

Lambeth Learning Disability Partnership Board

17th November 2005

People who attended the meeting:

Anne Bowman, Register Services

Joy Sleeman, Day Services

Majorie Parrock, Service user

Lorna Smith, Service user

Keith Posner, Mencap Pathway (Employment Champion)

Ivor Picardo, Mencap Pathway

Jennifer Taylor, Service user

Juliet Ainoa, Adult and Community Services (Diversity
Champion)

Satsuki Goto

Cath Jacobs, SLAM

Vanessa Stern, SLAM

Anne Worthington, Adult and Community Services

James Clarke, Prospects

Trevor Davis, Connexions

Beverly Brown, Day Services

Maggie Brennan, Service user

Simon O'Corra, People First

Sheila Biddlecombe, Lambeth Mencap

Derek Hill, Carer rep

Mary Wells, Carer rep (High Support Needs Champion)



Kate Lawton, Camden Society
Andrew Preston, Rathbone (Provider Forum rep)
Laura Evans, Rathbone
Iuan Macdonald, Rathbone
Oyennade Olajide
Rhys Price, People First
Lloyd Tate, Adult and Community Services
Alison Hand, Adult and Community Services
Jennifer Bellanich, Adult and Community Services
Suzanne Rider, Service user
Debra Phipps, People First
Dana Brown, People First
Robert Nichols, Adult and Community Services
John Roog, Assistant Director for Mental Health and Learning Disability
Neil Burton, Service user rep (Co-Chair)
Boz Borowy, Lambeth Mencap (Co-Chair)
Margaret Eyon, Service user rep
Frances Pitcher, Adult and Community
Denis O'Rourke, Lambeth PCT Services

People who couldn't attend and sent their apologies:

Jane Burnett, Lambeth College
Gina Tanner, Southside
Manny Oraka, Service User rep
Chris Lee, Lambeth Council
Sydney Cort, Carer rep
Tessy Egesi, Carer rep





Boz and Neil welcomed everyone to the Partnership Board meeting



Minutes from the last meeting

- No corrections

Points from July Partnership Board meeting

1. Look at Partnership Board Terms of Reference

Meeting to be arranged

2. People First to attend Day Service Modernisation group

Meeting postponed, two service users have said they want to attend

3. Housing staff Training

Chris Knaggs leading

4. In Control

The Government has written a white paper "In Control

Bernie Ward leading

There will be a steering group and a launch

Out of 50 + Local Authorities who are using In Control there are only 3 London Boroughs.

In Control will help plan services better for people with a Learning Disability.

Action Point 1: More information will be given at the March Partnership Board

5. Education sub group

Learning Skills Council have produced paper which is on the Valuing People web site.

The Board can use the paper to discuss and plan. Document to be sent out to Board.

Action Point 2: Boz to lead on setting up Sub Group, with James Clarke from prospects and Derek Hill.

6. Day Centres

- Training for staff is needed
- Closures may happen
- Looking at impact

7. Consultation

Carers and Services Users would like to ensure that in future proper consultation; early on in the decision making process is provided.

8. High Support Needs issues

Mary Wells volunteered to champion

9. Health

- Concerns around Accident and Emergency, and discharge.
- Dignity and Respect.
- Have hospitals policies and procedures in place?
- Hospitals need to be contacted regarding providing services to people with learning disabilities.

5. Payments for service user and carer reps.

- Boz drafted a letter to Maria Burn - no response as yet.
- Would this be for the Partnership Board of sub groups too?
- People are doing allot of work.
- Some people are getting expenses paid others not, clarification is needed.
- Maria Burn is to look at inconsistencies.
- In Mental Health reps get paid.

1. Employment Forum presentation

Valuing People says people with a learning disability should have the opportunity to work.



The employment Forum met to look at ways of helping people with a learning disability in Lambeth move into work or training.

Kate Lawton has been completing employment Profiles with Service users at BSEC and now Lambeth College. The profiles show what people would like to do, whether it is getting a job, training or going to college.

The employment Forum showed a film looking at what is happening in Lambeth around people with Learning Disabilities moving into employment or training. It also looked at what needs to happen in the future.

Question. Has there been an increase in employment figures?

From Mencap Pathway figures yes.

A stats proforma has been sent to all providers who employ people with learning disabilities.

