South Gloucestershire Learning Difficulties Partnership Board

Annual Report

January 2018 – December 2018

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Introduction from the Co-Chairs

We are proud to present the 2018 Learning Difficulties Partnership Board Annual Report. South Gloucestershire Learning Difficulties Partnership Board (LDPB) has worked hard to make sure that people with learning difficulties (LD) 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 learning difficulties see a big difference in their lives and can lead the best lives for them.

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.

A key priority in the last year has been reviewing the membership and effectiveness of the LDPB to make sure that it makes recommendations for positive changes that can happen to achieve the best outcomes for people with LD. There is more information about the review on page 8.

**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 2018 can be found on page 10.

**Active Members of the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board 2018**

**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

**Learning Difficulties Carer Support and Development Worker**

**South Gloucestershire Council Representatives:**

* Will Bee

**Equalities Officer**

* Ann Clarke

**Director of Adult Social Services**

* Kenny Braidwood

**Service Manager (Adult Social Care)**

* Helen Bradley

**Public Health**

* Sumita Hutchison replaced by Claire Callas Sept 2018

**Commissioning Officers**

**Clinical Commissioning Group:**

* Christopher Mills stepped down Nov 2017

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

* Kate Archibald stepped down February 2018

**Commissioning Manager, Partnerships and Integration**

**Other Organisations:**

* Emily Denham replaced by Nick Wood Nov 2018

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

* Carly Ramsey and Liz Jerome

**Milestones Trust**

* Jo Davison from July 2018

**Well Aware, The Care Forum**

**Review of the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board**

A big part of the work of the LDPB in 2018 has been to carry out an extensive review of the work of the Board. The review covered the following areas:

**Membership of the Board:**

To make sure that the LDPB fully represents the diversity of the LD community and has representation from all key partners and stakeholders.

**Information and data:**

To make sure that the Board has accurate and up to data information to inform its work and to make recommendations for change.

**Inclusive and effective meetings:**

To make sure that there is a theme lead person for each meeting and that all board members are able to fully participate in meetings. To provide training for LDPB members so they understand their roles.

**LDDF – process:**

To make sure that the selection process to decide which projects get funding is more robust and rigorous and to link the process with the Wellbeing College so outcomes from the funded projects for people with LD can be measured.

**Outcomes of the LDPB:**

To make sure that the recommendations of the Board are implemented, improvements to the lives of people with LD can be measured and further actions taken where necessary. For the work of the LDPB to be monitored through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Review Process and Results**

Work groups were formed for each area and the full Board received updates at the LDPB meetings.

**Achievements of the Review:**

* A full day’s training session was held for all members of the LDPB on 5th June 2018 which was very well attended. The training focussed on the roles and responsibilities of LDPB members and on ensuring inclusive and effective meetings.
* The Terms of Reference have been reviewed
* The membership of the Board has been reviewed and new members from support organisations have been identified. The Board is actively working to ensure that people with more complex LD are able to contribute to the work of the LDPB.
* Lead representatives for each meeting theme have been identified and briefed on their responsibilities.
* Guidance has been produced for the theme leads and for presenters to ensure meetings are accessible.
* A new LDPB members pack has been finalised and provided to existing and new LDPB members.
* A new application form and evaluation process has been implemented for LDDF awards.
* A relaunch event was held on 23rd October at Lyde Green Community Centre.

**Relaunch Event**

40 people attended the relaunch event, including people with learning difficulties, parents and carers, people from organisations that provide specialist support, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and people from South Gloucestershire Council, the Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG), South Gloucestershire and Stroud College and Sirona.

The purpose of the event was to share information about the work of the Board going forward following a review of its activities and to help to establish priorities for the future work of the Board. 4 workshops were held covering the key areas of work of the Board.

The event was a great success and resulted in a clear list of priorities for the Board to consider and discuss in LDPB meetings in 2019.

There is a full report of the relaunch event and the discussion points of the workshops which will be published on the Council website shortly.

