South Gloucestershire Learning Difficulties Partnership Board

Annual Report

January 2019 – December 2020

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**Introduction from the Co-Chairs**

We are proud to present the 2019 Learning Difficulties Partnership Board Annual Report.  Looking over the achievements of the past year, the South Gloucestershire Learning Difficulties Partnership Board (LDPB) has covered a lot of ground. The success of this work relies on the strength of the relationships across the LDPB network and the active participation and involvement of board members, speakers, the support team and members of the public. Our thanks go to all those who have brought their enthusiasm and positivity to these meetings with the unifying aim: that people with learning difficulties (LD) in South Gloucestershire have the same life chances as other people in society.

This has involved the Board working in partnership with many different groups and organisations to support and develop new opportunities for people with learning difficulties, ensuring that people with LD see a positive difference in their lives and can lead the best lives for them.

It’s amazing to reflect over the progress achieved during the past 10 years since the introduction of Valuing People Now – a formative agenda for helping to progress the health and social outcomes for people with LD. During that time the National Health Service has experienced dramatic changes as have Local Authorities. While many of the issues for people with LD remain, there have been important changes to the language and delivery of services. The theme of personal choice runs through the national guidance around service delivery and shows itself in programmes such as Universal Credit and Personal Budgets.

The proof of success is evidenced by the improvements in measured outcomes for people with LD such as life expectancy. People with learning disabilities face many disadvantages in relation to health. However, better social conditions and access to medicines like antibiotics have meant that more people are surviving beyond childhood and adulthood into older age. This has been one of the outstanding success stories in health and social care of the 21st Century.

While there is much to be proud of, there is no room for complacency. LD is the highest spend area for social care in the Council. Yet, information recently gathered by BILD tells us: ‘the number of people with LD aged over 60, in England, is predicted to increase by over a third between 2001 and 2021. Recent evidence suggests that older people are one of the fastest growing groups of the LD population (Emerson and Hatton 2011). The most recent predictions suggest that by 2030 the number of adults aged over 70 using services for people with learning disabilities will more than double. This is likely to be an underestimate of the actual numbers of older people with learning disabilities both now and in the future as many people with learning disabilities are either not known to services or indeed do not use learning disability services in adult life.’

We know that from GP data from NHS Digital that: women with a learning disability in England have an average life expectancy of 65 - 18 years lower than those without. The inequality is greater in women than men. Men with a learning disability had an average life expectancy of 66 in 2017-18, compared with 80 in men without a recorded disability. Patients with learning disabilities also had lower rates of cancer screening, most notably in cervical screening for women: only 31% had smear tests, compared with 73.2% of those without a learning disability. The figures for South Gloucestershire are no better. Clearly there is still a lot to be done.

This year we have sought to implement the findings from the 2018 review of the Board’s membership and effectiveness. We are now better prepared and equipped to review LD services and respond to identified needs of the LD community.

This report highlights the work of the LDPB over the past 12 months and identifies some of the work that it will focus on in the year to come.

**Cllr Ben Stokes and Leigh Campbell, Co-chairs of the LDPB**





**What is Valuing People Now?**

A 2009 Government Plan called Valuing People Now concluded that we all need to work together to make sure people with learning difficulties get the same opportunities as everyone and are treated fairly.

Valuing People Now tells us about the most important things that need to happen to make things that need to happen to make things better for people with learning difficulties.

These are:

* Having strong leadership and a good LDPB in every local authority area.
* Making sure that the Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts are working together to make sure health services are better and more accessible.
* Giving more housing choices for people with learning difficulties and their families.
* Helping people with learning difficulties to have control of their lives and get person centred plans for care and support.
* Having more paid jobs of 16 hours a week or more for people with learning difficulties.
* Improving the way children and adults services work together so that people are supported to plan for the future employment and a full life.

**The Learning Difficulties Partnership Board**

The LDPB’s main job is to make sure that all the work in “Valuing People Now” happens. It also aims to represent people with learning difficulties and their carers and help them have their say.