The forum is also looking at using the register to promote employment in Lambeth.

Connexions also keep stats regarding employment.

The Valuing People Support Team says that there is an increase of people with learning Disabilities working in the public sector.

Although currently Lambeth Council do not employ someone with a learning disability.

Fran thanked everyone on the employment forum

2. Health and Social Care Partnership

The Partnership Board reports to the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)

The Learning Disability Partnership Board is part of six Partnership Boards.

Co chairs are part of the HSCP.

Health and the Council, How should these integrate/combine?



- Lambeth have been trying to combine services.
- Looking at performance, planning, and location.
- GP's and Social care staff in the same location? This is one option.
- All this work is to try and make services better.

Currently there is little or no input from Service users or carers at the Health and Social Care Partnership. We can use the Partnership Board to have a voice or discuss representation.

3. Lambeth Learning Disability Register

- There is a new report (the third)
- There are 750 people registered
- The report has lots of useful stats but if you need a specific stat you can contact Register Services.
- The "I COUNT" card has been introduced, if you have a card you will be on the register too.
- The I count card entitles someone to 'fast tracking' and discounts.
- Board suggested using the card to fast track at hospitals - Anne is currently looking at this and will feedback to the Board.



4. Public Questions:

Questions from the Friendly Group:



1. How long will we have to stay at Tulse Hill and St Martins?



Currently there are no plans in place to move location. Tulse Hill and St Martins needs work to get the service working well.

Tulse Hill is one room and if people aren't getting on then it can be difficult as everyone is enclosed in the same room.

2. Where will we be going next?

The Landmark building is being looked at as a possible location also a building in Streatham. Looking to move away from large buildings. A local service.

3. Can we have a BSEC reunion?

Staff can support people to do this.

Abbevilles Restaurant contract



Keith Posner (Employment Champion) has drafted a letter regarding the decision to tender out catering services for meetings to one organisation:

FAO Neil Burton - Co-Chair
Lambeth Learning Disability Partnership Board

14 November 2005

Dear Neil

Re: Abbevilles and the loss of catering business to Lambeth Council

I am writing to you on behalf of the Lambeth Learning Disability Employment Forum with regard to the recent decision by Lambeth Council to tender out the catering service for meetings to one organisation. The members of the Employment Forum were shocked to hear that Abbevilles will no longer be used as a source of catering for meetings within the Council.

At the last Employment Forum meeting Luigi Wergrzynek from Abbevilles explained that the loss of business from the Council will result in the deficit of income in the region of £50,000. This shortage of income will have a detrimental effect on the vocational training project being delivered at Abbevilles, which aims to improve the catering skills and employment opportunities for people with a learning disability living in Lambeth.

The Employment Forum would like to express its concern at the decision made by the Council to exclude Abbevilles from providing catering services the future. These concerns are:

- This decision goes against the work, which is currently being undertaken by the Employment Forum and the Partnership Board to provide a more inclusive society for people with a learning disability. The loss of business at Abbevilles will lead to the under-employment

of its staff team and the loss of placements in the future.

- Abbervilles will no longer be able to take on any more referrals to its project. Abbervilles provides a vital service to people with a learning disability in Lambeth by providing vocational training opportunities. The recent employment profiles undertaken within the borough indicate that vocational training is seen as an option for many former day-service users. As a direct result of this decision there will now be a loss of vocational placements in the borough available for people with a learning disability.
- There are concerns about the lack of consultation and transparency around the tendering process. Luigi informed the Employment Forum that Abbervilles did not have the opportunity to tender for this business.
- There are further concerns regarding the Council's lack of commitment towards the inclusion of people with a learning disability in the provision of services for the Council. The Employment Forum fully advocate that people with a learning disability should have the opportunity to provide services purchased by the Council.

I hope the Partnership Board share the concerns expressed within this letter and agree that the decision made by the Council to tender out its catering to a sole provider, and in turn excluding Abbervilles from this process, has been a poor one. The members' of the Employment Forum would like the Partnership Board to raise these concerns directly with procurement managers within the Council. It is hope that Abbervilles will be allowed to continue providing catering services to the Council and as a result continue to provide a valuable service for people with a learning disability living in Lambeth.

