

Wokingham
Learning Disability
Partnership Board

Minutes from the Partnership Board's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Town Hall, Wokingham
28th January, 2009

Welcome and What's Going On Today

Paul Rickson and Jenny Harris welcomed everyone to the Partnership Board's AGM. We had a great turnout – 75 people in total! We hoped that today's AGM would give everyone the chance to look back over the past year and celebrate what the Partnership Board has done, and talk about what we would like the Partnership Board to do next.



Icebreaker

Peter Waite and Julie White from CLASP started off today's AGM with an icebreaker called "Neighbours".



Peter asked people to turn to the person sitting next to them and introduce themselves. Jodie played the theme tune to the TV show "Neighbours" whilst people were talking, and when the music stopped, we had to introduce our neighbour and say why they were here today! It was a good way to get know everyone!

Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) Update and Celebrations

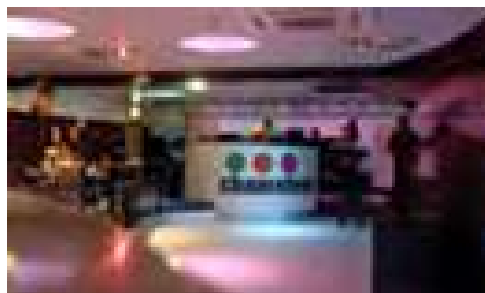


The Learning Disability Development Fund is money from Big Government to help make Valuing People happen. Last year (April 2008-March 2009) we had £104,000 to spend. We held a "bidding round" and invited local groups and people in the learning disability community to bid for money. Lots of groups were given LDDF money last year, and 5 of these groups came to our AGM today to give feedback on how this money was spent.

Club Marmalade – by John Bradshaw and Chris Nuttall:



Last year the Ark started running weekly DJ workshops where people with learning disabilities could learn DJ skills and have somewhere to meet and play the music they enjoyed. These workshops became really popular so members of the Ark decided to bid for some LDDF money to start up Club Marmalade – an inclusive nightclub event run by people with learning disabilities where the DJs could use their skills!



The first Club Marmalade event was in September 2008 and it was a huge success with over 200 people dancing the night away!!! Club Marmalade is held on the last Sunday of every month at the Chameleon in Wokingham (next to the Bowling Alley and Carnival Pool). Everyone is welcome and for more details, ring The Ark on tel: 01344 755528 or go to their website: www.clubmarmalade.org.uk.

CLASP – by Frankie Brewer and David Chaffe:

CLASP wanted somewhere where people with learning disabilities could meet each other, get advice, run campaigns etc, so they put in an LDDF bid to set up a new office. They found some premises above the Methodist Church in Rose Street and used the money to buy some furniture and office equipment. The money also paid for a stair lift so that the office was accessible to everyone.



Sarah Griffiths from **It's Working** also talked about how they hope to make the CLASP office run even better by employing 2 people with learning disabilities to work part-time to support CLASP and Take Notice. For more information about the jobs ring Sarah on tel: 0118 979 2031 or email sarah.griffiths@wokingham.gov.uk.

“Listen To Us Training” with Support Horizons – by Frankie Brewer, Paul Rickson and Jason Archer:

The Listen To Us Training courses are designed and run by people with learning disabilities, and there are 5 paid trainers at the moment. The aim of the training is to help everyone understand and treat people with a learning



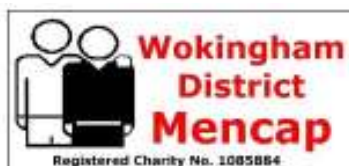
disability better. The Listen To Us Group was given LDDF money to employ a part-time project worker at Support Horizons to support the work of the group. They did not find anyone for the job the first time around, but they are about to advertise for their project worker again soon.



The group are planning to run more training courses and would love to hear some of your ideas. You can contact them at Support Horizons on tel: 0118 989 3959 or email tim.holland@support-horizons.co.uk. Or you can go to their website at: www.support-horizons.co.uk.