There are 6 Partnership Board meetings each year. They are open to the public and people are welcome to come, watch and take part. For more information on meeting dates and locations, please go to our website:

[www.southglos.gov.uk/ldpbmeetings](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/ldpbmeetings)

More detail about the meetings that happened in 2019 can be found on page 10.

**Active Members of the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board 2019**

**Co-chairpersons:**

* Councillor Ben Stokes

**Executive Member for Adult Care**

* Leigh Campbell

**Co-chair of the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board**

**Service User Representatives:**

* Rachael Hillier
* Helen Beer
* Ron Hares
* Andrew Wilson
* Jemma Ballinger

**Supported by:**

* Billy Dexter

**Penderels Trust**

**Carers:**

* Diana Elliot

**The Care Forum**

**Parent and Carer Representative:**

* Gill Stephenson

**Carer Representatives:**

* Martin Gray
* Sandie Davis
* Sheila Forsythe

**Supported by:**

* Tracy Holder until September 2019 – Sam Radford from January 2020

**Learning Difficulties Carer Support and Development Worker**

**South Gloucestershire Council Representatives:**

* Rachael Williams-Locke

**Equalities Officer**

* Ann Clarke

**Director of Adult Social Services**

* Kenny Braidwood

**Service Manager (Adult Social Care)**

* Helen Bradley

**Public Health**

* Claire Callas

**Commissioning Officer**

**Clinical Commissioning Group:**

* Zain Patel

**Operational Delivery Manager for Partnerships and Joint Commissioning**

**Other Organisations:**

* Nick Wood

**Learning Disabilities Team, Sirona Care and Health CIC**

* Carly Ramsey and Liz Jerome

**Milestones Trust**

* Jo Davison

**Well Aware, The Care Forum**

Other Work that the LDPB is involved in

The Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR) programme was commissioned to improve thestandard and quality of care for people with a learning disability.

The NHS Long Term Plan makes a commitment to reducing the premature mortality of people with alearning disability.As part of this, NHS England and NHS Improvement have provided funding to ClinicalCommissioning Groups (CCGs) to support them to complete reviews.

The LeDeR programme requires CCGs across England to review all deaths of people with a learningdisability aged four and over, and to improve services based on what those reviews show. CCGs must work with local health and social care providers to develop and put those local action plans into place.

This work is now well underway and the reviews of deaths across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire have been taking place. Several key members of the LDPB are representative on the LeDeR steering group which meets monthly to discuss findings from the reviews, shares learning and best practice and makes recommendations for service improvements across health and social care.

**LDPB Meeting Topics**

**Health**

**What was said about it:**

Service Users felt that it can be difficult and costly to lead a healthy lifestyle. There are Apps that may be useful and there is the ‘One You’ website which has information that can help.

Service Users also felt that not all doctors talk to a person with LD directly they sometimes talk to whoever is supporting them at the appointment.

Carers highlighted problems within GP’s surgeries and hospitals about the quality of services. There seems to be a shortage of Learning Difficulties nurses and availability of accessible information isn’t very good. Carers also felt that the ‘flagging’ system at Southmead didn’t appear to be very effective.

Health checks were also discussed and carers thought that there seems to be a difference in the frequency of health checks across the local authority where some GP’s surgeries are more proactive in getting people in to arrange and attend these.

**Talking Mats:** Louise McMillan & Linda Batten

Talking mats are used for people who have had strokes or have neurological conditions like dementia. It can be particularly helpful for people whose learning difficulties mean that they struggle to communicate.

The Board took some time to participate in using their own talking mats and found them extremely useful.

Louise and Linda advised that they are training social workers on how to use them. The board asked if there were courses for parents to be trained on their use. Currently there isn’t anything but Louise said it was something they could look into.

**Blood Desensitisation Package –** Community LD Team **–** Lyn Sandles & Brenda Byfield

Blood tests can be part of the annual health checks and some people may find them scary experiences. The Community LD Team are trying to encourage people with LD to have blood tests. The team use role play at home to help people with Learning Difficulties to get used to having a blood test and what actually happens when they go for one. There is a cream that will help to dull the pain and talking mats have also been used to help communicate better.