**LDPB Meeting Topics**

**Health**

**What was said about it:**

Service users and carers felt it was important to have clear information and support in achieving healthy lifestyles. Annual health checks were considered very important.

Carers in particular felt that more accessible information and further improvements were needed in hospitals, in order for doctors and nurses to have a better understanding of people with LD. They also wanted to know how the quality of the Annual Health checks were monitored.

**Kate Archibald (CCG)** gave an update on health**:**

The CCG merger will be official from 1st April 2018.

2 areas that were raised by the LDPB last year were about communication in GP surgeries and healthy lifestyles and eating. There is a government healthy eating app which can be downloaded for free.

The CCG believe they will receive a visit from the National LD Programme Board who are interested in the work being done with people with LD who have been in hospital for a long time.

**Lorraine Hatch and Jo Hodges (Keeping Well Group)** gave information on what the group do:

The Keeping Well group has been running for 10 months and is a 12 week programme on healthy eating, healthy lifestyles and exercise held at the hydro therapy pool in Soundwell, Bristol. Only 4 people are taken at a time and there is 30 minutes discussion about healthy eating and 30 minutes of fun exercise in the pool. People are referred to other providers or agencies if further advice or support is required.

**Emily Greentree (South Gloucestershire LD Service)** gave a presentation on happiness and why it is so important, especially for people that have challenging behaviour

**What the LDPB has worked on in 2018:**

* The LDPB awarded LDDF funding to Missing Link to run a project offering confidential advice and practical support to people with LD who have suffered sexual abuse. A support worker from Missing Link is now a regular attendee at board meetings
* The LDPB has strengthened links with North Bristol Trust to encourage more training for all hospital staff about how to support people with LD whilst they are in hospital.
* The LDPB has continued to encourage as many people with LD as possible to have an annual flu jab though promotion at meetings and via social media.
* The new lead for Learning Difficulties in the combined BNSSG CCG (Zain Patel) is now a member of the Board and an active and engaged partner.

**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 strengthen links with North Bristol Trust and encourage representation from the Trust at the annual Health LDPB meeting.

**Transport and Safety**

**What was said about it:**

Carers felt there were a lot of issues for anyone with a learning difficulty using public transport. Bus and taxi drivers were not trained in this area and this causes many problems. Carers also felt the behaviour of bus drivers can be unacceptable sometimes and that taxis were unreliable.

**Will Bee** **read a statement on behalf of the Licensing Team**:

“From 1st January 2019 it will be mandatory for all taxi drivers to have disability awareness training. All new taxis from 1st January 2018 should be wheelchair accessible. This ruling may be overturned as Taxi companies are not happy about this.

Discussion took place at the meeting and it was felt that reliability of taxis is poor and health appointments have been missed. Also calls are sometimes ignored if the caller has complex needs. Carers felt that call handlers were not trained to deal with people with learning difficulties.

Kev Barley (Licensing Team) will look into the “MyTaxi” App which is currently used in London to see if it would be beneficial locally.

**Paul Stratford (FirstBus)**: talked about training bus drivers receive and advised they have to attend 1 day a year on how to deal with vulnerable/ disabled passengers. However, the training is quite outdated and FirstBus are commissioning a new training course called “Journey Maker” which deals with speaking to passengers slowly, clearly and making eye contact.

There has also been heavy investment over the last 2 years in new buses and technology. The Board felt it would be good for a meeting to take place with FirstBus, Diane Elliott and Disability Awareness to discuss the issues faced by people with LD.

**Abi Johnson and Will Bee (South Gloucestershire Council)**: shared a video on Mate Crime. It showed someone who had moved out to live independently and become a victim of mate crime. The Board felt that this was helpful but quite scary and could make some people anxious. The video would be better directed at carers and friends.

**What the LDPB has done in 2018:**

* The LDPB awarded LDDF funding to Brandon Trust who will work with SARI (Support against Racist Incidents) to carry out Mate crime training in secondary schools, colleges and youth/ social clubs for young people with LD. This culminate in a film being produced.
* 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:**

* Focus on the issue of people with LD being the perpetrators of crime, mainly due to their vulnerabilities, and look at the difficulties for people with LD navigating the criminal justice system.
* Work with relevant partners and agencies to raise the awareness of hate crime against people with LD and to ensure it is accurately reported.

