

Newsletter

Learning Disability Partnership Board

July 2006

What we talked about

Changes to the NHS



The Partnership Board talked about the changes to the way the NHS is run in Hertfordshire.

These are the main points:

- There is a new Strategic Health Authority for the East of England.
- The changes to PCT's are taking place and we agreed that it is important to make sure that the PCT's are involved with the Partnership Board.
- The Primary Care Trusts (PCT's) are responsible for the health of the people in the local area.
- The Strategic Health Authority makes sure the local PCT's are doing the right things.
- Our Co-Chairs will be writing to the Chief Executive of the new Strategic Health Authority to ask how they plan to support Partnership Boards in the East of England.



Cuts to Health Services

The Board discussed the cuts to Learning Disability Services that Hertfordshire Partnership Trust need to make to save money.

We found out that a group of County Councillors called the Overview and Scrutiny Committee think that these decisions are too big to be made locally. They have asked Patricia Hewitt the Secretary of State for Health in the Government to decide.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have been told that a 1 month consultation was not long enough.





Call Centre (sometimes called the customer services centre)

Michael Francis came to talk to us about the customer service centre. People can call the customer service centre if they have any questions about the services provided by Hertfordshire County Council.

These are the main points:

- You can call the centre on 2 numbers. These are: 01438 737400 or 01923 471400
- The call centre now has a special team of advisers just for Adult Care Services and Children Schools and Families.
- In the past, people were given a reference number that they had to say if they called the centre again about the same thing. This will change because people found it difficult to remember the reference number. From November, advisers will be able to see if a person has called before on their computer.
- North Herts People First offered to help Michael offer more training to advisers about learning disabilities.
- Janice Maher told Michael that a group of service users are involved with checking that day and residential services are good quality. These people could help with checking the customer service centre as well.

Valuing People Working Group

We heard what the group talked about at their last meeting. **These are the main points:**

- The Valuing People Working Group is looking at the Partnership Board Charter very closely. The Valuing People Working Group will be thinking about whether they would like the Partnership Board to adopt this. The group will talk about this at their next meeting.
- The group have suggested that the Partnership Board should have some new leaflets about how the Partnership Board and sub groups work.
- The group are concerned about the plans to close the St Albans foot Clinic.

Carers Forum

We heard what the Carers' Forum has been talking about:

These are the main points:

- The forum looked at the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) report on transition called 'The Road Ahead'. The forum thought this was very useful. You can find the report on SCIE's website: www.scie.org.uk
- The forum talked about how to make sure that GP's know how to provide a good service to people with learning disabilities. Roisin told everyone that lots of work has been going on and a report called 'What we are doing in Health' will be available at the next Partnership Board meeting.

Older Family Carers Workshop

Heather MacMillan and Claire Carter came to talk to us about their work as Older Family Carer Workers. **These are the main points:**

- There are 3 older family carer workers. 1 in North Herts and Stevenage, 1 in Hertsmere and 1 in Welwyn and Hatfield.
- Part of the workers' job is to find carers who are not using services.
- The workers provide support and information to carers over 65.
- The older family carers workers help people to make plans for the future.

Leisure Workshop

Jonte Sims, Neil Hoskin, Alex Morris and Sue Hobbs came to talk to us about leisure. **These are the main points:**

- Jonte and Neil told us that a lot of work has been done on leisure but there is still lots more to do.
- Lack of transport, support, information and understanding about people with learning disabilities can get in the way of trying new things.
- The workshop leaders suggested that we should have a leisure champion on the Partnership Board.
- North Herts People First will be writing to District Councils to find out how they plan to make leisure activities available to people with learning disabilities.



If you would like a copy of the minutes for the July meeting please contact Katie Nyhan, Valuing People Support Officer, on 07785 700161. We can also send you the minutes on tape.

Next Learning Disability Partnership Board Meeting - 14 September 2006
The meeting will take place in room 8 Mount Pleasant, Hatfield, AL9 5PU