There should be notes on the hospital passports to help identify who may need additional support when blood test are needed.

**Midwifery and the development of an easy read pack –** Jackie Rausi – Hospital LD Liaison Nurse

Jackie has been looking at a pilot for a ‘reasonable adjustment’ booklet for women with Learning Difficulties who are going to have a baby.

At different stages throughout the pregnancy home visits would take place to work through the booklet and look at any risks or reasonable adjustments that may need to take place. The visits are 2 hours and inclusive for both the mother and father.

Other reasonable adjustments that have been made are –

1. Referral to Learning Disability liaison nurses
2. Making information simple, jargon free & easy to understand
3. Having an easy read maternity booklet
4. Having an allocated midwife

**Commissioning Intentions – Learning Difficulties Strategy –** Zain Patel - Bristol, BANES & South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

Zain wished to gather feedback from the Board so that he could feedback to the Clinical Commissioning Group which will help shape the Learning Difficulties Strategy for the area.

The Board wanted to make sure that South Gloucestershire was treated differently from Bristol in respect of it being 80% rural. Zain explained that the data used would be qualitative as well as quantitative so they could review services compared to more urban areas.

It is not yet known how long the information will take to gather but the will form the actions required to improve services for people with a Learning Disability.

**Individual Service Funds (ISF’s) Update** – Steffan Lewis – South Gloucestershire Council Commissioning Team

ISF’s are a way a Service User can receive funds. The funds are looked after by a provider rather than by the Council or individual. The Provider can be the organisation that provides care and they can help support individuals to come up with a support plan.

ISF’s are currently being piloted by a small group of 15 people with 3 homecare providers taking part. It is being used currently to help people stay with their current provider if they no longer wish to have a direct payment.

A learning stage about how the pilot has gone will be held in early 2019 and feedback will be given at the next Health themed Partnership Board meeting in January 2020.

**North Bristol Trust Health Update** – Gill Brooks LD Liaison Nurse

NBT are focusing on helping people with LD access services within health and also improving information so that it is easy read.

Hospitals want to make sure that people use their Hospital passports more so that the information is available for staff.

The NHS are also looking to improve employment opportunities for people with LD as they have very few working in the sector.

Gill advised that they will achieve improvements by –

1. Having an improvement group – this is chaired by the Director of Nursing and will include LD Champions
2. A work plan
3. Carer involvement
4. Involving providers like The Hive who have a good knowledge and work with people with a learning difficulty.

**What the LDPB has worked on in 2019:**

* The LDPB has further strengthened links with North Bristol Trust and Gill Brooks the LD Liaison nurse now attends meetings.
* The LDPB has continued to encourage as many people with a Learning Difficulty as possible to have their annual health checks. We have worked in conjunction with BNSSG CCG and Public Health to promote these at meetings and also requested that LD Providers have a conversation with their clients to promote health checks and to ensure more are carried out.
* Claire Callas is also a member of the LeDer steering group which incorporates South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bristol to gather learning from recorded deaths form people with a learning difficulty and work on any actions to improve recordings.
* The LDPB awarded LDDF funding to Warmley Wheelers to enable people to use specially adapted cycles to keep fit.

**What the LDPB will work on next year:**

* The LDPB will contribute to new strategies being developed by the CCG and the Council for people with LD and ensure they fully consider and meet the needs of the LD community.
* The LDPB will seek to further promote the importance of the Annual Health Checks in cooperation with BNSSG CCG.
* The Council will be involved in the LeDer steering group and communicate any learning from the reviews to the relevant teams/organisations

**Transport and Safety**

**What was said about it:**

Service Users felt that following on from last year’s meeting there was still a lot of issues for anyone with a learning difficulty using public transport as bus and taxi drivers were not always trained in this area and this causes many problems. The Transport Team advised that this was something that they would be implementing soon for all new drivers and existing drivers would get the training in a phased way. Service Users also felt that it was difficult for people to access buses with wheelchairs as there wasn’t always enough room once on the bus and if you had to stand on the bus it was hard to keep your balance. It was thought a good idea to have seat belts on the seats dedicated to older/disabled people.