Wokingham & District Mencap – by Mary Durman:

Wokingham & District Mencap is a local, self-funded charity that provides help, support and advice to children and adults with a learning disability, their carers and families. **Mary** and **Heather Young** are the Joint Chief Executives of Wokingham Mencap, and the LDDF money has helped to part fund these posts. Wokingham Mencap is an active member of our Partnership Board and is involved in our core group and some of our sub groups.



You can contact Wokingham Mencap by tel: 0118 979 8539 or go to their website: www.wokinghammencap.org or email admin@wokinghammencap.org.

InnerSense – by Paul Wilkinson:

Paul talked about how LDDF money has helped Innersense run a series of 12 multi-sensory workshops for people with the most complex needs. Steven Allen, Peter Waite and Nissim Moses all helped Paul to demonstrate the costumes and props that they use at the workshops.

InnerSense employ talented musicians, dancers and actors who use their skills in the workshop to take people on a magical journey. They use sets with sound and visual effects, and props that are multi-sensory and easy to use, so that people are stimulated and encouraged to use their own skills. LDDF money has helped them employ more musicians, dancers and actors, and develop a new website.



InnerSense was nominated for the Bracknell Cultural Hero Award which is a big achievement! For more information about InnerSense, please contact Paul on tel: 01344 481289 or go to their website at www.innersense.org.uk.

Here is a list of the other groups and projects that have benefited from LDDF money in 2008/09:

- The Sun Club, Reading (£1,000)
- Healthy Activity Days (£851)
- Friday Night Project (£3,000)
- Relationship Training for supporters (£1,200)
- Weight Busters Group (£2,000)
- 2x Inclusive First Aid Courses (£350)
- Webcas, PCP Co-ordinator post (£26,150)
- Webcas, Inclusion Worker post (£22,962)
- Partnership Board Running Costs (approx £5,000)



For more information on the above groups and how they spent their money, please ring Jennie on tel: 0118 974 6832 or e-mail: jennie.grieve@wokingham.gov.uk

[Launch of the Autism Strategy – Robert Pasterfield](#)

Over the last few years, reports have said that services for people with autism need to be better. In 2006, Wokingham started work on making a plan to improve autism services for local people. Robert took up the role of Autism Project Worker in 2008 – his job was to write the plan.



What is Autism? Someone with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has a 'Triad of Impairments' which means they have difficulties in 3 areas: communication, problems with their imagination, and difficulty in developing social relationships.

Robert wanted to find out what people wanted from services so he sent out questionnaires to people with autism and their families, did face-to-face interviews to get more detailed information, and researched areas of best practice from other parts of the country. This is what he found:

- There are a high number of people with autism in Wokingham.
- There's not enough understanding of autism, particularly amongst support staff.
- Some people are being missed out (do not get support).
- Preventative services could save money.
- We need more housing in the Wokingham area for people with autism.
- There are not enough education opportunities for people with autism, and none at all in Wokingham.
- People need better support to find jobs.
- People need better support to stay healthy.



The plan has recommendations that will look at improving some of the problem



The Autism Strategy is in a consultation period before being ratified (which means being agreed by the council). The report will be published in March 2009 and then the council will look at the recommendations and decide what they will do about them.

Robert thanked everyone who has contributed to the report.

Partnership Board Co-Chair Election Campaign

The role of the co-chairs is to be a spokesperson for the Partnership Board, help run our meetings and make sure that Valuing People happens! Rod and Paul have done a fantastic job as our Partnership Board co-chairs over the last 3 years, but their term of office will end in March 2009.



At today's election, we wanted to find one person with a learning disability to take over from Paul, and one other experienced person from the private or voluntary sector or a family carer to take over from Rod. All of the candidates made a poster about why they would make a good co-chair and what they would do to make a difference to the lives of people with learning disabilities in Wokingham.

