

WIGAN LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD



Advocacy Sub Group Meeting Minutes

9th February 2009 at the Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common

Present:-

Bridget Whittell (Chair)
Andrea Grealley
Olive Halliwell

Deborah Gent (Minutes)
Sue Seager
Mel Chapman

Apologies:-

Julie Davies
Angela Seddon
Alison Perry

Moira Gallimore
Ann Harvey

ACTION

1. Notes from the last meeting and matters arising

Sue Mapson from Wigan Family Welfare has phoned Bridget to give negative feedback concerning the previous Sub-Group Meeting and corresponding minutes:

- ⇒ The Social Work student, in attendance, felt that he had not been made welcome;
- ⇒ The use of Facebook and Yahoo groups was not minuted;
- ⇒ Balance of funds for Wigan and Leigh People First was included in the minutes;
- ⇒ Julie had been omitted from the working group tasked with designing a presentation for the LD Partnership Board;
- ⇒ The Board of Trustees at W&L People First will manage the ongoing performance of the advocacy service they provide (Item 9);
- ⇒ The publication of a generic Advocacy Booklet was mentioned at the meeting but not minuted;
- ⇒ Wigan Family Welfare felt that they faced criticism both within the meeting and also in the minutes, the organisation is to consider withdrawing its membership of the group due to a lack of trust.

The group members, in attendance, were both shocked and surprised by the comments. It was felt that Wigan Family Welfare provides a wide range of advocacy services in the Borough and

their contribution to the Sub Group is extremely valuable.

Bridget promised to liaise with everyone who attended the meeting on 12th January, to gather their views before drafting a response.

2. Group membership

This item was deferred.

3. Update from Wigan and Leigh People First

Members of W&L People First have requested more time to decide how they would like to pass news and information to the Advocacy Sub Group. Members will discuss this item at their next meeting and report back in March.

All
Members

4. Update from Advocacy Co-ordinator

No update was forwarded from the Advocacy Co-ordinator.

5. Financial information

At 5th January 09, the balance of funds at W&L People first was £59,716.04.

A cheque for £6,200 is required to cover the outstanding balance for the Advocacy Audit.

SP

6. LDPB Advocacy presentation: Friday 13th March 2009

A number of colleagues have worked together to put together the following PowerPoint presentation which highlights the work of the Advocacy Sub Group:



Advocacy Sub
Group.ppt

Additional slides will be inserted which summarise the key themes emerging from the audit.

MC

7. Advocacy Audit update

The final Focus Day involving service users was a success, with 17 respondents working together in a number of workshops. The facilitators used role play, discussion and craft activities to establish peoples' knowledge and understanding of advocacy. Mel has produced a transcribed account of the day's activities and will use this information to complete the full audit.

Mel acknowledged the small sample sizes involved in the research process and plans to use other sources of information to support

the audit findings.

Bridget thanked all those who had been involved in the series of events and hopes that the audit results will identify the services which are working well and any gaps in provision.

Sue thought the More Than Words Theatre Group may like to develop a drama production to demonstrate the audit findings to a wide audience.

8. Any other business

None

9. Date and time of next meeting

10am – 12 noon on Monday 2nd March at the Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common