Travelcards are very useful but can only be used after 9am so this is a disadvantage to anyone with LD who is trying to get to work.

Carers said that the process for renewing diamond bus passes wasn’t very good as sometimes you could be left for several weeks waiting for a new one to come through when your old one had expired.

Carers felt that hate crime was now being taken more seriously and is logged better by the Police but there is still some education to be done to improve this further.

**How to report a Mate Crime –** Reuben Chatterjee – SARI (support against racist incidents)

SARI can help anyone in South Gloucestershire who is worried about mate crime.

They can meet at your house or somewhere else if you prefer. They advised that if you aren’t sure if you are a target of a mate crime it is always good to talk it through with someone. You can decide whether to report it to the police yourself or get support from someone to do it on your behalf.

The Board felt that there were less local police stations now so it made it difficult to report a crime. Reuben said that people should call 101 or if it is urgent then you would use 999.

Dimensions showed a short video on mate crime which the Board felt was very informative.

**What is Anti-Social Behaviour –** Bob Evely – South Glos Anti-Social Behaviour Team

Anti-Social behaviour can be graffiti, littering, fighting, making lots of noise or being a nuisance to others.

The Team are based in Yate and there are 2 people in the team that cover the whole of South Gloucestershire.

When you contact the team they will investigate what has been happening. They will find out why and how it happened and will work out the best way to see how it can be stopped. Extra support can be given to people that are victims of anti-social behaviour and the team can help you work out the best way to deal with the person doing it.

The police work with the Police, Victim Support and SARI as well as housing providers.

To report any anti-social behaviour you can got to the One Stop Shops in Yate, Kingswood and Patchway or call the Anti-Social Behaviour teams telephone number 01454 868582 or online asbreporting@southglos.gov.uk

**What the LDPB has done in 2019:**

* The LDPB have forged greater links with key teams and providers within and external to the Council such as the Anti-Social behaviour team, Safer, Stronger Communities and SARI.
* The LDPB has contributed to and promoted a programme of learning and information about sexual health
* Efforts have continued to encourage public transport providers to attend the relevant board meeting and to engage with the work of the board.

**What the LDPB will work on next year:**

* Work with relevant partners and organisations to improve transport for people with LD in South Gloucestershire.
* Ensure Mate/Hate crime is discussed with Providers to ensure that they get the word out to Service Users and continue to work with agencies such as the Police to improve the quality of reporting.

**Housing**

**What was said about it:**

Service Users felt that the application process for applying for housing was difficult. They didn’t know where to go to get support with this either. A suggestion was made about schools and other educational organisations providing training on housing through an educational program.

Jackie Richards advised that a social worker would also go through housing options when applicable when an assessment or review is being done.

Carers felt that there were challenges for them when planning for the future which included, finding suitable properties, budgeting, safety concerns, and support availability.

Carers asked if they could see the Council’s ’30 year plan’ which the Housing Team will provide once agreed.

**Housing in South Gloucestershire –** Chris Benson – Homechoice Team South Gloucestershire Council.

Chris explained the process when using the Homechoice register particularly for people with Learning Difficulties. There is support available from the Homechoice Team for people with LD and there are user friendly search tools to help. The Team will also explain about any rejected properties if needed.

The Board wondered as the application form doesn’t capture medical information how would this impact people with LD applying. Chris advised that there are other ways of identifying and linking applicants via other services and this would identify whether additional help was needed.

**Accessing Supported Living Accommodation** – Jackie Richard and Sophie Leworthy-Coleman

Jackie explained the process for identifying any support needs required when someone moves into a supported living accommodation. When someone first moves to a supported living accommodation they are provide with additional support for the initial few weeks to help them adjust and try and build on their independence.

Sophie told the Board about a success story where someone had moved into Blackhorse House and had initially needed quite a lot of support but through time and regular reviews they were now almost fully independent and enjoyed being able to do things on their own.

Jackie advised that people without financial capacity could still move into accommodation such as Blackhorse House and they would have extra support for this written into their support plans.