A replacement for Rod

Luke Joy-Smith is a member of our Partnership Board and sits on our Core Group. Luke was the only person to stand for Rod's role which meant that we only needed to ask people whether they were in favour of Luke taking over as our new



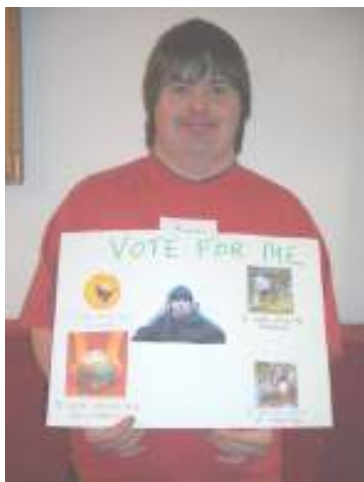
co-chair with a show of hands at the end of the day. Luke has been a Regional Director for Dimensions since June 2008. Before that he worked for a learning disability provider for 12 years in different roles. He's a qualified teacher and has worked in local colleges designing courses.

A replacement for Paul

There were 6 people interested in taking over from Paul. Each person took a turn to talk about their poster:



Frankie Brewer



Jason Archer



Viv Harris



David Chaffe



Andy Hoyle



Andrew Cook

Frankie, Jason, Viv, David, Andy and Andrew all did really well with their presentation and all received a huge round of applause when they finished!

Jodie reminded everyone that the new co-chairs would be able to shadow Rod and Paul to get used to the role until March, and they would get lots of support and training to help them with their new role.

Over lunch we put the posters on the wall so that everyone could have a think about who they would like to replace Paul. We gave everyone voting cards and stickers, and asked people to place their vote in the ballot box. Later on, the votes would be counted in private, and the winning candidate announced at the end of the day.

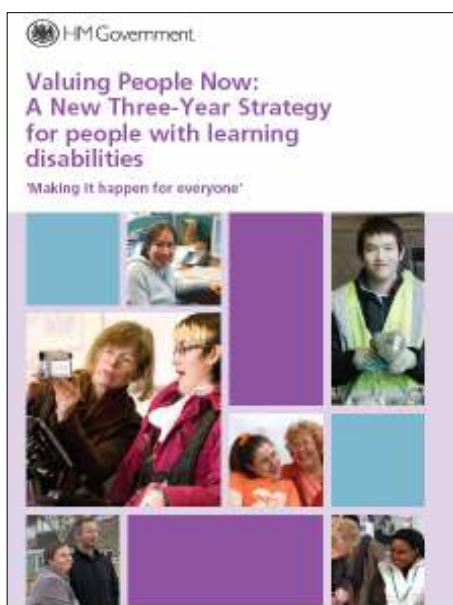


Valuing People Now 'Making it happen for everyone'

Jo Poynter is the South East Valuing People Lead and came to talk to us about [Valuing People Now](#) and the important role Partnership Boards have in making it happen.



In 2007, Big Government decided it was time to update Valuing People, so they put out Valuing People Now and it went through a period of consultation (our Partnership Board was part of this and able to give our views on what was good about it and what should change). In January 2009 they launched the updated version from which all Partnership Boards will have to work. Jo said that social care needs to change and get better for everyone, and Valuing People Now is good because it says what should be happening for people with a learning disability.



Valuing People Now is made up of 2 parts – the [main document](#) and the [delivery plan](#) which says how we're going to make it happen. [The vision](#) (that's a statement on what it's all about) says...

“All people with a learning disability are people first with the right to lead their lives like any others, with the same opportunities and responsibilities, and to be treated with the same dignity and respect. They and their families and carers are entitled to the same aspirations and life chances as other citizens.”

