

**Minutes from the Learning Disability Partnership Board Meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> April,  
10.15am-2pm. Sydni Centre, Cottage Square, Leamington Spa, CV31 1PT**

**Chairs: Ian Alsop and Gemma Stainthorp**

**Who came to the meeting?**



Gemma Stainthorp, Warwickshire County Council  
Sue Green, Warwickshire County Council  
Becky Waite-ISS  
Kim Ford-Brandon Trust  
Adam Wright-Warwickshire County Council  
Bob Palmer, Learning Disability Rep  
Ian Alsop - Learning Disability Rep  
Molly Gillespie-Grapevine  
Sarah Hewitt-Avon Support  
Sammy King-Avon Support  
Ken Jones-Warwickshire Employment Support Team  
Dawn Nicholls-Grapevine  
Jo-Ann Golding-Warwickshire Police  
Carol Payne-New Directions  
Suzanne Hotten-Heart of England Mencap  
Colin Twidale-ISS  
Mary Overton-Parent



**People who shared information:**

Suzanne Hotten, Carol Payne, Bob Palmer, Entrust Care  
Partnership, Individual Support Solutions, Turning Point  
Wellbeing Hubs, Adam Wright.

**Minutes from the previous meeting and feedback from actions:**



The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

If you want to see the minutes click on this link:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/LDPBPapers>

### Ice breaker



The ice breaker was to talk about challenges that people with disabilities have when looking for jobs. People also talked about the best job they had ever found for a person with a disability.

### Statement of Intent Delivery Plan Update



Sue Green gave an update on the Statement of Intent Delivery Plan



### LD Reps feedback

Ian told us about the Transforming Communities meeting he attended. The people at the meeting talked about Circles of Support and Housing Options.

Ian also told us about a group he is in at Nuneaton Library called "Speaking Up." The group told the library how good it was for people with learning disabilities. He told the library that they should change the opening times, because they were displayed using the 24 hour clock and not everyone knows how to read this.



Library

Sammi told everyone about his holiday in Blackpool. He

went with Anne Marie and some friends. The holiday was organised by Avon Support. He said that his room was great, because it was accessible and right for him. A lot of the time, it is hard to find rooms that are right for him when he goes on holiday. His favourite part of the holiday was going in the hot tub.

Bob said that he went to a Transitions event at Brook School. He told everyone about speaking up groups.

Dawn told everyone about work that Connor had done before. (Connor wasn't at the meeting). She said that he did work experience in a charity shop, but he didn't like it. His dream job is to be a game designer or tester.



Jonathan wasn't at the meeting. We heard about how he helped WCC to decide who would be in charge of the new peer reviewing programme, by helping with the interview panel.



Louise wasn't at the meeting. We heard about how she visited Atherstone Leisure Centre and told the staff how they could make the leisure centre better. She told the staff that the signs could be better. She is going to visit Coleshill Leisure Centre next.

If you want to see the LD Rep's presentation please click on the link below:  
<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/LDPBPapers>

**Accelerate and Progress Work Streams-Suzanne Hotten from Heart of England Mencap**



Suzanne explained that the money for the Accelerate and Progress workstreams comes from the big lottery and ESF funding, under BBO. The workstreams work with people who are furthest away from the job market, but want to go into employment. Mencap deliver both programmes and focus on people with learning differences.

The Progress programme is for young people up to age 24, and Accelerate is for people who are 25 years old and over.

### Accelerate



20 participants have signed up to Accelerate. 3 people have gained employment, and there is 1 job coach working with these people.

The programme helps participants by trying to set up work experience opportunities. This helps people to build their confidence and their CV. They also help people if they want education/training opportunities. Because of Accelerate, some people have been on courses such as Food & Safety Hygiene; IT basic skills; Numeracy and Literacy; First Aid. Accelerate also helps people with job search and interview skills.

### Progress:



16 participants have signed up to Progress. Progress helped one young person to go into paid work, by starting with volunteering. Other young people have been supported to start education or training courses.

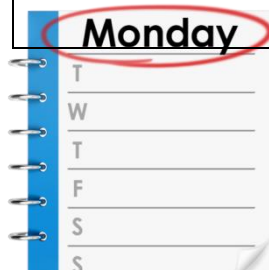
Progress also helps people to access Universal Credit.

The main thing Progress do in all their work is to help young people gain confidence, motivation, self esteem and skills/knowledge.

Some of the LD reps then asked questions.

Sammi asked what BBO stands for and it was confirmed

**Monday**



that it stands for Building Better Opportunities. Mary asked how long the programmes spend with each person. Suzanne explained that, to start with, everyone has a one hour weekly meeting. Once they are settled into their work/training opportunity, they have less meetings. People are signed off when they find paid work.

