

LDPB EMPLOYMENT SUB-GROUP MEETING NOTES 31ST JANUARY 2008

		ACTION
1	<p>Present John Clarke, Catherine Riley, Carol Williams, Sarah Wilcox, Pauline Wake, Kerry Claxton, Christine Rudd, Carole Grace, Gillian Melling, Graham Frost</p>	
2	<p>Update on previous minutes Funding plan: John is seeking partners and will be calling a meeting soon Pauline has had some responses from students about what their parents etc might worry about: see 3 below DVD: Catherine has been in touch with some organisations but expensive. Will follow up further suggestions made during the meeting</p>	
3	<p>Carer concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding the place • Getting on with people • Travel • Health issues • Finance and benefits • Time management • Feelings of rejection and failure if don't get jobs • Being exploited • Paperwork and forms • Disability, not being able to do the job and embarrassment about disability • Fear of the unknown • Discrimination, disability and gender • Speech problems and understanding <p>There may be other concerns that Catherine and Michelle have identified which need to be added to this list. It was agreed that we should look to produce a carer leaflet in the form of questions and answers to respond to these common concerns. Need to identify funding, but aim for June.</p>	
4	<p>Employer barriers Common concerns identified so far are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety Insurance • Productivity • Illness and reliability • Communication • Fear of the person/disability <p>It was suggested that this would be the area best tackled by a DVD, which would need to be "professional".</p>	
5	<p>Good Practice It was agreed that with the increasing number of providers working to support people pre- and into employment, we should establish a Good Practice Guidelines document, that all providers in the area should sign up to. We could use EU standards, or look to BASE for suggestions.</p>	

6	<p>Transition</p> <p>Kerry updated the group on progress in this area, There are 3 aspects to the transition project: Work prep(WOW) Work support Job finding and support</p> <p>A new WOW has started at Oakfield, and all 5 students want work experience however this can't begin until ongoing funding is agreed or it would have to stop. A number of other schools have asked for WOW, but there is no capacity. At the transition event, a number of parents and students were seeking support to find employment</p> <p>We know there are around 24 students in Hawkley and Oakfield alone where there would be family support for job finding. In addition to all the other schools there are also young people who have come out of school (eg because of ill health or bullying etc)and are learning at home. Parent who had students in integrated schools were expressing concern that there was no SW time and only mainstream rather than specialist Connexions available to them.</p> <p>It was suggested again that we should seek funding from connexions.</p>	
7	<p>Inside Out</p> <p>John and Carol updated the group</p> <p>Project set out to work with 5 people furthest from employment. Has had signposting involvement with 12 people, and working through the model of developing circles of support around people. Roles have been shared out. Carers have often (not always) been a major barrier.</p> <p>2 People are in employment 2 people are engaged in voluntary work</p> <p>Set up Inside Out as a social enterprise, which has it's first contract, to organise a national conference in March at Wigan Investment centre</p>	
8	<p>Valuing People Now:</p> <p>Views were expressed on the Employment section which will be fed back to the Partnership board and sent in as part of Wigan's response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up Funding needs to be seen as long term: it takes time to switch funding eg from day services to employment support, so need double funding for a long enough period of time • A focus on employment at Transition needs funding • Need to review benefits: it's a very big issue for people – they don't understand implications, so prefer to stay on them even if better off in work • More jobs are being found in parts of the public sector, but it's hard to get through procedures. "Equality and fair access" systems seem to keep people out. Although some organisations can show they have employed people with disability, it is not clear how "disabled" those people were. It is difficult to identify any people in some organisations. • Employment support will need to be personalised. Some people won't fit the traditional route. 	<p>If there are more views, or those below need clarifying, please email Graham before 19.2.07</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is going to be slow to get people into sustained employment. Is it too slow? Will we ever get there, bearing in mind that those now in work are likely to be the easier people to support. • There is no clear pathway into employment. There are almost too many options with no clear guide. • Funding for providers needs to be clear, well established and longer term so that we don't lose people with skills • Employers need to be willing to recruit people with disabilities or there wont be enough jobs • Jobcentre plus needs to be seen more as a local partner. 	
9	<p>Provider meeting Carol G arranged a meeting for 13th Feb</p>	
10	<p>People 1st Launch 1st Feb</p>	
11	<p>Congratulations to the Supported Employment Team For their Ofsted assessment grade</p>	
12	<p>Dates of Meetings for 2008 February 28th March 27th April 24th May 29th June 26th July 31st August 28th September 25th October 30th November 27th</p>	<p>Please put in your diary now!</p>