Jo gave us a summary of what is in Valuing People Now:

1. [Including everyone:](#)

Some people with learning disabilities miss out more than others. Valuing People Now mentions these groups:

- **People with more complex needs:** Valuing People was really good and set good principles, but more work needs to be done with people with complex needs so that people who don't communicate in the same way can join in.
- **People from BME groups and newly arrived communities:** We have to understand what's important to people from different backgrounds and communities.
- **People with autistic spectrum conditions:** We need to make sure we're doing the right thing for people with autism.
- **Offenders in custody and in the community:** We need to make sure we are looking after people who are in prisons or have to go to the police station – because people with learning disabilities who end up in trouble sometimes don't have the best access to the right support.



Including families: Families thought they weren't included enough before, so Valuing People Now has families right at the centre of the plan.

2. Personalisation:

This is Big Government's word for planning and getting the life we want. It's about people with learning disabilities and their families saying what support they need rather than being told what they've got to do and where to go. And it's about the people with a learning disability being in control of their money.

3. Having a life:

- **Better health:** Valuing People Now includes lots about better health and being more active – with a plan of 10 things to make a difference. It also talks about specialist health and mental health, and the health needs of people in prison.
- **A home of your own:** Everyone should be able to choose how they want to live, whether it's on their own, in a care home, or sharing a flat with friends.



- **Work, education and getting a life:** Jo said Wokingham is really good at supporting people to get a paid job but unfortunately, doesn't do so well with providing adult education – but our Education Sub Group is working on this. This part is also about people having a social life and Jo said Club Marmalade sounds great!



- **Relationships and having a family:** It is really important to have friends and the opportunity to meet new people.
- **Parents with a learning disability:** More people with a learning disability are having children, and they need the support and education to be good parents.

4. People as citizens:

- **Advocacy:** Speaking up for ourselves and also having people to help us do that.
- **Transport:** Jo said that most areas talk about problems with transport.
- **Access to leisure services and recreational activities:** Jo praised the Healthy Activity Days that we ran last year.
- **Being safe in the community and at home:**
 - **Hate crime:** The National Forum has done lots of work on this, and the Take Notice group have started a campaign to stop Hate Crime locally.
 - **Safeguarding:** The Government has written some guidelines (rules) about keeping people with learning disabilities safe from abuse.
- **Access to justice and redress:** This is about people with learning disabilities getting help to make a complaint or get legal help if they have been treated unfairly.

