



Yorkshire and Humber Learning Disability Leadership Meeting

9th February 2015 in York



Welcome and Introductions

Rosie Pope could not come to the meeting to chair it so Sam Clark chaired the meeting instead. Sam welcomed everyone to the meeting. This meeting is organised on behalf of the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) in Yorkshire and Humber.

This meeting is about

- Housing and how people can get good choices about where they live
- How Partnership Boards work now and what is important for the future

Everyone introduced themselves.



Housing – the challenges and what can be done to overcome them



Steve Harris from the Housing and Support Alliance led this part of the meeting. The Housing and Support Alliance are a national charity that works with people with learning disabilities, family members and professionals to help people work out how to get good housing and support. He did a presentation on the big issues they hear people are facing.

The big issues are

- Lack of time or money to plan ahead with people or across the whole area
- Partnerships and the right people working together
- Taking risks or sharing the risks together
- Having people with the right skills for what is needed to get the right housing or support
- Changes to benefit rules meaning there is less choice or people do not know what will happen in the future
- Recent decision by the courts on Deprivation of Liberty means people are less confident about the rules for supported living or are worried about all the new procedures

You can Steve's full presentation at

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/257011745/Steve-Housing>



We worked in groups to share other problems or issues we need to solve but also the solutions or good ways of working people have come up with



Challenges – what is hard to sort out

These are the big things people said

- Having enough housing to choose from
- High houses prices meaning it is hard to buy or rent houses locally
- Being able to get good support staff with the right skills
- Not having people in our area that know about the housing choices & how to make them happen
- Being able to help people now and still plan ahead for what people want in the future now
- Having the right ways of shared ownership working
- Shared houses – finding the people who want to live together if something changes or someone moves out
- Support provider organisations being worried about the changes to the law on stopping people's freedoms (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards)
- People having good information about what choices they have and how they work
- A way of getting help with knowing what questions to ask or how to make decisions about housing



Solutions – what has helped sort out some of the problems



- Working with families, providers, everyone who needs to be part of it to work it out together
- Having senior leaders linked in so they can help us know the big plans
- Helping people who live at home with their families plan for the future
- So that more people can get housing with private landlords some areas have agreements with good landlords
- Having good connections with lots of different kinds of housing and support organisations so there are more choices
- Have a link worker that can help connect people and housing providers
- Helping people and their families to get together to plan together around housing
- Having a big 5 year plan that includes making the choices happen for everyone including young people and people who have been living in hospitals and choices like Extra Care type housing





- Training led by people with Learning Disabilities for housing staff so they understand things like reasonable adjustments and accessible information
- Working with housing providers to develop flexible housing – like walls that can be moved to make new rooms or a door instead of a window so there are other ways in & out of the place
- Good easy to understand information on what to do to get new housing for people with Learning Disabilities

The big ideas people wanted to know more about were

1. The rules on reasonable Housing Benefit amounts

Steve said that the rules say - Exempt Accommodation rents may only be restricted if the rent is unreasonably high (compared to suitable alternative accommodation elsewhere) or your accommodation unreasonably large (taking into account the needs of everyone who occupies the accommodation and any need for additional space related to disability or visitors. If you are in a protected group there must also be suitable cheaper alternative accommodation available and it would be reasonable to expect you to move. Protected groups include those who are of the qualifying age for pension credit, satisfy any of the tests for being incapable of work, or have a child living with them that they are responsible for. You can find out more at:

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/256632895/Appendix-2-Paying-for-Housing-Costs-in-Supported-Living>



2. How you can make sure people understand all the choices in your area and use all of the different choices

See the link below.

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/256633153/Final-Report-Draft-V2-Appendices>

3. How you can work with different private companies to get different housing choices

Please contact Steve directly for further information.

steve.harris@housingandsupport.org.uk

4. How you can make sure you have good skills and experience to help people know about and get housing choices

Please contact Steve directly for further information.

steve.harris@housingandsupport.org.uk



How Partnership Boards work now in Yorkshire and Humber



Sam told everyone what Inclusion North had found out about learning Disability Partnership Boards from a short survey

You can see the short report Sam had written here

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/257012514/YH-Partnership-Boards-4-1-15>

& the presentation

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/257012747/PBs-Feb-15>



Sam said that how people with Learning Disabilities and their families are part of making decisions in an area and checking on how things are going is part of the ideas for a new policy and all the work on Transforming Care.

We worked in groups to look at

- If Partnership Boards make a difference
- What makes them work now
- What is important for the future





Some people said Partnership Boards do make a difference, some people said they make little or no difference

What makes partnership boards work now?

