

The Leicestershire Learning Disabilities Partnership Board

Annual Report 2014/15

Introduction

The Leicestershire Learning Disabilities Partnership Board (LLDPB) would like to tell you about the Board and what it has done over the last year to help make a difference to the lives of people with a learning disability and their carers who live in Leicestershire.



This year has been a challenge to the Board members as we have had to manage our money to make sure we could support our groups and help them grow.



We have also noticed that attendance of professionals from Leicestershire organisations has not been so good this year so we will need to ask them why they are not able to come to the meetings or if we need someone else to take their place.

We have had an increase in our attendance and membership of self-advocates and supporters which we are pleased about.

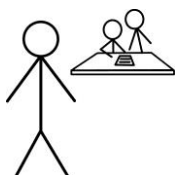


Thanks to the good support provided by the Steering Group members, we think that we have done a good job of keeping the Board and its groups working well. We hope that you think so too when you have read this report.

The Leicester Learning Disability Partnership Board

This year has seen membership increase. This includes key partners and people from organisations that commission (buy) and provide services for people with learning disabilities and their carers.

We have also welcomed young adults and students as regular visitors to the Board.



Self advocates remain a key part of our Board and this year has seen a change to the way they are supported to speak up and shape the work of organisations. Karen Archer from Independent Voices for Engagement has given support to our groups to help them organise meetings and do important work in localities.

Speech and Language students from De Montfort University (DMU) have been giving up their time to support self advocates at the Board's pre-meetings and in the partnership board meetings. This gives self-advocates a chance to look at the programme and presentation slides before the meeting and talk about the things that are important to tell presenters about their services.



Rachel and Charlie will be leaving university this year so will not be able to help us next year. A big thank you to Rachel and Charlie. We hope you remember us and tell people how we can help when you get jobs in Health. We will talk to The University about more students to help us next year.



The LLDPB has four meetings a year. This year we decided to talk about 4 topics (big things) that are important to us ~

- Good Health
- Good communication
- Keeping Safe
- Transitions (young people leaving school)

We also have 2 extra meetings a year. These are joint meetings with representatives from all the groups and members of the Steering Group. We did this because the groups said they wanted time to talk to each other and to the Steering Group about things that are important.



We invited speakers from organisations to tell us about their service and what changes were being thought about. We helped them to understand what the changes would mean to us and our lives. We offered advice about how we could help to shape things with them.



We did this by listening to the presentations and discussing them in our groups. We collected our conversations on a flip chart and they were used to feed back to the presenters. We also provided written copies so that they could discuss this with their managers to help them make things better.

All the presentations and workshop notes are on the [Better Lives website](#) for you to look at if you missed the meeting or want to look at them again.

In December this year we had a Voting Workshop. We invited



people from the Government offices to come and tell us about the election and how we can vote for who we want to run the Government from May 2015.

We had lots of time to think about how to register to vote and what to do at the polling station on election day.

The Partnership Board want everyone with a learning Disability to have a voice. Voting is a good way of making a difference to how services are provided and how you want things to work to make things better. People who came to the voting workshop said that Health, Getting a Job and Housing were very important. All the slides and notes from the voting workshop are on the [Better Lives website](#) for you to see.

Who Came to the Partnership Board Meetings

Meeting Date	Self Advocates	Professionals/Carers etc	Total
Jan 2015	18 (inc 11 students from DG school for half the meeting)	24 (inc 9 from the Transitions team)	42
Voting Workshop Dec 2014	22	17	38
October 2014	25 inc 6 students from DG school for half the meeting	22	46
July 2014	14 but no students from DG school	27	40
April 2014	15 inc 7 students from DG School	23	37

The Steering Group



The job of the Steering Group is to help to organise and plan the LLDPB meetings and to say what is working well at the meetings and what is not.



The Steering Group meets one week after each Board meeting to talk about the presentations and decide what to feed back to presenters. The Steering Group also decides if the money we get from the County Council is being used properly and that we are getting good value for our money.

The Steering Group helps to plan the Partnership Board meetings and how we can make them better.

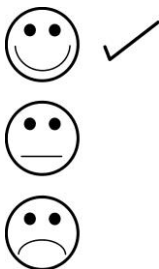


The Board and the Steering Group have an administrator called Maureen who helps us sort things out and books rooms, transport and parking for our meetings. Maureen also sorts out the papers and presentations for us, puts information onto the website and lots more things called admin tasks. The Board and Steering Group members would like to thank Maureen for doing such a good job this year.



