

Wokingham
Learning Disability
Partnership Board

Minutes from the

Partnership Board's **BIG** Meeting

Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham

Tuesday 8th September, 2009

Welcome and Good News!

Luke and David welcomed everyone to today's meeting and asked people to introduce themselves and share some good news. Here's what a few people had to say:



- David had 2 pieces of good news: He went to the Wow4me Website Celebration Event at Wokingham library on 24th August. The Wokingham Times wrote a lovely article about the event, and David's picture is in this week's paper! David's also looking forward to going away for a few days soon.
- Peter had 2 pieces of good news as well! He saw some police dogs last month at a Thames Valley Police Event and he's also looking forward to going back to college soon.
- Steven has been working really hard on the Easy Read version of the Wokingham Autism Report. Julie and Jennie have put his information together into a first draft, and the final report will be ready soon.
- Robert is going to Scotland on holiday soon.
- Anna went to Bournemouth last week and had a lovely time.
- Jason is looking forward to presenting at today's meeting – he'll be talking about our recent Self Advocate Workshop about **Being a Good Citizen!**
- Alison is pleased that Katie Burgess has just joined the Speech and Language Therapy team and will be working 3 days a week.
- Jenny is pleased that the new structure for the community team (CTPLD) is working well, and 107 people now have a Personal Budget.
- Jill and her team at Jigsaw are busy working on the Golden Planet Project - they have just secured a site for the project in Spencers Wood.
- Philip had a lovely weekend and enjoyed a "family day" on Saturday.
- Diane is pleased that 2 people (supported by Dimensions) will be applying for a grant for shared ownership so that they can buy their own home.
- Luke is looking forward to the Community Festival on Saturday 19th September in Woodley.



New Look Big Meeting – Jodie Newman

Jodie gave us a short update on how our Big Meetings will be run in future. At our last meeting, we decided that we wanted to hear more about what is going on in our different sub groups - and that it would be good to get these updates from carers and self advocates. But how can we fit everything into our 2 hour meetings?!! We agreed to drop our regular Core Group update and instead pass this information on to our members via our notices and newsletters.



Unfortunately there wasn't enough time to get the sub group feedback ready for today's meeting, but we will include it in the meetings starting next time.

Self Advocate Workshop – Jason Archer

Jason talked about what happened at the “**Being a Good Citizen**” workshop on 1st September. They started off with an **icebreaker** where they had to think about a time that they have helped another person. Everyone came up with something and the group realised how helpful they were! This is what 3 of the people at the workshop said:

“I help my mum with the shopping”
said Fiona.



“I help keep my road tidy by sorting out the bins on rubbish collecting day”
said Suzanne.



“Charlie helps to tidy magazines and do the laundry”
said Charlie's supporter.



Then they talked about what the word “community” means, and the different ways to get involved in the community. For example:

- Giving your views
- Being part of a local group
- Campaigning to make a difference.

Good Citizen Project:

CLASP and the Partnership Board are working on a “Good Citizen Project”. Jason Archer, Frankie Brewer and Clive Pressinger all had ideas for projects they would like to start, and asked people at the workshop for help to get them started.

Jason’s project – Recycling:

Jason talked about:

- Why it is important to look after the planet.
- What everyone can do to help – for example walking or cycling instead of driving, switching off lights and the TV, growing fruit and vegetables.
- What everyone can recycle – for example paper, glass, plastics, tins and food waste as compost.



Jason got a group of volunteers to help him run a recycling project in Wokingham.

Frankie’s project – Fundraising:

Frankie asked everyone at the workshop to think about which charities and groups they would like to support. And suggestions for ways in which they could raise money:

- Kim suggested a sponsored fancy dress walk for **Sports Relief**
- Peter said he would organise a video sale for **Children in Need**.
- Jason suggested having a coffee morning for **Macmillan Cancer Support**.



Clive’s project – Litter Picking:

Clive thinks it is important to keep Wokingham clean and tidy, so he is organising a “litter pick-up” in his street. Clive has already got the local police and community wardens to help! Clive is going to make a poster to get more people involved and he asked for volunteers at the workshop.



That was the end of Jason's presentation, and he passed round a poster that he had made about his Recycling Campaign.

Julie had some good news.... the Bradbury Centre would like to hold a coffee morning on Friday 25th September in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Julie said the Take Notice group will be talking about how they can help at their meeting this Friday.



If you want to find out more about the [Good Citizen Project](#), please talk to Jason, Frankie, Clive or Jodie.