Jackie also told the Board about other options that may be more relevant for people with a Learning Difficulty whereby there was slightly more in house support.

The Council are planning on building or commissioning more supported living accommodation when they can find suitable properties or land. This needs to be in an area that is easily accessible, has good public transport and education facilities and also local shops and employment. There may be occasions when a property or piece of land is rejected as it is just not suitable.

**Milestones – What the future holds** – Claire Maine & Jeff Parry

Claire and Jeff provided the Board with a presentation on the historic changes within the company and what they had achieved to date. They advised that the Trust were discussing options of making their services better including how to assess if people were getting the right choices, being considerate of more individual circumstances and how their care homes are managed.

**DWP –** Disability Employment Advisors

Claire and Julia presented a report on the recent changes within benefits and the introduction of the Universal Credit. They also explained the ‘Access to Work’ and ‘Disability Confident’ schemes.

The Board wanted to know if the Job centre could offer a ‘drop in’ session for people with LD. Claire explained that it’s not something that is offered at the moment but she would take this back and consider it for the future. They will liaise with the Carers Centre regarding starting this.

The Job centre will always signpost people to other agencies if they are not able to help but do not proactively promote any other Employment Advisors.

**What the LDPB worked on in 2019:**

* Receiving updates on the new supported living accommodation Blackhorse House and ensuring after it opened that tenants moved in in stages so that the correct support could be given. The scheme has proven to be very popular and there are regular panel meetings to discuss potential new residents.
* Inputting into the business case for Council land to be used for another new supported living scheme which was successful.

**What the LDPB will work on next year:**

* Ensure that the Board is able to have a role in scrutinising housing provision for people with LD and feeding into the analysis of future housing needs of people with LD
* Continue to work with the Transitions Team to ensure that housing needs and options are discussed at an early stage in the journey of someone with LD and included routinely as part of social work reviews.
* Work with partners and stakeholders to ensure that information on housing options is widely available and accessible.
* Seek to link data on needs of emerging adults with LD to service providers

**Employment and Education**

**What was said about it:**

Service users thought that as they could not use their bus passes to get to work in the morning (these can only be used from 9 am onwards) was a barrier to finding employment.

It was also felt that there should be more learning difficulties awareness training given to employers to aid team building and relationships within the workplace.

There was also a consensus that as people with LD got older there was less support to help them gain employment and apply for educational courses.

Carers discussed the funding cuts to college courses and the effect of not having any qualifications making it more difficult to get employment.

There was also a discussion around the lack of support to access sports coaching and access to job coaches within the workplace.

The Council will be advertising for a new Employment Support Commissioning Officer and part of their role would be to support people with LD. This role will now sit within the Education and Skills team and not Commissioning.

**LD Strategy Update –** Anne Clarke, Helen Tapson, Kenny Braidwood & Claire Callas – South Gloucestershire Council

Anne gave a brief presentation of the key findings over the last year has shown how South Gloucestershire Council uses its budget to support people and from this was making recommendations on how to make savings over the next 3 years. It was shown that there was a lack of vision or strategy to shape decision making and the use of budgets. Also data collection could be better so that we had a true picture of where we were. The data shows that currently South Gloucestershire continues to be a high user of residential care compared to other similar local authorities.

The draft LD Strategy report is due early 2020.

Helen explained the health needs assessment exercise and how it looks at things that keep you healthy across the whole system, including jobs etc. The assessment should lead to agreed priorities and resource allocation that will improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities.

Helen is also looking at having a focus group which will include people with LD. This will not currently include anyone with complex learning difficulties.

Kenny presented data on where people with learning difficulties lived in South Gloucestershire and how many were employed. It has shown that the data provided by the Council differs from that provided by the Ernst Young report. This is something that the Council will look to rectify for the report in 2020

Claire did a presentation on supported living within South Gloucestershire and the different types of accommodation available.

There has been new accommodation opened this year, Blackhorse House, which has proven to be very popular and the Council continue to look for other developments to meet the increasing needs of the LD population. There is especially a shortage of housing for those with more complex needs and we are prioritising looking for this type of accommodation.