**Housing**

**What was said about it:**

Service Users and Carers felt it was important for accommodation to be accessible and affordable. There is not much information about the different options and it would be beneficial to have a booklet with all the information. There was also concern about the lack of Shared Lives families as the provider of the service in South Gloucestershire is struggling to recruit carers.

**Kenny Braidwood (South Gloucestershire Council):** advised that the “Open Doors” booklet was now fully updated and completed.

**Kim Mylchreest (South Gloucestershire Council)**: talked about the Homelessness Reduction Act. This starts on 1st October 2018. The process is complicated and people need to be aware of the legal definition of homelessness and the new requirements of the Act. The right questions need to be asked to establish whether someone is at risk of homelessness and training has been arranged for Social Workers.

Kim also updated the Board on the HomeChoice policy amendments. The changes should be clear on the priority of those people with health and welfare needs and will be implemented by the end of 2018.

Kim also gave an update on the Transitions Operations Group. The team are completing education and health care plan reviews with the focus on education, employment, health, social care and housing. The team will ensure that future housing options are included as part of reviews.

**Kirsty Eastham and Jackie Richards (South Gloucestershire Council)**: informed the Board that the new 6 bed house in Downend is about to open. The scheme is to provide intensive support for 12 to 18 months to young people with LD, with the intention of them moving on to more independent living.

**Lesley Gavin, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP):** talked about Universal Credit and people with LD. Within South Gloucestershire there is a phased implementation. The new system is due to be implemented on 5th September and 4th October for most residents. Most benefits will be replaced by Universal Credit, with the DWP responsible for making payments. The DWP are currently looking at products that will help people with LD to apply for Universal Credit.

**What the LDPB worked on in 2018:**

* A full review and refresh of the Open Doors booklet which gives information on the range of housing options available to people with LD.
* Engagement with the Council Transitions Team to ensure that housing options are considered at reviews.
* Input into the development of the scheme in Downend specifically for young people with LD.

**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 and carers felt that it was important for employers to see that the learning difficulties community can be an important asset in what they can bring to the workforce, both for employers and fellow employees.

Carers felt it was important to have a named Social Worker.

**Kenny Braidwood (South Gloucestershire Council)**: talked about employment and the national and local picture. Valuing People Now said *“Closing this gap in today’s terms would mean 48% of people with moderate and severe learning disabilities in real terms…by 2025”.* The employment figure for people with LD nationally is very low and this is the same for South Gloucestershire. In England 5.7% of people with LD aged between 18 and 64 are in work. The figure for South Gloucestershire fell further to below 5% in the last reporting period. The targets in Valuing People Now have never been met.

**Carolyn Maggs (Future Bright)**: talked about Future Bright. It is a Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) initiative to support people in work. It is a 2 year programme and offers support, advice and skills in the form of a career progression coach which helps individuals achieve short and long term goals. Individuals have to be over 19, in work and claiming benefits. This has meant that roughly 95% of people with LD are not eligible. LDPB gave a strong message to send back to WECA and DWP, asking them to reconsider this point of eligibility. A business case has been put to the DWP to extend the programme so that people on Universal Credit can access the service and the outcome will be shared with the Board

**Jackie Richard and Kirsty Eastham (South Gloucestershire Council)**: talked on behalf of the Transitions Team about what the Council were doing to support people with LD into employment. The purpose of the team is to facilitate a smooth transition for people when they reach 18. The team has 3 specific areas of work: Direct Work, Indirect Work and Reviews, with the aim of offering full support.

**What the LDPB has worked on in 2018:**

* The LDPB awarded LDDF funding to Sixteen Cooperative to run a project, including enterprise development workshops, to support people with LD to become self-employed.
* The LDPB has fed into work on the local offer, to ensure information is all in one place and accessible.
* The LDPB participated in the SEND consultation and fed back views of the Board on the options available for SEND funding.

