

Family Carers Event 9th December 2009

At

The BRITE Centre

This was a day for family parents and carers to come and find out more information about Personalisation and Personal Budgets and what it means for themselves and the people they care for.

The Leicestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board gave us the money to run the event with our Mencap partners.

On the day 43 carers came along with members of the Valuing People Team, Adult Social Care and the Voluntary Sector.



The first speakers on the day were a young man called Richard Sherratt and his mum Dawn Line. They both live in Northamptonshire and Richard has been getting a personal budget for the past year.

We heard about the difference this has made for Richard in his everyday life and how it enables him to do the things he wants to whilst he still works and studies part time.

Richard's mum Dawn told us about her experience of applying, receiving and managing Richard's personal budget. We heard some of the problems she had experienced throughout the whole process and how she overcame these. There was also a time for carers in the room to ask Richard and Dawn questions.



We then heard from Charlotte Morse whose son Ben also receives a personal budget. They live in Essex and we heard about the steps they took in order to take control of their lives.

Charlotte told us that receiving an Individual Budget has been life changing for Ben. His self confidence has blossomed as he feels safe while out & about and valued in society. He has friends, a job, and choice and control in his life.



The next person to speak was Richard Wilson from Mencap. Richard told us about the services Mencap can offer families and carers when they have their personal budgets.



We then had lunch and everyone had a chance to visit the information stands and talk to the morning speakers. This also gave people a chance to talk to other parents and carers too. Carers tell us that they always enjoy meeting other carers as they understand what it's like to be a carer themselves.

Listed below are names and contact numbers of the people who spoke at the event or had an information stand on the day:

Dawn Line parent and carer and Richard Sherratt –
01933 359294

Charlotte Morse, parent and carer – 01206 579791

Richard Wilson – Mencap 07766520514

Richard Wilson – Leicestershire County Council –
0116 3058134

CLASP - The Carers Centre – Pamela Thompson –
0116 2510999

Mencap – Jyotsna Gadhia and Mary O'Brien –
0116 2422738

The work of the Locality Groups – 0116 3057992

Valuing People Team and Valuing People Now –
Keeley Smith - 0116 3058187

Valuing People Carer's Work – Jane Robins
0116 3056699

Welfare Rights Information – 0116 2779496

Valuing People Person Centred Planning Team –
Simon Dalby - 0116 3056650

South Leicestershire Social Enterprise – Mary Hill
0116 2887845

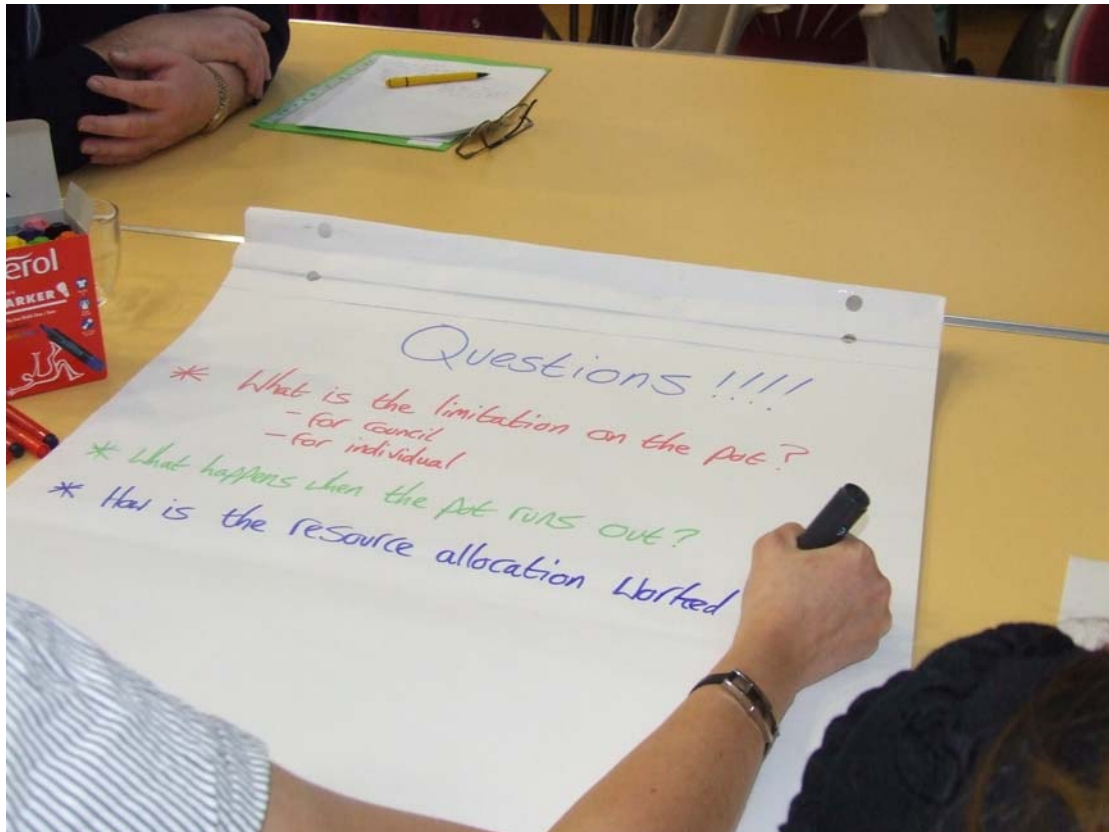
In the afternoon Richard Wilson from Leicestershire County council gave us a short presentation about personal budgets and resource allocation systems in Leicestershire.

We then did a workshop exercise and were asked to think about what questions and burning issues we had concerning the introduction of personal budgets in Leicestershire.

Each table had the chance to ask one burning question to the panel of speakers who then gave the answer to the whole room.



All the questions that were raised during the workshop will be answered in due course. Also all the carers who attended the day will receive a copy of the answers. They will also be posted on the betterlives website at www.betterlives.org.



We asked everyone to tell us what they thought about the day. Everyone was asked to complete an evaluation sheet and have the chance to win a prize. The winning sheet was Mrs E Smith who won a £20 Marks and Spencer gift card.

Some people said that it was a good place to have the event, but did find it a bit difficult to get to. We will think about this when we plan the next event.

Here are some more comments:

“Very good, can we have more of these in the future?”

“The talks were very inspirational”

“A thought provoking event”

“Enjoyed it, but not enough time to ask questions”

“A lot of information to digest in a very short space of time”

“I learnt a lot about things that I only thought I knew about”

“Very enjoyable and informative”

“The real stories were very good”

