

WIGAN LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD



Advocacy Sub Group Meeting Minutes

2nd March 2009 at the Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common

Present:-

Bridget Whittell (Chair)
Andrea Greally
Olive Halliwell
Julie Davies
Anne Harvey
Lynne Hamnett

Deborah Gent (Minutes)
Sue Seager
Angela Seddon
Carl Bridden
Alison Perry
Mel Chapman

Apologies:-

None

ACTION

1. Notes from the last meeting and matters arising

The notes from the previous meeting were accepted as a true record:



LDPB Advocacy Sub
Group Minute...

Wigan and Leigh People First asked that details of the Charity's bank balance be removed from future minutes. W&L People First members felt that this financial information is not routinely shared by all charities in this forum and too easy to access on the internet.

Julie reported that representatives from W&L People First met with Bridget Hollingsworth on 27th February to look at effective ways to share information with the Advocacy Sub Group.

2. Group membership

Strengthening membership of the Advocacy Sub Group has been a key action point. The group wants to generate greater voluntary sector representation and links with regional citizen advocacy groups.

Angela has forwarded the dates of the meetings, along with an invitation to Paul Tandy – the regional Co-ordinator at Mencap.

An invitation will also be sent to Joe Monaghan from the National Coalition of Citizen Advocacy Schemes, who is based in Liverpool.

3. Update from Wigan and Leigh People First

The Group will now provide a written report every three months and verbal feedback on a monthly basis.

A number of self advocates and Julie attended the Self Advocate Conference in Blackpool. This was an opportunity to discuss the important issues for advocates. The attached document highlights the 12 big issues which emerged.



The 12 Big issues
Self Advocacy Confer

Carl Bridden produced an excellent speech as he put himself forward for election on the Regional Taskforce. Unfortunately he was unsuccessful.

The advocates have been using My Space, Facebook and Yahoo Groups to share good news stories and information via the internet. 90 people have already accessed the pages. More information from the Blackpool Conference is available at www.myspace.com/wiganandleighpeoplefirst

On 24th February self advocates trained newly recruited police officers at Wigan Police Station. They talked to officers about how they would like to be treated if they were a victim of crime.

The group is working with Martin to look at cost effective ways of developing and updating the W&L People First Website.

Julie promised to bring the group's PATH to the next Sub Group Meeting and share the group's plans.

During the coming months W&L People First will be involved in the following projects, meetings and training activities:

- ⇒ Saturday 7th March, Diversity in the Community Event
- ⇒ Monday 9th March, Valuing People Launch
- ⇒ Monday 9th March, Yes We Can' Event
- ⇒ Involvement on the Wigan LINK (Local Involvement Network) Steering Group
- ⇒ Organising the W&L People First AGM.

The group is working closely with Dave Thomson from the 5 Boroughs Mental Health Trust to ensure information in the local NHS is accessible and applying the Easy Read format.

Wigan Family Welfare will be moving to new premises at St Catherines, Scholes in the near future. The move will enable W&L

People First to have their own private meeting/office space.

The group has 7 regular and highly committed members and would welcome other self advocates to attend. The members currently use Day Centres to share their ideas and gather feedback, they are happy to have ideas fed into their meetings for discussion.

4. Update from Advocacy Co-ordinator

Julie said she will begin work on the Peoples' Parliament in April and also consider alternative funding streams to sustain the project.

Bridget reported that the Advocacy Sub Group had spent some time putting together a preliminary Big Lottery grant application on behalf of W&L People First and queried whether this was being updated and submitted.

5. Financial information

Bridget has now signed the paperwork to remove her name as a signatory on the W&L People First bank account.

A cheque for the advocacy audit will be forwarded as soon as new signatories have been appointed to the W&L People First bank account.

The Advocacy Sub Group agreed that its own financial position would be shown on future minutes alongside details of how the members had decided to spend the money.

6. LDPB Advocacy presentation: Friday 13th March 2009

Bridget thanked all members of the group who had contributed to the development of the presentation for the Learning Disability Partnership Board Meeting. A number of amendments were made to ensure it is accessible and appropriate images added.

Julie will ask self advocates if they would like to present the slide show at the Partnership Board meeting on 13th March alongside Bridget and Andrea.

7. Advocacy Audit update

Mel reported that lots of interesting and informative details were emerging from the transcribed research.

The key themes at this early stage of analysis include:

- ⇒ Peoples' differing understanding of advocacy and why it is needed
- ⇒ The barriers to access advocacy and what stops people

using it
⇒ The availability of advocacy throughout the Borough.

8. Any other business

Sue asked the group to forward any images they may have about institutional life for people with learning disabilities throughout the 1900's.

9. Date and time of next meeting

2pm – 4pm on Monday 6th April at the Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common.