### **Work and Volunteering. Carol Payne from New Directions and Bob Palmer-LDPB rep**

Carol explained that she is a dedicated volunteer champion. She meets with people to find out what they want to do, then works with them to find volunteering opportunities/paid employment. She does this in different ways. For example, she helps people with their CVs. One opportunity is to do befriending work with residents of ND services.



When people start work or volunteering opportunities, they need DBS checks, references, training and supervisions.

Kim asked why people have to have DBS checks, and Carol explained that anyone who works with New Directions residents has to have a DBS.



Mary asked how people find out about opportunities with ND. Carol confirmed that you can look on the website to find out about opportunities, or sometimes social workers refer people to them.

Connor asked Carol if she likes doing the work she does. She said that she does, and she really enjoys seeing people meet their goals-even if it is a long journey.

### **Travel Training. Individual Support Solutions and Turning Point Wellbeing Hubs**



Becky talked about travel training. She also brought Eileen with her, who completed travel training last August, and Steve, Eileen's husband. Becky is the co-ordinator for the Atherstone hub.

Becky explained that travel training is about helping people travel independently by foot, on the bus or on the train. When Eileen did travel training, she learnt how to handle money for the bus and this has helped her to go shopping.



Eileen is now much happier to go out on her own and is soon going to Edinburgh on a plane.

The hubs also do broader work around supporting people into work or volunteering opportunity and identifying other support agencies that can help.

Sami asked how people can be referred to travel training. Rebecca explained that people can contact the hubs and arrange a one to one appointment, if they are interested in doing travel training.



There was a vote on whether "My Work Life" had been a good topic for the meeting. Everyone thought that it had been, and they agreed with what had been said.

### **Entrust Care Partnership**

Entrust Care Partnership is a social business and doesn't make profit.

It provides fully accessible caravans and lodges at Skegness and Burnham on Sea. These are free outside of school holidays. There is more information about them on their Facebook page.



They have volunteering opportunities such as supporting the toddler group  
Partnership with St Michaels Church, Hampton Magna.



3 young people did training with Entrust that helped them to become "Entrust entrepreneurs." They learnt how to run a business, how to handle money, team building and customer service. These skills will help them to either set up their own business, or to gain paid employment. They got



a certificate at the end of the course.



Sammi didn't have any questions about Entrust Care Partnership.

### **Grapevine: Higher Support Needs**

This part of the meeting talked about holidays, which are part of the My Work Life. They asked people at Sesame to bring in pictures of holidays or day trips they had enjoyed. People had lots of different holiday experiences.

We talked about learning new things at the February meeting. People talked about learning to play golf, learning to make sandwiches for lunch and practising yoga.



There was a question about who could provide help to someone who wanted to take their disabled daughter abroad. Sammi said he would feed back to the group after asking others at Avon Support.

### **Learning Disability Hubs - Adam Wright from the LD Operational Team**

Adam explained that Duty Surgery Hubs are making it easier for people to speak to the right person in the operational team in WCC. We wanted to change the way we do things to improve people's experience of contacting us.

The LD hub in the north of the county is held in ISS, Nuneaton Town Centre. The one in the south of the county is held in Café Lomas Health and wellbeing centre, Stratford Hospital. People attend the hub following a referral from the Customer Service Centre to the operational team who will contact you and invite you to the hub. You can also drop into the hub if you want to. This is better because it saves time; you have a range of professionals to speak to. So far, we have held 3 hubs in the north - they have been really busy. The hub in the south has also been really busy.



Everyone has given good feedback about the hubs, and about the provider (ISS).



Some people asked questions about the LD Hubs like, how often do they meet? Adam explained that the north hub meets on the second Thursday of the month, and that the south hubs meet on the third Wednesday of the month.

Another question was, how do people know if the question they have is right for the hub? Adam explained that the kind of questions you ask at the hub are the kind that you would usually contact WCC about-for example, hours of support, questions about your provider etc.



Mary fed back that it would be good to have hubs at day services, so that carers can attend.

Adam apologised for not making the presentation more user friendly. He has used this at lots of meetings previously.

### **Questions and Any Other Business**

It was Ian's last meeting. We said a big thank you from everyone for all the work Ian has done, and wished him all the best for the future.



### **Date and place of next meeting:**

Wednesday 18th July 2018. 10-2pm. Hatters Space, Upper Abbey St, Nuneaton CV11 5DN, UK

### **Actions**

Dawn Nicholls to liaise with Sue Green and Paul regarding LD rep involvement in the safe places.
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Kim from WEST and Colin from ISS will work together to support Connor to develop his CV and identify what steps he needs to take.
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Leaflet about holiday options to be sent out via Grapevine and the hubs.
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Look into having an item about what support is available for families with disabled children, who want to take their children on holiday.