**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.
* Monitor the impact of Universal Credit on people with LD to ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to access volunteering and paid work.

**Personalisation**

**What was said about it:**

Carers felt that Personal Budgets and Direct Payments worked well but there were difficulties in finding Personal Assistants. Also older people may not want to manage a direct payment themselves.

Carers also felt that effective public transport was essential for people to access services, especially in rural areas.

Carers felt that not all social workers had full knowledge of all of the support and services available to people with LD.

Service users felt that having as much choice and control over support was important so that the things you do match your personality and preferences. However it was difficult to find out what was available and who to speak to. Not everybody wants to have a direct payment.

**Ann Clarke and Kenny Braidwood (South Gloucestershire Council)**: discussed how personalisation has progressed over the last 10 years. It is very hard to measure as it is not just about personal budgets. The Council also needs to ensure that they are putting people at the centre of support planning and using resources more flexibly.

**Kris Allen (South Gloucestershire Social Worker)**: talked about the role of the Social Worker and how they can improve personalisation in their service by:

* Right to participation
* Right to self determination
* Treating people as individuals and relevant factors
* Promoting social justice
* Identifying relevant community groups

The Board asked whether the panel was a ‘virtual’ or ‘physical’ panel. He advised that the ‘panel’ is a ‘physical’ one where Social Workers present their cases and the members of the panel discuss and agree on a decision.

**Milestones Trust:** gave a presentation about the role of the support worker. They talked about how they gather lots of information and decide what is relevant to each individual. There is lots of partnership working with other professionals and families to get a full picture of the individual’s preferences and personality. They work towards core planning meeting monthly which fully involve the individual. The plans they have are now clearer and easier to understand.

**What the LDPB has worked on in 2018:**

* The Board has engaged with DWP about the introduction of Universal Credit to ensure they fully consider the needs of people with LD.
* The 0-25 Social Work Team Manager is now a member of the LDPB and feeds back to the Board on the work of the team around transitions.
* The LDPB awarded LDDF funding to South Glos Citizens Advice Service to provide weekly drop in sessions for people with LD to advise on a variety of issues, including Universal Credit.

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

* Engage with the pilot on Individual Service Funds to fully understand them and monitor how they are working for people with LD in South Gloucestershire.
* Work with Social Work teams so that there is a full awareness of the range of support choices available to people with LD and to achieve better consistency of advice and support.

**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 2018 South Gloucestershire Partnership Board was given £100,000 to fund projects for people with LD. A record number of projects were funded in 2018. These focussed on specific areas such as: Employment, Increasing Independence and Living skills.

This is how the money was spent:

**Safe Link LD service, Missing Link**

This project offers confidential advice and practical support to victims of rape and sexual abuse. People with LD receive support from an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor, who can give confidential advice, practical and emotional support. Drop in sessions are accessible to people with LD specifically and the emphasis is on the victim’s voice. The service works closely with Sirona and with Avon and Somerset Police.

The project has struggled to find people that are willing to talk about their experiences. They have contacted 20 different organisations to promote what they do and 1 professional has asked for advice. The project may consider a different location as this may increase the likelihood of getting people to attend for advice and support.

**Life Matters, South Glos Citizens Advice**

An advice service for people with LD on a range of issues, including accessing benefits and Universal Credit. A weekly drop in session specifically for people with LD and also an outreach service in Yate.

The project has run 4 sessions to date and given advice to approx. 40-50 people either at these sessions or over the telephone*.* Has found that people are more relaxed about talking about their problems when she takes her dog to the face to face sessions so will consider doing this in the future.

**Hivewatch, Healthwatch and the Hive**

A project to carry out visits to health and social care services and make recommendations on how they can improve their service for people with LD. The project will also arrange wellbeing events for people with LD which will include information about rights.

The project has run 1 wellbeing event in November and is planning the next in February. Looking to do the 2nd session at another venue so more people may attend.