**Employment and Further Education 18+ -** Transitions Team

Gary Lancaster and Yolande Henebery explained the work of the SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) team. Overall the team’s purpose is to maximise a person’s potential.

They explained how the EHCP (Educational, Health and Care Plan) application process works and who and what they are needed for.

**Relationships & Sexual Health Education –** Helen Bradley – Public Health Team

Helen presented a report which had information on the current legislation and proposed sex education legislation coming into law in 2020.

A discussion was held about relationships, responsibilities and support networks available in regards to those with learning difficulties.

The carers Representatives praised Helens team for addressing the issues around sex education and were very pleased that was being seen as a priority for the future.

**Employment Workshop & Surveys –** Nick Dean – The Care Forum

Nick presented a report of the actions taken to identify the issues surrounding employment for those with LD living in South Gloucestershire.

A series of workshops and surveys across South Gloucestershire took place with people from Milestones Trust and The Hive. The report identified that the employment rate for those with LD in South Gloucestershire was lower than in neighbouring authorities.

Employers participated in the workshops and they felt there was a lack of support once an employee with LD had started and employers lacked knowledge or experience to continue employing someone.

It was felt that once the new Employment Commissioning Officer was in place hopefully support would improve.

**What the LDPB has worked on in 2019:**

* The LDPB awarded LDDF funding to A Clean Sweep, a social enterprise which employs and is run by people with a learning difficulty.
* The LDPB also awarded funding to South Glos Citizens Advice to help support people with LD to access benefits
* The LDPB awarded funding to LD Awareness – raising awareness of Learning Difficulties within Schools
* The LDPB finally awarded LDDF funding to 16 Co-op to provide job coaches that will help people with LD improve their knowledge of what employment entails and how to help them apply for work.
* The LDPB completed a survey in conjunction with The Care Forum to establish what the barriers were to employing people with LD

**What the LDPB will work on next year:**

* Seek to engage more local employers in the work of the Board to ensure more people with LD are able to access work.
* Seek to engage with schools and colleges to ensure that more people with LD achieve better education outcomes, both in academic and vocation fields.
* Request that the new Employment Commissioning Officer joins the Board to update and engage the Board in the work being done to enable more people with LD to access employment.

**Personalisation**

**What was said about it:**

Service Users felt that there had been some cuts in funding which meant there were less services for people to choose from now.

It was felt that it was frustrating as not all information is easily accessible and it can be difficult to find relevant support groups. The Council is currently working on its own website to improve accessibility and there will eventually be an ‘Information and Guidance’ site that should hold more easy read information. Carers and Service Users were asked to test the IAG site as it is still in its pilot stage and the team implementing this were looking for feedback.

**Personalisation in Adult Care –** Kenny Braidwood – South Gloucestershire Council

Kenny presented an item that highlighted 2 main points – Support to plan for the future and having more choice and control.

The process for referrals and reviews within Adult Care has developed and a new approach adopted which uses the 3 conversations model.

1. Conversation 1 Listen and connect
2. Conversation 2 Work intensively with people in crisis
3. Conversation 3 Build a good life

This is a more personal approach where social workers try to keep people as independent as possible within their own homes using local support and more innovative services.

Kenny also discussed Celestine House, a fully adapted property in Yate which demonstrates different aids and adaptations in a home setting. It is possible to show how technology can help aid personalisation within your own home and in everyday activities and is not a replacement for personal care.

Referrals for this can be made via the Customer Service Officers Desk.

Kenny also gave recognition to the NHS Long Term plan which has identified the need for personalisation for everyone.

**OT Assessments and Assistive Technology –** Sophie Banham – Occupational Therapist

Sophie explained how assessments are done and how they are driven by the goals that people want to achieve. There are different occupational therapy assessments including Sensory Processing, Assessments of Motor and Processing skills, Independent Living skills assessments and Specific Task assessments. All or some of these can be used to determine what will enable someone to reach their potential and achieve the goals they wish to.