Yours sincerely

Keith Posner

Employment Champion for the Lambeth Learning Disability Partnership Board & Co-chair Employment Forum

Abbevilles play an important role in giving people with learning disabilities work experience and the loss of this contract will lead to Abbevilles being unable to offer work experience to people with a learning disability.

The Employment Forum will feedback.

There are two options:

1. Exception to use Abbevilles
2. Abbevilles sub contracted

The Integrated Service

Question from Boz: What is the progress with the integrated service? Also what are the obstacles?

- 340 Brixton Road has been sold
- Awaiting financial decision from SLAM
- Phoenix House is a location being looked at. Please feedback on access to phoenix house for services users.

ACTION POINT 3: Update at next meeting form Jen Bellanich and Health

ACTION POINT 4: Co chairs to write to SLAM regarding financial decision.

Carer Forum Transport

- Has everyone who needs travel support now had their travel needs assessed and what has been the outcome?
- Can carers or users who have incurred unexpected extra expense as a result of the poor timing of assessments be compensated?
- How is this situation going to be avoided in the future?

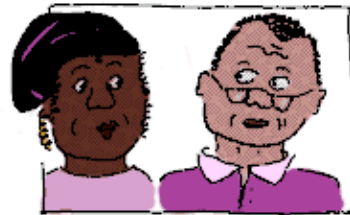
Regarding compensation the Partnership Board could take this to a high level in order to clarify if Lambeth Council could compensate.

Action Point 5: This is to be discussed at the Education sub group.

Action Point 6: Anne Worthington to write a report regarding: outcomes of travel assessments and give to carers forum.

5. Diversity

A letter has been written to Partnership Boards offering support. There is a fund of £5000 available but we need to respond to get the payment.



There is a priority in Lambeth to promote diversity and Juliet Amoa is talking to providers regarding training.

It is suggested that we put funding into promoting diversity.

The Board agreed.

- A diversity group has been set up.
- 18 - 20 attend
- People of African and Caribbean descent attend but Asian people are not represented.
- Looking at how day services meet cultural needs.

Current Issues

- No Asian Staff
- No systems in place for people who's 2nd language is English
- Race awareness training needed

6. Budget

There is a current over spend of £2 ½ million pounds, of a £19 million spend limit.



Why is there an over spend?

- Vast amount is spent on 3rd party residential care placements
- More transitions
- People aged 60+ increase so more support care needed
- Monies being circulated from budget. E.g. supporting people

What could help?

- Discussions with Primary Care Trust (PCT) needed to look at sharing budget strains
- Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) can be used for - Person Centred Planning, Day Service Modernisation and Diversity
- LDDF discussions taking place.
- Year on year budgets are getting bigger. Forecasts have been done and this is being looked at, at a senior level.
- 100K placements are being looked at:
- Value for money?
- Checking amounts are right
- Transitions - much higher, additional 700K is needed.

- Regular updates will be given
- Looking at staffing
- Expenditure
- Creative ways of using the budget
- In Control - In the future people will decide how to spend resources.

Questions:

1. Why have Social Services moved to Phoenix House and Service Users are at Tulse Hill?

Decision was made by the Council not the Adult Learning Disability (ALD) Team.

2. Why is the ALD team budget not spent on people with learning disabilities?

Most of the budget is spent on services for people with learning disabilities and less on staff.

3. The Lambeth Local newspaper states that there is money available in the Lambeth Council Budget, can se look into this?

ACTION POINT 7: Co chairs to draft letter

ACTION POINT 8: Budget update at next meeting.

7. Any Other Business



1. Cllr Roger Giess

The Partnership Board meeting dates were changed so Councillor Roger Giess could attend although he hasn't been to the last couple of meeting. Members feel the input of a councillor is important could we look at inviting a councillor.

2. Neil Burton

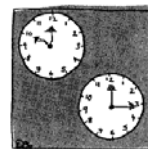
Neil has decided to take a break from co chairing the Partnership Board. Neil has been Co Chair for the last 2 years and has done a marvellous job. Everyone would like to thank him for all his work and the commitment he has shown to help run and Board so well, he mentioned he may be back in 2007...



Thank you Neil.

8. Next meeting

19th January 2006



10.00 teas and coffee

10.30 start

12.30 finish

Room 8 at the Town Hall in Brixton.