

WIGAN LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD



Advocacy Sub Group Meeting Minutes

12th January 2009 at the Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common

Present:-

Bridget Whittell (Chair)	Deborah Gent (Minutes)
Angela Seddon	Alison Perry
Andrea Grealley	Ann Harvey
Karen Henry	Carl Bridden (Wigan & Leigh People First)
Lynne Hamnett	Sue Seager
James Rogers (social work student supporting Wigan & Leigh People First)	

Apologies:-

Julie Davies	Stuart Parsons
Moirra Gallimore	Olive Halliwell

ACTION

1. Matters Arising

Bridget thanked everyone who had responded to the Monitoring Form template, the comments will be passed on to Bridget Hollingsworth.

2. Learning Disability Development Fund Application

The Advocacy Sub Group was successful in their application for LDDF funding. £52,000 has been secured for year one and a reduced amount of £36,400 for year two.

Wigan and Leigh People First (WLPF) were also successful in their application for funding. In year one they will receive £4,230 to develop a Peoples' Parliament, and in year two £21,582 towards their overall running costs.

WLPF now have enough grant funding to operate until September 2010 and with their new Charitable status they will be able to access alternative sources of funding for the future.

James expressed concern about the long term sustainability of the Peoples' Parliament. WLPF were disappointed that the LDDF grant was only awarded for one year for this.

Angela explained that the grant applications far exceeded the amount available for distribution. Decisions on which initiatives were successful were based on strict criteria.

James was assured that self advocacy is an important priority and self advocacy for people with learning disabilities has been supported in the Borough for the last 15 years with minimal funding. Regardless of the results of the LDDF grant applications this ongoing support will continue with or without additional resources. Carl was asked to reassure members of WLPF that they would not have to 'wind-up' or close the group.

3. **Wigan and Leigh People First**

The following report was forwarded by Julie Davis:



Advocacy
Coordinator Report J:

Carl felt that the project was going all right and everyone was happy now that WLPF was a registered charity.

Five or six people regularly attend the Tuesday meetings and membership is growing. The website has not been completed but the members are kept informed by regular mail updates.

Sue has been working closely with Julie to ensure all documents are accessible using the Easy Read format. WLPF is also working with Dave Thompson from the Five Boroughs Mental Health Trust to look at accessible communication.

It was decided that member organisations should have access to the Easy Read CD to enable them to use the pictorial communication symbols and standardise documents and information.

Andrea will provide a list of independent providers in the Borough who may be interested in using Easy Read tools.

AG & SS

It was reported that associate members of Wigan and Leigh People First do not receive progress updates despite paying their subscriptions.

4. **Wigan and Leigh People First Audit**

A cheque will be requested from WLPF to cover the balance of the audit costs for Wigan and Leigh people First.

BW

5. **Financial Information**

The bank statements of 1st December 2008 show a balance of

£59,706.55 in the WLPF account. Julie Davies had requested that this financial information be removed before minutes were posted on the Wigan LDPB website. However, sub group members felt this information should be available to view on the LDPB website as most of the funding was from the LDDF.

6. Partnership Board Themes for 2009

The Advocacy Sub Group has been invited to give an overview of their work at the meeting on Friday 13th March. Angela, Alison, Lynne and Deb will work together on a presentation.

The group also felt that an active co-lead was needed to support the work of the Advocacy Sub Group. The current co-lead has not attended a meeting since last June.

7. Audit Update

Three focus groups have already been held with a family group, managers and commissioners, and frontline staff. These were reported as being very successful and produced a great deal of useful information.

The final focus group will be held on Wednesday 28th January and will be an opportunity for self advocates to provide information for the audit. Invitations have been forwarded to social workers and providers to recruit interested self advocates.

Bridget thanked everyone involved for their valuable contribution.

The results of the audit will be analysed by Melanie Chapman, the researcher commissioned to do this work. A report, including an accessible report, of the findings will be produced.

MC

8. Group Membership

Bridget felt that it was timely to revisit and strengthen membership of the Advocacy Sub Group. Paul Tandy the Regional Officer for Mencap has been invited to attend. The group would like more representation from the independent sector.

We have invited a representative from the Ethnicity Sub Group to attend this group. The BME Development Worker, when appointed, will also be invited to attend this group regularly as advocacy will be part of their job remit.

9. Performance Management

Action for Advocacy (A4A) has developed the Quality Standards for Advocacy Skills:



A4A Quality Standards

It is anticipated that these standards will help to monitor the performance and quality of advocacy services.

The effective monitoring of advocacy is an ongoing discussion item.

10. Accessible Information

Sue and Andrea are working together to ensure a number of key Council leaflets are made accessible.

SS & AG

11. More than Words

The More than Words Theatre Group has been awarded funding from LDDF for 2009 and 2010. They are interested in gaining charitable status and would like advice on the benefits of registration, the application procedure and funding opportunities.

ALL

12. Dates and times of next meetings

The following dates and times have been set for the rest of the year. All meetings will take place in the meeting room at The Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common.

- 2pm – 4 pm Monday 9th February
- 10am – 12 noon Monday 2nd March
- 2pm – 4pm Monday 6th April
- 2pm – 4pm Monday 11th May
- 2pm – 4pm Monday 8th June
- 2pm – 4pm Monday 6th July
- 2pm – 4pm Monday 10th August
- 2pm – 4pm Monday 7th September
- 2pm – 4pm Monday 5th October
- 2pm – 4pm Monday 9th November
- 2pm – 4pm Monday 7th December