The Board discussed how technology can aid care and not replace it if needed.

1 Board member advised that assistive technology has been really successful for her son transitioning into adult care/ independence.

The use of technology such as Alexa was discussed and Service Users in particular felt this was very useful.

**Updates on Direct Payments –** Denise Swain – South Gloucestershire Council

The presentation focussed on the guidance available for carers and service users and what happens when people reach 18. The Board felt that it would be good to have an easy read version of the guidance which isn’t available currently.

Denise’s team are gathering information to see what is working well for service users. Part of this is making sure that people understand what the money can be used for and what their responsibilities are.

Carers advised that there were issues sometimes with finding a personal assistant and wondered if the Council could have a register of people. Denise explained that there just wasn’t the capacity in her team to keep this updated.

**What the LDPB has worked on in 2019:**

* The LDPB awarded funding to WECIL for a Peer Advocacy project that supports people to provide a voice for those that didn’t feel able to speak for themselves. The areas covered were – Employment

 Health

 Friendships & Relationships

 Finding a place to live

 Education and Training

* The LDPB also awarded funding to - KIDs – an arts and music course,

 Community Express - Music courses

 Wiggly Worm – cookery courses

**What the LDPB will work on next year:**

* Work with the LD Provider Forum to raise awareness of the range of services out in the Community.
* Work with Social Work teams so that assessments and reviews are completed in an easy to understand way and that the service users views are taken into account.
* Receive information and updates on the “3 conversations” model and how that is being rolled out across all Council areas.

 **The Learning Difficult Development Fund (LDDF) projects:**

The Learning Difficulties Development Fund is money to fund projects to improve the lives of people with Learning Difficulties living in South Gloucestershire.

In 2019 South Gloucestershire Partnership Board was given £100,000 to fund projects for people with LD. These focussed on specific areas such as: Employment, Increasing Independence and Living skills.

This is how the money was spent:

**A Clean Sweep awarded £10,015.99**

This project is a social enterprise that is run by and solely employs people with a Learning Difficulty. They currently have cleaning contracts in various offices around the Bristol and South Gloucestershire area. They currently employ 8 members but are looking to increase this to 20 by 2020.

A Clean Sweep works closely with an employment service to coach members to learn the job, make reasonable adjustments to suit individual needs, ensure the business meets legal and professional standards, tackle quality issues, ensure welfare, provide education, and provide support with accessing services available to them e.g. applying for a bus pass. Members are given support to get to and from places of work safely via public transport and become independent in doing this.

They are a *Disability Confident* employer who only recruits members with a learning disability. All members and directors who each have a learning disability then have full and equal control over company decisions. They meet once a month to vote on various issues to do with ACS from holidays, contracts, new employees and the general running of the business. ACS gives everyone who applies to the job the opportunity of one or more trial shifts.

So far they have managed to recruit 3 new people and have started new contracts with Great Western Ambulance and Bristol Fare Share. They have struggled to recruit more members but are trying to promote what they can offer to other businesses. They hold monthly meetings with all members of the enterprise to discuss any issues.

**KIDS – Accessing Art awarded £10,000.00**

The project aims to provide fully accessible courses, workshops and 1:1 sessions in the arts, including, Art, Music & Photography.

At the end of a course the service users will help plan a celebration event to showcase what they have achieved.

The project will empower people to nurture their creative skills and build on their confidence and self-esteem.

So far 6 people have attended the art course. There are plans for an art workshop at the end of January and some 1:1 sessions are planned for mid-January. There have been problems getting the other courses in and workshops started due to the main person organising these leaving. Someone else has now taken this over and the plan is to get things running again as soon as possible.

**Learning Difficulties Schools Awareness project awarded £6,564.00**

This project has trainers who go into schools and work with children to raise awareness of learning difficulties and what it is like to have a learning difficulty.

The project has been very successful in getting into schools and presenting the information to a large audience.

Schools have been very complimentary on what it has achieved.

So far they have visited 14 schools and run sessions for approximately 30 children in each. They have found it difficult to get new schools involved but remain proactive in contacting all schools.

