disability to be in paid employment.
- The Nextstep service, offering careers guidance, will still be available locally as the service providers for the new contract include; Whitehawk Inn, Friends Centre, Hangleton and Knoll Project, Creating Futures, Jobcentre Plus and City College.
- Nextstep provides short sessions of 45 minutes to 1 hour, which may make it difficult for people with a learning disability to gain maximum benefits from them. Another key concern that the network has identified is that advisors are not generally trained to support people with a learning disability.

This is an exciting time for the Learning Disability Together Network as it improves services and progression routes for the benefit of people with a learning disability. New members are always welcome.

What the project has done in November 2010 to January 2011

11. The Learning Disability Together Network has taken on a new partner organisation to make it more effective.

- Care Co-ops and Impetus are now working alongside the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) to deliver this project.



12. As well as the LDDF funding, the Learning Disability Together Network has received funding from Awards For All.

- One of the things this will do is provide training and support for people with a learning disability to be involved in the management and running of the Network.

13. A Delivery Plan and Communications Plan have been written.

- This will give the management group a clear picture of what needs to be achieved and how it will be done.

14. Together network: Communications, meetings, publicity and marketing events :

Communications:

- Postcard sized leaflets included in 90 delegate packs for the Future of Fundraising Conference, leaflets circulated at LINK steering group meeting
- Exhibition banner displayed at the CVSF AGM and Future of Fundraising Conference, and BHT event
- Content added to LDTN website; including LDTN events and other events, information about the network, case studies, and useful news stories
- LDTN website was visited by 32 people and was visited in total 82 times. The average time spent on the website was 5 minutes.
- LDTN website now linked to CVSF website, Bright Part website, LINK website
- Content for Winter edition of the LDTN Newsletter has been written; copy is awaiting editing

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- **Two new members joined the LDTN mailing list, bringing the total number of members to 92**
- **An email-list for the LDTN has been set up**
- **Information circulations to LDTN membership: the British Association for Supported Employment, Transition Fund set up by the Office for Civil Society, Giving us a voice event**
- **Circulated information to LDTN network and CVSF email-list about the opportunity for service users to get involved in the LDTN management group**

Events:

- **Network meeting planned for 1.00-4.30pm on 1 December, but was cancelled due to disruptions to the travel networks caused by the snow which meant that key speakers could not attend.**
- **The agenda for the meeting has been rolled on to the next meeting planned for 27th January**
- **The network event was publicised on the following websites: Brighton & Hove Business Forum, Local Involvement Network, CVSF website, Brightpart website**
- **Details of the network event were circulated to the CVSF email-list and members of the LDTN**

Meetings attended:

- **Four operational group meetings**
- **Two management group meeting**
- **LD awareness training**

15. The six week pilot between Grace Eyre and Sussex Police at John Street Police Station was a success.

- **This was initially set up last year by the Learning Disability Together Network.**
- **There will now be an increase from 4 to 6 volunteers doing car valeting and administration work.**
- **Sussex Police will place 2 more volunteers (taking total to 5) in their administration department. Grace Eyre are hoping that they are to be placed and volunteering in January 2011**
- **Each volunteer has an induction of the Facilities Department and is supported with their work by Grace Eyre. The aim is to reduce support and create more independence over time.**
- **Grace Eyre has written a guidance booklet called 'Supporting Me' for police employees working with volunteers with a learning disability.**
- **At the moment, all volunteers have to be accessing Grace Eyre to be**

accepted on this scheme, although it is hoped that the scheme will be rolled out to other organisations in the future.

- The police and Grace Eyre are looking at the potential for groups of volunteers to move into new departments after six months, freeing up the placement for new people. This increases skills, confidence and experience and is good for meeting new people and raising awareness of the benefits of working with people with a learning disability.
- There are currently no plans to provide paid employment on this scheme as the police are expecting their budgets to be cut by a quarter.

16. School projects

- We are helping St. John's College to become more linked with the local community, including schools. And have linked St. John's College with Stanford Junior school to look at starting workshops with the children and students from St. John's.
- We are working on a school Open Day to allow the opportunity for the community to see what is happening in the college and perhaps for local LD orgs to have stalls so that students and parents/carers can see what's happening locally. This has been well received and possibly going ahead in 2011.
- We also met with Katie Whyte from Grace Eyre and arranged for her to liaise with Stanford Infant School about workshops.