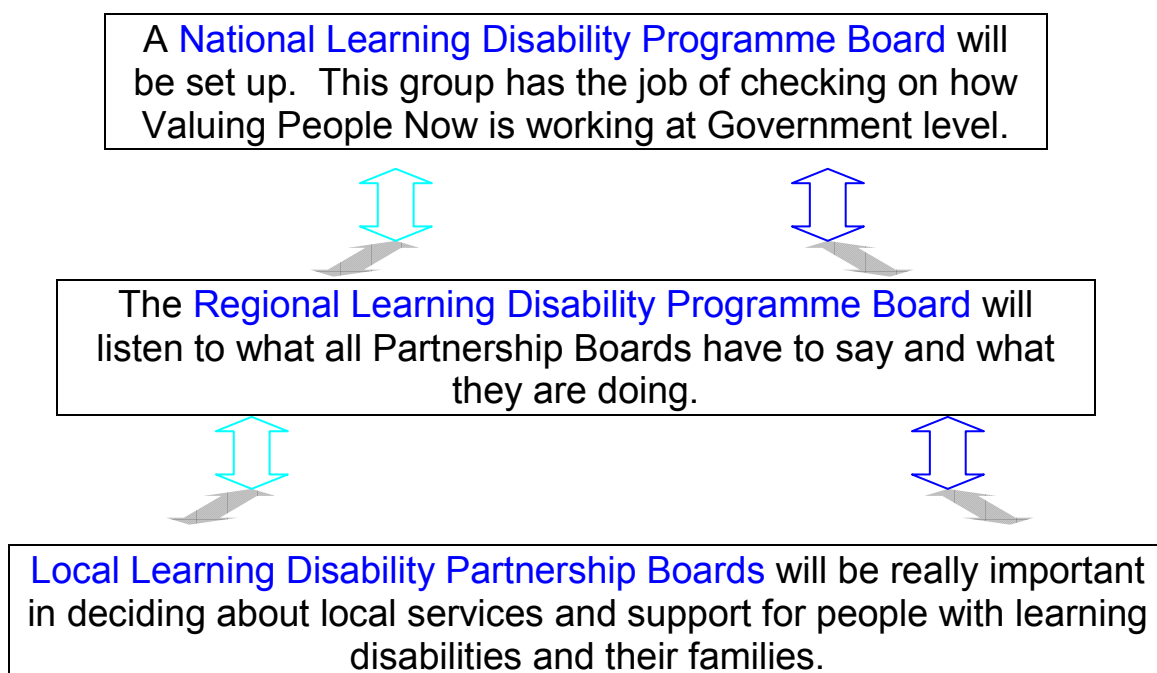


5. Making it happen: (this used to be called the Big Priority)

- **Leadership and delivery structures:** We need strong leadership – good leaders in health, in the council, in social care and in our co-chairs.
- **Partnership Boards:** The paper says that Partnership Boards should all be working well (like ours!) and there are suggestions on how this can happen in the Valuing People Now Delivery Plan.
- **Better Commissioning:** This is about how we use the money (for social care, education, housing etc) to get the right things for people.
- **Developing the workforce:** These are the staff who support people with a learning disability – if they don't know how to 'make it happen', it won't happen. We need to help these workers get better at what they do.
- **Measuring performance and data collection:** Partnership Boards will have to write reports. We have written our first Annual Report, which says what we have done and what we would like to do. Out of 150 Partnership Boards, only 5 have written a plan – and we are one of them!



How will it work?



The Delivery Plan – Key Priorities

This is a plan to make Valuing People Now work. The plan has 6 main things Big Government want to happen in 2009 to 2010 – they call them **key priorities**:



1. Make sure everyone who works with people with learning disabilities (and everyone else) knows about Valuing People Now.
2. Make sure Partnership Boards make a difference – Jo said we are one of the best but we need to keep up the good work!
3. Make sure people with learning disabilities get the healthcare they need.
4. Give people more choice about where they live.
5. Make sure people plan for and get the life that they want (this is called Personalisation).
6. Make sure more people with learning disabilities get paid jobs.

Then there was time for our audience to ask Jo some questions:

- Q:** Heather Young asked: Is there anything about education for adults with a learning disability?
- A:** Education is in the report but it isn't as strong as we want it to be. The Disability Education Act said



everyone should have the right and be supported to receive an education. The Learning Skills Council in our area should be working with us to make sure local people have the chance to go to college. Supporting young people in transition is under the 'having a life' chapter.



Q: Stuart Rowbotham asked: Where is the money for this?

A: There is no new money for this, so we need to look at what we do and how we spend our money, and make the necessary changes.

Q: Stuart Rowbotham asked: What about LDDF?

A: The LDDF is given to councils as part of the area based grant. It is up to each local council as to how it is spent.

Q: Trevor Lyalle asked: Should Partnership Boards have statutory powers?

A: Partnership Boards should aim to build the right links in their area - it is our responsibility to "get in there"! If the council is looking at something, then it's our job to ask them what they plan to do about it with regard to people with a learning disability. Valuing People Now says we must be included in the plans to modernise/transform social care. The Regional Board's job is to make sure that Partnership Boards are working well.



Q: Ann Pask asked: Will Partnership Boards that don't work well be given more money?

A: No. There is no extra money for this, although the working out formula the Government uses means that Partnership Boards like ours might miss out compared to others in more deprived areas. Unfortunately the whole of the South East lost out with LDDF last year (not just Wokingham) because the whole area is seen to be wealthy.

Q: Stuart Rowbotham asked: We're worried that the Dept of Health hasn't listened to our feedback with regard to how the Section 28a money is passed onto local councils for social care. We're worried that Wokingham might lose £2million if they use the same working out formula as they did for LDDF. Whilst we understand that LDDF is only a very small amount of the total amount that is spent on people with a learning disability, the Section 28a money is a big amount.