The locality groups also have some admin support from people from Business Support in Leicestershire County Council. This is new this year because groups asked for more support for their meetings.

Things that the Board and Steering Group have done this year



- We have updated the Members' Handbook. This tells everyone who we are and what we do. It also reminds members to tell other people in their organisations or groups about the things we talk about and how we can help to shape good quality services.
- We have supported a new subgroup to talk about Quality Checkers who will work with providers and people who use services to make sure things are good and that people feel safe and keep well.
- We have set up a group of self advocates and supporters to work with social care workers. People from THERA have helped us with a training pack and training meetings. This will get us ready for the work with providers and

service users. The Safeguarding Adults Board has given us some money to help to pay for some checks this year.



➤ The [Better Lives website](#) now works much better and is easier to use. We get a lot of news and information put on the site to help us. All our members get an automatic email to tell them when there is news. We use the website to let everyone know what's happening at the Partnership Board meetings, the locality groups and sub groups. We put all the meetings and events on the calendar so that everyone knows when they are. We put all the Easy Read consultations on there.



➤ Members have taken part in a number of consultations and talks about services to help organisations decide on the services that are needed for people with learning disabilities in Leicestershire. This included short breaks, health and social care self-assessment, local authority savings, carers support services and many more.

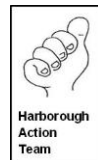
➤ We also held some training for people to update the website.

Locality Groups

The Board supports six locality groups.



Charnwood Action Group



Harborough Action Team (HAT)



Hinckley and Bosworth Action Group



Action in Melton



North West Leicestershire Locality Group



Wigston, Blaby and Oadby Community Group

The main role of the locality groups is to find out about what is happening in the local area and help to make things better.



Members of the group include people with learning disabilities, carers and supporters. People who provide services in the locality like housing, police, education and sport also attend.

The groups meet every two months in their localities.

Each group makes a plan of what is important and what they need to do and who they need to help them.



The locality groups each have some money from the Board to help them do this and have to tell the Board how they will spend the money to add value.

Things that the locality groups have told us that they have done this year



- **Growing strong**

- The groups have tried hard to increase their membership and include professionals from local organisations
- Advocacy support for the groups has been provided by Karen from Independent voices.
- Training for organising and managing meetings



- **Raising awareness**

- Production of newsletters and leaflets
- Promotional (advertising) things like bags, pens and trolley coins
- Events and social support



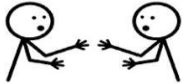
- **Making things better –**

- Anti-bullying
- Health questionnaires
- Walking groups
- Travel Safe cards and workshop on keeping safe on buses
- Transport awards and access for wheelchairs
- Self-advocates conference
- Mystery Shoppers for Keeping Safe Places

The Partnership board supports five sub groups

The subgroups take forward projects to improve services in Leicestershire.

1. Communication



This group is now the new Communication network and runs the Communication Plan for adults with learning disabilities. It develops standards around good communication and tells people about the plan. This year the group has launched the 5 Good Communication Standards. They are working hard to get people who use and provide services to sign up and use the standards to make communication easier for all of us. Peter Miller, the Chief Executive of NHS Leicestershire Partnership Trust has signed up.



We had a presentation and a DVD at the Partnership Board meeting from the Communications Group to tell us about the work they have done. The Board signed up to the standards at the meeting. You can find the DVD and the 5 communication standards on the Better Lives website. The Board tries to make sure that all our documents and everything we put on the website follow the 5 good communication standards.

The Board has sent a questionnaire to Self Advocates to find out if there is more we can do to make Communication better.

2. Better Health

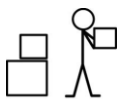


The Leicestershire and Rutland 'Better Health Group' aims to make sure that people with a learning disability lead healthy lives and get good health services.

The group held a big Carers Event at Leicester Racecourse in June.

They are talking about updating the Easy Read Health Check leaflet.

3. Employment



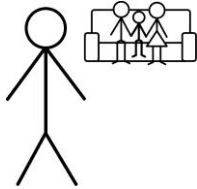
This group's focus is on issues around employment and volunteering for people with a learning disability. It provides a network to exchange ideas and good practice.



The group held a "You can do it" event and invited local

employers, colleges, Job Centre Plus and the Benefits agency to come along. Unfortunately it was on the same day as Sports Relief but a lot of good contacts were made.