**Community Express awarded £9,100.00**

The project supports people with LD to get together and take part in art, craft and music sessions. People can enjoy the music train and listen to live music at the same time.

So far they have held 10 music sessions at The Batch and 6 music train sessions with support from Avon Valley Railway. They have 16 musicians on their books that come to do the sessions at the Music Train.

**Warmley Wheelers awarded £ 8,892.00**

Warmley Wheelers is a disability cycle scheme that enables those who have additional needs to feel the excitement and empowerment of using a specially adapted bicycle. It promotes choice and control and helps develop independent living skills.

Warmley Wheelers provides physical exercise in an outdoor setting. Bike riding has proven effects on the ***health and wellbeing*** of the users.

So far they have had some new people come and use the bikes and also Clare Mount School and Brandon Trust have used the bikes during the summer holidays. The project takes a break over the winter months, December, January & February because of the weather but use this time to deliver leaflets. They now have direct access to the Warmley Forest Trail. They are still looking for volunteers to come and help.

**South Gloucestershire Citizens Advice Bureau – Advice for All awarded £9,785.00**

The project will provide a weekly advice session of two appointments only for people with learning difficulties and their carers to access. The sessions will help people to apply for relevant benefits or help with any issues when making an application. The project will also give advice on any debt issues and provide benefit checks. Information will be given in an easy read format.

So far they have managed to support 30 people in areas such as Debt management, Universal credit, Benefits, employment and Housing. Most people have needed help with more than 1 area. They have held 1 workshop to do with Universal Credit and plan to do more over the next 6 months.

**Sixteen Cooperative Ltd with BOSS and Freeways Trust – A Working Knowledge awarded £18,177.00**

The project will offer individual support to build up the knowledge and understanding of what being employed involves. Individuals will work with trained job coaches and will include employer visits, workshops, talks and the offer of working with the job coach to look for paid employment.

The project hopes to work with 30 people with LD over the year.

So far they have managed to do 2 workshops at New Siblands School each workshop was for 16 children. They have also run workshops for the Transitions Team in South Gloucestershire Council and have met with staff at Horfield, Kingswood and Yate job centres. They have supported 3 people to get into paid employment and are helping 5 others in various areas such as updating CV’s, speaking to possible employers and becoming self-employed.

**Kitchen Challenge, Wiggly Worm awarded £10,330.00**

The project is for people with LD to learn about how to cook and how to be healthy. People will learn to cook in both a home kitchen and a restaurant or café kitchen. At the end of the project people will run their own restaurant service to specially invited guests, including local employers, where they will plan their own 3 course menu, cook and serve all of the food.

There has been some problems getting the courses started as they had booked some people to attend and then realised that they lived in the wrong catchment area.

So far they have arranged 2 courses for January. 1 in Staple Hill which is full and another in Thornbury that still has some spaces to fill. Each course has 6 people in.

There will be a final meal in February when everyone that has attended the courses will come and cook and family and friends will be invited to come and try the food.

**WECIL – A Peer Advocacy awarded £13,338.00**

The project is a peer led advocacy project giving people with a learning difficulty the opportunity to support other people in the same situation to express their views and make decisions about health, housing, education, work, relationships and families.

The project will be led by 5 volunteer Peer Advocates who will work with 30 people with a Learning Difficulty. The Advocates will receive appropriate training and learn new skills to enable them to support others. They will meet monthly with people to build relationships and discuss issues that are important to them.

So far they have a project manager that works 2 days a week on this. They have managed to recruit 3 volunteer advocates. They have monthly meetings and have also attended the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board to give a presentation on what they do.

Conclusion
The LPPB has had a very full programme this year and has made progress in many areas. Most notable is the work that is underway in the area of health care. The LDPB has been instrumental in contributing to a programme of sexual health training and a range of accessible resources on sexual health for practitioners and professionals. The LDPB is also working to ensure that in future there is a much improved take up of annual health checks for people with LD. Annual health checks can improve the life outcomes and expectancy of many people with LD. This is key piece of partnership working across health and social care.

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