A: Jo said that her team have also expressed their concern to the Department of Health.

Q: Ellie Bird asked: **What about Valuing People Now and Housing?**

A: Stuart Rowbotham answered first: The council are currently writing a plan for housing, and our Partnership Board has been involved in this plan. One of our Partnership Board's first sub groups was the housing group and as a result we have been able to develop schemes and housing options so more people can live in their own homes. However, we need to work with lots more people so they also have the choice of where they live and who they live with. The council only have so many properties - we need to work with registered landlords too.



A: Jo answered that it is the Partnership Board's job to speak up for people with learning disabilities and tell the council what is needed.

A: Luke said that our Partnership Board needs to work with other agencies too (like housing associations) – not just the council.

To get a copy of Valuing People Now, go to:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_093377



Partnership Board Annual Report

This year, we have written an Annual Report to show everyone what our Partnership Board has been up to in 2008 and what we plan to do in 2009. We wrote the Annual Report based on the objectives (headings) that are in the Valuing People Now consultation document.



Jodie went through the 5 main chapters in the updated Valuing People Now:

- **Including Everyone**
- **Personalisation (Choice and Control)**
- **Having a Life**
- **People as Citizens**
- **Making it Happen**

...and gave some highlights of the things we achieved in 2008 under each heading – please see the Annual Report for full details.



Each sub group has a plan of the things they want to do in 2009, but Jodie wanted everyone to have an input in setting the priorities (important things) the Partnership Board should be working on. We passed round some post-it notes and asked everyone to jot down their ideas for projects and stick them onto the posters on the wall.

Here are some of the ideas and what is being done about it (in italics):

Including Everyone:

- More support for carers.
- Get more carers and care managers involved in the work of the Partnership Board.
- More support for people with complex needs to plan in a person centred way and get advocacy support.
- A Befriending Scheme – for people with autism and aspergers. *Webcas have set up a befriending service – this aims to match people with a learning disability to a volunteer supporter, who shares similar interests etc. Contact Deryn Stewart at Webcas to find out more on tel: 0118 979 2031..*



Personalisation:

- Encouraging organisations to get ready for and deliver self directed support.
- Advocates included in Planning Live Events.

Having a Life:

- Advice and support to be healthy. Julie Weller has a personal assistant called Amy. Julie's PA helps her to eat healthily and exercise. Amy is keen on health and fitness. So this is about having staff to support you that have the right skills and interests.
- Better monitoring of health services – look at data regarding how people are referred and what the outcomes are for the people who access the service. *Jo said that the Health Quality Forum will be looking at this.*
- Help people understand the importance of taking their medication.
- Better Housing and consistent support – people having a say in who supports them in their home.
- People supported to live in a nice environment. Housing Associations need to be proactive and not wait until something is in a really bad state before it is repaired.
- Employment should be a local priority with money and resources set aside to help more people get paid jobs.



- Better information about benefits and link to the Department of Work and Pensions. *The Learning Disability Alliance is working on this.*
- More training for people with learning disabilities – Suzanne would like office skills training.



Volunteer Centre
Wokingham

- Support for people with disabilities to volunteer. *The Volunteer Centre has an extra needs coordinator, whose role is to do this.*
- More choice of day service activities.
- A college in Wokingham running suitable courses for people with learning disabilities. *The Education Sub Group is looking at this.*
- Social skills training for people with learning disabilities. *The Relationship Sub Group is looking at this.*
- More support for parents with learning disabilities.
- Local disco and social events every week. *Two Left Feet, Friday Night Project and Club Marmalade are some of the groups that offer this regularly.*

People as Citizens:

- 'Listen to Us' to do training for staff who work in colleges, job centres and transport services.
- The Citizens Panel is a group of residents listening to what people want. People with disabilities should be part of this.
- The country is having a credit crunch. Should we give support and advice to people with learning disabilities and families who have money problems?
- A self advocacy group for carers.
- A self advocacy group that includes people with complex needs.
- People with learning disabilities should be supported to understand their right to vote.
- Better local public transport – *we talked about this at our last big meeting.*
- Better links with community social and recreation groups like the photographic society etc. *You can use the www.wow4me.org.uk website to find out about places, groups and activities in your area.*
- Making sure people with disabilities have access to local leisure facilities. Sometimes equipment (like a hoist) gets broken and takes a long time to be fixed.