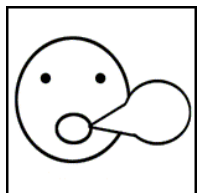
4. Family and Carers



The family carers group wants to help all families and unpaid carers of people with learning disabilities in any way they can. They also want to help all the people who provide services so that they do it in a family friendly way.

They try to keep up to date with important things which affect families and their relatives. They use the website to reach some people and look for other ways to reach other people. They talk to the County Council and the Partnership Board about things that affect families. They listen to ideas and explain how these ideas may affect families.

They have struggled with membership this year because of illness – both carers and the people they look after. It has been difficult for them to find time with everything else that needs to be done. The group welcome new carers that may be interested in joining.



Activities this year include sessions and talks on:

- Carers Act
- LCC Carers Support Service
- Cost Effective Care Project
- LD Commissioning and Future briefing on “Autism”
- Advantages and disadvantages of individual “support” in family homes
- Long term carers need to have some privacy and enjoyment of own home, in the absence of the Service User and Supporter
- Carer unfriendly financial and “fairer charge” processes
- Member to member electronic exchanges of relevant Carer information

Members have been meeting up with other groups including



- Health Watch Carers Reference Group, which is looking at progress against the Carers Charter pledges
- Commissioning Advisory Group including concerns on nutritional standards
- Attending locality and sub group meetings like Keep Safe, Employment and Communication Network and presentations at the Carers Centre

The sub group has been raising awareness by distributing their own leaflet, being included in the Carers Centre newsletter and attending the Carers event Leicestershire Racecourse.

5. Keep Safe



This group looks at problems like Hate Crime and bullying in Leicestershire. The group looks at things that help people to feel safe when they go out and about, for example on buses, in town, on the computer, and in their own home.

The Keep Safe places were reviewed this year and new cards launched. Two of our Self Advocates attended the launch event and were interviewed on Radio Leicester.



Self-advocates and supporters have taken part in checking out how the places are working. Some places still need to improve their responses to people who need help. The Keep Safe group will continue to help people who work in the Keep Safe places to do a good job.

There is a link from the Leicestershire County Council website to the Better Lives website for all the Keep Safe Places. This will automatically update if there are any changes.

How we spend our money



Leicestershire County Council, Adults and Communities department give us some money to help us do a good job.

This is how we spend the money:

Administration	£21,000
Family Carers	£3000
Website hosting	£500
Self Advocates Expenses	£2,500
Local Groups Support	£18,000
Sub Groups	£2,000
Refreshments/Hospitality	£1,000
Special Projects	£2,000
Total allocated	£50,000

A more detailed account of what we have spent in each area will be given to the steering group in April 2015 when we have received all the bills to be paid.

We will give back any money that we have left over to the County Council after we have paid our bills to go towards the big savings they have to make over the next few years.

Leicestershire County Council Support for The Leicestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board

The Partnership Board has strong support from Leicestershire county council who recognise the value of the work we do to make things better for people with learning disabilities who live in Leicestershire.

Funding for the board is given to the board out of The Adult and Communities budget to help the board pay for support. As you know the Council has less money than before to provide support so a report on how we spend our money and what difference we make has to be presented to the bosses in the council each year to ask for the money to continue to support the board and its groups. We hope that we are able to continue the boards work next year.

Mr Dave Houseman the Lead Member for Adult Social Care is a member of our Board and he said;



“Leicestershire County Council thanks the Board members for the work that it has done this year and the engagement with self-advocates, Carers, Provider organisations, and other agencies. I continue to enjoy my time at board meetings and the opportunity to meet with members and visitors to discuss the things that are important to people with learning disabilities and to help make things better”



The Board meets to decide what needs to happen to help make the lives of people with learning disabilities better. Board members include people with learning disabilities, family carers, people who work in health, social care, education, the police, employment support and housing.



The Board has no power to tell organisations what they have to do or how they do it. But, the Board can give them their ideas, make suggestions and offer advice. This means that 'working together makes things better.'

Message from Heather

On behalf of the vice chair and co-chairs of the Partnership Board I want to thank everyone who has been a part of the Partnership Board and its groups, visitors and supporters, officers and members for another great year of partnership working.

We are looking forward to our next year and the chances that it may bring for us to work together to make a difference in Leicestershire.

**Heather Pick,
Co-chair,
Leicestershire Learning Disabilities Partnership Board**