**KIDS**

A project to work with young people with LD to come up with an accreditation system about the accessibility of services to people with LD and through this process provide the young people themselves with ASDAN qualification to improve their employment opportunities.

The project is currently working with 7 people and hoping to increase this to 10. Planning and training meetings were held on 14th & 15th August with the 7 people. They are hoping to send out a survey to see what problems people with learning difficulties have and which services are priority to focus on.

**Learning Difficulty Awareness School Project**

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 run 21 presentations so far at schools for year 6. They are hoping to run another 9.

**Community Express**

Carriages is a meeting place for 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.

The project has so far held 5 music train sessions at Avon Valley Railway, with another 2 planned in the future, and 10 music sessions at the Batch. The project is not getting support at the Avon Valley Railway to advertise the sessions planned for Bitton railway so these have not taken place. They have still managed to attract 14 people to attend the music train sessions. At the Batch they have 30 people with LD attending each of the music and art sessions.

**Learning Disability Hate Crime Project, Brandon Trust**

A project working with focus on young people with LD in secondary school and colleges, youth clubs, parent groups and social clubs. The focus is telling people about hate crime including through internet and social media. People with LD will make a film about hate crime for other people with LD to watch.

The project are looking to run 4-5 workshops but have not been able to do this yet. Are currently working with 4 schools to devise a video and possibly a Youtube video

**Mud Pie Explorers**

A project running courses on outdoor activities, such as forestry, fishing and cooking to increase the confidence of people with LD and improve their independence and mental health.

The project was looking to run 2 sessions in September/October but this did not happen so will now look to do them in February/March. Are preparing a leaflet to go out promoting what they do.

**Buddies, Sense**

A project to provide a buddying/ befriending service for people with LD. People are paired with a volunteer with the aim of helping them to go out into the community to try out new activities and new things.

The project has been looking to get 25 volunteers but so far has only managed to get 1. Working with other organisations to see how they can promote what they do. Looking to get further funding so that the person running the project can stay in place for further 6 months as existing funding only supported them for the initial 6 months of the project.

**Enterprising People, Sixteen Cooperative**

A project to run enterprise development workshops and coaching to support people with LD to become self-employed and set up their own businesses.

The project was looking to do 3 workshops, 1st one booked for October hopefully working with 4-5 people.

A seminar will be held in September for parents and carers to show them how to set up a business. Leaflets for this have been distributed

**Kitchen Challenge, Wiggly Worm Ltd**

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.

The project got funding to run two 6 week kitchen challenge sessions. One was held at Turnberries in Thornbury for people with additional and more complex needs. They had 5 people with LD and 5 carers attending the sessions. The second kitchen challenge was held at Staple Hill and was for more able people. 6 people with LD and 3 carers attended the sessions. The 2 sessions finished in November. 1 person has felt confident enough to apply for catering jobs since participating in the project. They now plan to follow up on everyone who has attended the sessions to see if anyone has gone on to develop new skills.

**Step Up Into Catering, Step and Stone**

A project to teach people with LD baking skills to help people to gain employment in the catering industry. The course also helps people increase their confidence, social skills and independence.

The project is looking to work with 6 people from South Gloucestershire currently they have 3. Has moved to new premises in Knowle and looking to produce flyers to promote this.

**Ready, Steady Grow, Volunteering Matters**

A project for people to learn gardening and growing skills to increase their confidence and independence and help them gain voluntary or paid work in gardening.

The project is still working with people from last year to build their skills. No new people for this year but looking to contact the Wellbeing College for help with contacting possible new candidates.

Conclusion

The LDPB Review from Sept 2017-Sept 2018 was a very worthwhile programme. While offering a healthy amount of challenge to Board Members, the review has also highlighted much of what is good about the Board and the importance of maintaining a strong and active LDPB. The quality of engagement by the Board with stakeholders has improved and as a result some important issues and concerns of the LD Community have been resolved. The board is pleased to have supported service providers to make their services more relevant to people with LD.

END