[A Better Future – Mette Le Jakobsen](#)

A lot of work has been done to find out what people with autism need in the Wokingham Borough, and now the Government is asking everyone's views to see what should be done nationally (across the country). The Government's consultation is called "[A Better Future](#)", and Mette talked about each section in the consultation and asked our views.



[What is this all about?](#)

- ✓ This is a consultation about the Government's first plan to make life better for adults with autism.
- ✓ We need to tell them what we think by 15th September.
- ✓ Their report will be ready by the end of 2009.



[The consultation](#)

- The Government has already talked to a group of people with autism, family carers and staff who support people with autism about what should be in the plan.
- They came up with 5 areas that need to change to make things better for adults with autism – and they would like to know what we think.

[These are the 5 areas:](#)

1. Helping adults with autism where they live. (This may mean help with things like finding somewhere to live, help with travelling to where they need to go, and help to do things in their free time.)
2. Making healthcare better for adults with autism.
3. Adults with autism choosing the services and support they need.



- 4. Helping people like doctors, social workers, teachers, the police and housing officers to understand more about autism.
- 5. Helping adults with autism get jobs and training.






Mette and Jodie had thought about this consultation, and had looked at Wokingham's Local Autism Plan to start putting together our Partnership Board's response.


The following chart shows what Big Government proposes, what our local plan says, and what our members think we should add.

Area 1: Helping adults with autism be part of their community (social inclusion).

What Big Gov said	What our local plan said	Our thoughts today
Need a lead person or team to support people with autism.	Some people with autism have had a poor service – an Autism Team is needed.	We agreed with everything.
Need to be better at knowing how many people with autism there are, and what their needs are.	Prevention Services are important – helping people before they get into difficulty (lose their job or get into debt or housing situation breaks down).	Phillip: Help with relationships is important and should be an area on it's own.
Need to improve housing, transport and other public services.	Social groups like the Friday Alternative work well.	
	The new family liaison worker (ASD family help) will give much needed advice and support to people with autism and their families.	



Area 2: Making healthcare better for people with autism.



What Big Gov said	What our local plan said	Our thoughts today
Make it easier for adults to find out if they have got autism (diagnosis).	People should get the right support from the local health service, and it should be easier to find out if you have autism (diagnosis).	Jill: Accessibility – GP surgeries and hospitals should understand that being kept waiting for an appointment is difficult for someone with autism.
Make sure people working in the health service have information about the adults with autism who live in their area, so they can make sure help is available for them.	People with autism and mental health problems need good support from the council and health service. This support should be put in place so that things do not get worse (prevention).	Katrina: Better awareness in GP surgeries is needed and more “joined-up” working. 
Make places like doctors' surgeries and hospitals easier to use for adults with autism.	 Hospital	Alison: Promote accessible information – GPs should use information that is easy to understand.
Help doctors, nurses and social workers who work with people who have mental health problems to understand more about autism.		Mary: Special Interest GPs – these are GPs who take on additional training in a particular subject. Patients from other surgeries can see these specialist GPs too.



Area 3: Adults with autism choosing the services and support they need.

What Big Gov said	What our local plan said	Our thoughts today
Make sure adults with autism can get person centred plans and personal budgets.	All adults with autism are different and need different sorts of help.	Jill: Mainstream schooling is important - research shows it gives better outcomes for young people.


Provide better help for people with autism as they leave school (transition).	People with autism should be able to get support from an advocate, even if they don't get support from social services.	Philip: It's good to have support in mainstream schools, but some people prefer to be with other people with autism. They should have a choice.
Make it easier for adults with autism to find someone to speak up for them, or help them to speak for themselves (advocacy).	There should be a specialist support at mainstream schools so young people with autism are properly included.	
Make sure adults with autism are asked how they think the services they use could be improved.	Better information for young people with autism and their carers about what services and support are available.	


Area 4: Helping people understand more about autism.

What Big Gov said	What our local plan said	Our thoughts today
Give people like employers and the police more information about autism. 	Awareness training for community services (this means services that everyone can access.) This includes education, health, leisure, transport etc.	Jill: There should be tailored training courses for each of the different groups (police, health, education etc). For example, the police need to be aware that people with autism are more likely to confess to something they didn't do. General training may not cover this.
Teach people like social workers and people who work in places like colleges, housing offices and Jobcentre Plus about autism.	An Autism Champions Network would help share information about autism.	Luke: Training for our social workers and people who support people with autism is very important. 