- More work to stop hate crime.
- Raise awareness of disability issues in schools. *We've already linked in with Bulmershe School as part of the hate crime campaign. We are planning to work with the community wardens to educate young people in schools.*

- Do something about the environment. *We'll be having a self advocate workshop about this later in this year.*

Making it Happen:



- More things like CLASP and social enterprises.
- More people to speak up and get involved to make changes.
- Make sure we have clear contract agreements in place, which make sure providers change to self directed support.
- Develop a database of skills and knowledge within staff teams, links, connections and reference points – there are lots of things and people out there that can help but not everyone knows about them.
- Make managers of residential homes do training about what Valuing People Now says and how to make it happen.
- Independence for the Partnership Board. *We've been working on this for a long time!*



Jodie thanked everyone for their contributions and will take all the suggestions back to the Core Group to look at. It's really helpful to know what people want us to work on - we are already doing some of the things people said which means we are on the right track!

If you would like a copy of our Annual Report, please ring Jennie on tel: 0118 974 6832 or email: jennie.grieve@wokingham.gov.uk.

Plans for an Independent Partnership Board

In the past we've talked a lot about the future of our Partnership Board. Today Jodie wanted to review our plans and look at a way forward.

This is our story so far....

- 2 years ago we asked some independent consultants to write a report for us – giving us possible options for the future.
- We agreed some heads of terms – which said how we would like the Partnership Board to work with the Council and the PCT.
- In January 2007 we shared our plan with members at our AGM.



- And then in March 2007 the core group had a planning day.
- After that, we met with the big bosses of the PCT and the Council who agreed with our idea in principle – but asked us to do some more work on the plan.
- At our last AGM in January 2008 we talked about it again.
- The Core Group went away and did some more work and developed a proposal to find an organisation to host the Partnership Board.
- In April last year we voted YES at a big meeting to go ahead with the plan to find a host for the Partnership Board.
- We shared our proposals with the big bosses again last summer.

So what do we want?



- We want to pay a host organisation to give us some office space (so we have an address, telephone number, and some space for meetings).
- We want some help to manage our finances, help with fundraising and manage the secondment of staff.

How are we going to make it happen?

- Jodie and Jenny will finish the specification (this describes the job of the host).
- Then we need to find someone to host us.
- Then we need to start because we've been planning this for a long time!

Some of our current problems are to do with our location. It would be better if Jodie, Jennie, Julie and Nick were based in the same office; and it would be good if we had a local base (office space in the town) so that people could pop in and see us.

We have talked before about setting up as our own organisation but have decided that we don't want to make that big jump just yet – we will try using a host first and then if it's successful, think about taking the next step towards independence.



Jodie



Jennie



Julie



Nick

Election Results

The votes had been counted for Paul's replacement - who did we choose?

The votes showed that.....

David Chaffe will take over from Paul as our co-chair.

Then Jenny asked people to raise their hand if they were happy for Luke to take over from Rod as our other co-chair, and everyone voted yes.



Congratulations to David and Luke!!

Jenny thanked Rod and Paul for all the work they've done for our Partnership Board over the last 3 years. Jenny also said a big thank you to all the candidates – they had done a brilliant job with their posters and their presentations. Then David and Luke joined Paul at the front of the room and said thank you to everyone who had voted for them. Paul hoped they would enjoy their time as co-chairs and he looked forward to working with them.



That was the end of our AGM

Paul Rickson thanked everyone for coming!