17. Training will be available to ensure the network has representation from people with a learning disability.

- With Grace Eyre we have recruited 5 volunteers who would like to train up to join the LDTN Steering Group, the training will take place before February 2011. The training will be at GE as will future meetings of the LDTN Steering Group, which the trained volunteers will attend. Sarah Hendrickx will do the training.
- The current management group have receive awareness training to make sure that new members are able to be fully involved.

18. The Learning Disability Together Network is involved in a wide range of new initiatives. For example:

- Our representative is taking a leading role within the Local Involvement Network (LINK) around learning disability matters which relate to health and social care. The LINK are about to commission a piece of engagement work, to enable people with a learning disability to express their views about any issues or concerns relating to health and social care support and services.

- Our representative is taking part in a meeting with Grace Eyre and the local authority day activities' managers, exploring the idea of a voucher scheme to enable people with a learning disability to move between different services delivered by different organisations without the need for a formal transfer of their care package or going through a panel.
- Our representative has met with a number of organisations to explore social enterprise development specific to learning disability. They are currently looking at the creation of an online art gallery where people with a learning disability could sell any art or craft-based goods that they have produced. The representative is also looking at the possibility of developing a print workshop and exploring options for premises.
- Our representative attends the Adult Social Care Personalisation Partnership Board. They give advice and feedback regarding the developments around personalisation and the specific needs of people with a learning disability.
- Action for valuing people now is an action learning set commissioned by Brighton and Hove and delivered by Chichester University. Our representative is working with senior managers from various sectors around the implementation and delivery of the priorities for the Valuing People Now strategy.

19. The Learning Disability Together Network has been meeting with people and looking into the proposed changes to the government's employment programmes.

- This is to find out what impact it will have for people with a learning disability in Brighton and Hove.
- It is not clear yet what the new programme(s) will look like but it does seem that the new benefits system being discussed may allow more flexibility for adults with a learning disability to be in paid employment.
- The Nextstep service, offering careers guidance, will still be available locally as the service providers for the new contract include; Whitehawk Inn, Friends Centre, Hangleton and Knoll Project, Creating Futures, Jobcentre Plus and City College.
- Nextstep provides short sessions of 45 minutes to 1 hour, which may make it difficult for people with a learning disability to gain maximum benefits from them. Another key concern that the network has identified is that advisors are not generally trained to support people with a learning disability.

This is an exciting time for the Learning Disability Together Network as it improves services and progression routes for the benefit of people with a learning disability. New members are always welcome.

What the project has done in January - March 2011

20. The Learning Disability Together Network has three partners.

- Care Co-ops and Impetus and the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) all deliver this project.



21. As well as the LDDF funding, the Learning Disability Together Network has received funding from Awards For All.

- One of the things this will do is provide training and support for people with a learning disability to be involved in the management and running of the Network.

22. A Delivery Plan and Communications Plan have been written.

- This will give the management group a clear picture of what needs to be achieved and how it will be done.

23. Communications, meetings, publicity and marketing events:

Communications:

- Promotional postcards circulated.
- Exhibition banner displayed at events.
- Content has been added to LDTN website. The website was visited by 85 people and was visited in total 127 times.
- Contacted the council to ask if the LDTN website could be linked to the council's useful links webpage – awaiting confirmation that this has been done.
- Content for Spring edition of the LDTN Newsletter written.
- 3 new members joined the LDTN mailing list, bringing the total number of members to 95.
- Information circulations to LDTN membership: Sussex Multi Agency Policy and Procedures consultation, Adult Autism Needs Assessment Consultation opportunity, info about conference on learning disabilities, CVSF Your Space event on Health and Wellbeing.