<p>Make sure that new social workers, doctors and nurses are taught about autism as part of the training they have to do before they start their job.</p>	<p>Autism Week in May 2009 – we helped to raise awareness and celebrate autism locally.</p> 	<p>Julie: The Jobcentre Plus application forms have a tick box saying “Do you have a disability?” People with autism don’t know if they would be refused work if they tick this box. Mette said people should understand the needs of autism, and also understand people’s rights. Training should include information about discrimination.</p>
		<p>Diane: Awareness – families also need to understand more about autism. Could this be linked with diagnosis support?</p>
		<p>Philip: More people are aware of autism nowadays but we still need to help more people understand.</p>

Area 5: Helping adults with autism get jobs and training.

<p>What Big Gov said</p>	<p>What our local plan said</p>	<p>Our thoughts today</p>
<p>Make sure adults with autism can get the help they need to find and keep a job.</p>	<p>Better information about benefits is needed and help to sort out your benefits.</p>	<p>Jenny: There aren’t enough college places.</p>
<p>Make sure employers know about autism.</p>	<p>More support for people with autism to find and keep a job.</p>	<p>Jill: Sometimes colleges don’t understand that people with autism can’t cope with noise & large numbers of people.</p> 

<p>Make sure adults with autism can get the benefits & tax credits they need.</p>		<p>The council and other big public services should lead the way by employing people with autism.</p>	<p>Wenona: Sometimes a college isn't the best environment for someone with autism. We should offer different ways of learning new skills and getting ready for work.</p>
<p>Help adults with autism to get the training and education they need.</p>	<p>Support for people with autism to set up a social enterprise or become self employed.</p>		<p>Wenona: Has done some work to find out what people with autism need. Help with communication and relationships came out on top.</p>
			<p>Nicky: People should not just have training on how to do the job but also how to get along with their co-workers.</p>
			<p>Jill: We should make employers aware of the positive attributes (good things) that people with autism have. There could also be incentives for employers – for example apprenticeships.</p>

Jodie will take all this information and put together a response from our Partnership Board. If you would like to see the finished response, please contact Jodie.

Putting People First – A New Guide - Mike Stillman

Mike talked to us about a **new guide** from the **Putting People First team** to help people arrange their own support. The guide will help people look at different ways of using their personal budgets and how they can choose their support. There will be an easy read guide made too.

To help them put the guide together, they are asking people who will use the guide to tell them what they





would like included – for example how contracts might work, how they choose a broker etc. Mike and Marlena will be running some focus group meetings and the first one is on **12th October, 10am** at the **Bradbury Centre**. **Anyone with a learning disability or family carer who is interested is welcome.**

If you would like to be part of this focus group, please contact Mike on tel: 0118 908 8225, email: mike.stillman@wokingham.gov.uk, or Jodie.

Please also let Mike or Jodie know **if you need any help with transport.**

Mette had some good news – The Department of Health will be doing some pilots (test trials) for personal health budgets, and Wokingham has been chosen as one of the areas to take part in the pilot. Mette hopes to have more information about this soon.

Anything Else?

1. **Jodie – Wokingham Councillor:** For a long time now, we have been trying to get a Wokingham Councillor to be involved with our Partnership Board. David Lee used to be our Councillor representative, but stood down when he became Leader of the Council. We have some good news! **Annette Drake** (who used to be Wokingham Mayor) will be our new elected member representative from the Council. She will be joining in the Core Group meetings.



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



2. **Jodie - LDDF:** At the beginning of the financial year (April 2009) we held a bidding round for people to apply for some LDDF money (Learning Disability Development Fund) to run their groups and activities. At our Big Meeting before the summer, we gave you an update on how that money is being spent. It is likely that some money will be left over, so we will probably have another bidding round in the next month or so. We will let you have more details when we know.

3. **Mette – Care Quality Commission:** Who are they? They are the people who inspect the Council and providers, and recently they wrote to the Council with feedback on how Wokingham Council's Community Care Department is doing. The good news is that we're doing really well! There are more people with a learning disability in employment in our area, than anywhere else in the country – and the Care Quality Commission said we were outstanding! We think more people with a learning disability should be working, but statistically (counting people) we are one of the best areas!
4. **Jill - Excellent Rating:** Jigsaw has recently been rated as "excellent" for its domiciliary care (giving support in people's homes) and everyone is really pleased.



Nobody had anything else that they wanted to talk about, so that was the end of our Big Meeting!

The next Big Meeting will be on...

Date: Tuesday 20th October
Time: 10am-12noon
Where: Rose Street Methodist Church, Wokingham

