

Newsletter

Learning Disability Partnership Board

September 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:

- Anne Walker is the Chief Executive for the 2 new PCT's in Hertfordshire.
- Pam Handley will be the Chairperson for the East and North PCT.
- Stuart Bloom will be the Chairperson for the South and West PCT.
- PCT stands for Primary Care Trust.

Cuts to Health Services

At the last 2 meetings of the Learning Disability Partnership Board we talked about the savings that the Hertfordshire Partnership Trust has to make.

The savings can only be made by cutting some mental health and learning disability health services.

Patricia Hewitt, the Secretary of State for Health has decided that all but one of these cuts to health services should go ahead.

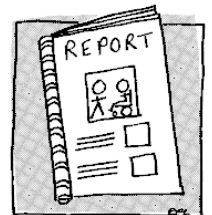
Cornwall Report

We talked about a report on the services provided by Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust where people were treated very badly.

The Health Care Commission will be using tools to look closely at all of the NHS and independent providers of health services who give care and treatment to people with learning disabilities.

This will happen everywhere in the country.

Hertfordshire Partnership Trust has volunteered to test these tools.



Valuing People Working Group

Alan told us what the group talked about at their last meeting. **These are the main points:**

- The group talked about the Charter for Partnership Boards and voted that they would like the Charter to be adopted.
- Gill Borg came to talk to the group about transport.
- Sue Darker talked to the group about Person Centred Plans and Health Action Plans.
- The Valuing People Working Group feels that not everybody knows about Person Centred Plans and Health Action Plans yet.

Carers Forum

We heard what the Carers' Forum has been talking about: **These are the main points:**

- The forum talked about Carers' Assessments.
- The forum felt that Carers' Assessments were a good idea but not all carers know that they have a right to an assessment.
- The forum talked about the idea of creating an information pack for carers. The pack could tell carers about their rights and give advice and information.
- A carers' group for family members who care for people with Aspergers or high functioning autism has been set up and is going well.

Direct Payments Update

Angela Robertson came to give us an update on Direct Payments. **These are the main points:**

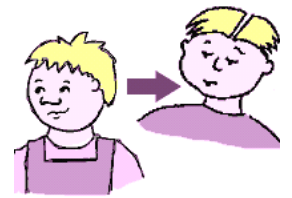
- The Direct Payments team has grown. Abbey Lawrenson has joined the team as Independent Living Fund Officer and Heidi Hall will be starting soon as a Senior Practitioner for Direct Payments.
- Angela's job is to make sure that staff know about Direct Payments and have good information.
- Social workers are now starting to use Direct Payments as a way to be creative about people's services.
- 58 people with learning disabilities now get Direct Payments



Transition Workshop

Catherine Evanson came to talk to us about transition.

These are the main points:



- Transition is the word that people use to talk about the time in young people's lives when they move on from school to college or a job or a day service.
- 'Valuing People' says that work needs to be done to make sure that young people and their family carers get the right information and opportunities when they move on from school.
- Catherine told us about a pack of information called 'Transition Guidance'. The pack was made to help social workers and professionals to give good support to young people and their families when they are moving on from school.
- Catherine told us about another pack of information called 'Ideas 4 Life'. This pack has been written for young people and their carers to help them plan for transition.
- The pack is a folder with lots of information leaflets about things like how to access services, colleges, employment, leisure and the right sort of housing.

'A Charter for a Perfect Partnership Board' Workshop

Richard Blake and Claire Holmes told us about the draft charter. **These are the main points:**



A Charter

- A group of self-advocates who sit on Partnership Boards worked on the Charter to help everyone to be clear about what a Partnership Board is, what it will do and how it will work.
- Everyone imagined what it would be like to go to a meeting without good support or clear information.
- The draft Charter for Partnership Boards sets out some rules and guidelines about how to make meetings more accessible to everyone.
- The Learning Disability Partnership Board will decide about the Charter in the future.



If you would like a copy of the minutes for the September meeting please contact Katie Nyhan on 07785 700161. We can also send the minutes on tape.
Next Learning Disability Partnership Board Meeting - 9 November 2006
The meeting will take place in room 8 Mount Pleasant, Hatfield, AL9 5PU