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Events:

- Network meeting held from 9.30-1.00pm on 27th January 2011, which 27 people attended.
- LDTN members had time to network, and share their reasons and interests for attending the network meeting, they were given a presentation about the work of the Canterbury Trust.
- The network event was publicised on the following websites: Brighton & Hove Business Forum, Local Involvement Network, CVSF website.
- Details of the network event were circulated to the CVSF email-list and members of the LDTN.
- Network meeting held from 1.00-4.30pm on 16th March, which 30 people attended, including 4 service users.
- LDTN members had time to network, and share their reasons and interests for attending the network meeting.
- LDTN members heard from St John's College (a new network member) about the work that they are doing and the links they would like to make, they group heard from some of the Radio DJs involved in the Shut up and Listen Radio Show, and input into the Learning Disability Employment Plan.
- The network event was publicised on the following websites: Brighton & Hove Business Forum, Local Involvement Network, CVSF website.
- Details of the network event were circulated to the CVSF email-list and members of the LDTN.

Meetings attended:

- Two operational group meetings.
- Two management group meetings.

Evaluation work:

- Feedback from the January event – 19 people completed evaluation forms; 12 of these had not attended a network event before. Almost all participants felt more informed as a result of attending the networking event, and about half of the participants felt they had discovered potential partnership opportunities as a result of attending the meeting.
- Feedback from the March event – 9 people completed evaluation forms; 3 of these had not attended a network event before. Almost all participants felt more informed about activities taking place in the city to support those with learning disabilities in the city, and that they had the opportunity to network and meet new people.

24. Direct Employers/PA Development

- PA support worker training. As a result of a meeting with the Supported Employment team and Bunty Dann from BCP a pilot course for support workers has now been produced that has been used with St. John's College.

25. School projects

- We are helping St. John's College to become more linked with the local community, including schools.
- St. John's is now doing Makaton workshops with Stanford Juniors Year 3 classes. The feedback from the school and children is excellent.
- There is the potential for other Day Centres to partner up with primary schools.

26. Training will be available to ensure the network has representation from people with a learning disability.

- With Grace Eyre we have recruited 5 volunteers who have attended training to join the LDTN Steering Group. Sarah Hendrickx did the training, which went very well. The 5 volunteers came to the last two steering groups and helped with ideas and decisions.
- The current management group have received awareness training to make sure that new members are able to be fully involved.

27. The Learning Disability Together Network is involved in a wide range of new initiatives. For example:

- Our representative is taking a leading role within the Local Involvement Network (LINK) around learning disability matters which relate to health and social care.
- We have met St John's College around transition of young people from college to adult placements. We are undertaking research and consultancy with young people to find out what they would like to happen and what the gaps are.
- We are also looking at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation to look at funding a change in social policy in relation to how organisations can work together better.
- We are meeting Circles Network in relation to partnership work around family support. We have offered to help Circles with their own partnership building and support with funding and grant applications.
- Our representative is taking part in a meeting with Grace Eyre and the local authority day activities' managers, exploring the idea of a voucher

scheme to enable people with a learning disability to move between different services delivered by different organisations without the need for a formal transfer of their care package or going through a panel.

- Our representative has met with a number of organisations to explore social enterprise development specific to learning disability, such as an online art gallery where people with a learning disability could sell any art or craft-based goods and developing a print workshop.
- Our representative attends the Adult Social Care Personalisation Partnership Board. They give advice and feedback regarding the developments around personalisation and the specific needs of people with a learning disability.
- Action for valuing people now is an action learning set commissioned by Brighton and Hove and delivered by Chichester University. Our representative is working with senior managers from various sectors around the implementation and delivery of the priorities for the Valuing People Now strategy.

28. The Learning Disability Together Network has been meeting with people and looking into the proposed changes to the government's employment programmes.

- This is to find out what impact it will have for people with a learning disability in Brighton and Hove.
- It is not clear yet exactly what the new programme(s) will look like but it does seem that the new benefits system being discussed may allow more flexibility for adults with a learning disability to be in paid employment.
- The Nextstep service, offering careers guidance, will still be available locally. The service providers for the new contract include; Whitehawk Inn, Friends Centre, Hangleton and Knoll Project, Creating Futures, Jobcentre Plus and City College.
- Nextstep provides short sessions of 45 minutes to 1 hour, which may make it difficult for people with a learning disability to gain maximum benefits from them. Another key concern that the network has identified is that advisors are not generally trained to support people with a learning disability.

This is an exciting time for the Learning Disability Together Network as it improves services and progression routes for the benefit of people with a learning disability. New members are always welcome.