The big things people said were

- When people are properly connected and have a real say as equal partners
- Planning the meetings and the agenda well so we know what we will work on
- Working on what is really important to people – real issues
- Making sure there is some action or decisions from meetings

This everything people said about what makes the Partnership Board they know work –

Our partnership board works well only because we link the 4 local area groups, Self-advocacy forum and family carers consulting groups and health task groups to share and act on information.

Membership, Working in Partnership and Involving everyone.

Proper engagement working together to help each other e.g. Health Self-Assessment Framework.

Everything can be brought to the 'table', real issues, and real people.

Having a councillor who not only sits on the board but advocates for it.





Platform for a voice.

Planning of meetings.

Engaging stakeholders in the work of the board e.g. Good Lives Leaders.

Good Publicity, The Chair/ Co Chair – Lead Member for Social Care.

Accountability – who it reports to.

Influencing strategic partners.

Sub group – ‘to get the work done’

Members and commitment.

Regular meetings and Venues.

Open and Inclusive.

Timing – sensitive to the needs of all.

Common purpose.

LDPB's used to have a higher profile and more power/money?

Involvement of elected members.

Good chairing essential – contacts, experience.

It's partnership working, it's the place where we can talk in partnership.

Structure makes a difference. Local area groups work effectively to find solutions



and celebrate successes.

Partnership Boards make a difference when self-advocates and family carers and carers have a voice. Many voices make one big voice.

Actions, accountability, Everyone working together.

Partnership board is a priority for inclusion and equality, everyone is equal and gives people a voice.

It's the one place where everyone is equal.

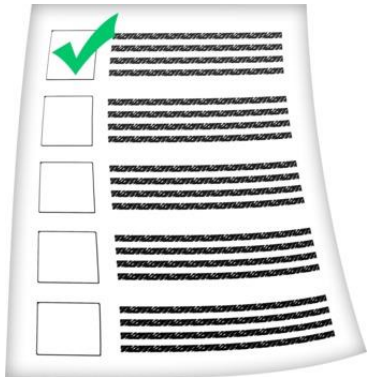
Don't just listen take action and follow it through. 'You said, we did'

Important that we are consulted but it is difficult when the local authority hands are tied.

What is important for the future?

The big things people said were

- It is important there is a way for people and their families to have a strong voice and influence what happens
- Make it clearer what Partnership Boards can do and how they can make decisions or influence
- Make sure Partnership Boards take action or make a difference
- Make the meetings easy to be part of with good venues, planning and information





before and at the meetings

- Get the right mix of people involved including people with Learning Disabilities and decision makers

This is everything people said about Partnership Boards on the future -

Liaison between Partnership Boards – joined up thinking and problem solving.

Commitment for continuation and development. Formalize accountability and direct senior key people onto membership board.

Give some decision making powers.

Two way conversation between stakeholder service users/carers.

Venue – not intimidating accessible.

Continue, improve by increasing membership.

Commitment to turn up.....

People should attend to make sure actions are undertaken.

‘Things are said but don’t get done’

It’s important for partnership boards to continue because it is the most important way for people to have their voices heard and makes a difference to the lives of people with a learning disability/autism.





Maintain co-ordinator role for Partnership Boards.

Independent overview, Independent Advocacy via personal budgets.

Danger of widening client group and diluting effectiveness.

Local groups need to be encouraged to do pieces of work that can be shared e.g.
Housing, Community safety and Employment.

Keep the Partnership Board model and develop it.

Important for views/concerns of service users and carers.

Any other business

Dave from the National Valuing Families Forum told everyone about the Learning Disability Alliance. They have a survey on the difference the government policies have made to people with Learning Disabilities

You can join in at

<http://learningdisabilityalliance.org/>

Sam asked everyone for some feedback on if the Leadership Group should meet this year or what it should work on





This is what people said -

- Could we have a meeting on the theme of money (benefits, funding etc.)?
- This group is a partnership. Long may it continue.
- Good meetings – worth keeping them going.
- I would like this group to continue as we share information. More about helping people with Learning disabilities get paid work. Meeting about personal budgets. How many councils have signed up to In control? Outcomes making it real.
- Yes, it must continue.
- Found it very interactive. Positive outcomes.
- Useful as give time to reflect. Yes we would like to continue- it is a time of change and is useful to share experience and policy for the future. York a good venue. Yes continue.



Date of the next meeting

We do not have a date set for the next meeting yet but we will look at your feedback about the Partnership and be in touch soon.

Who was at the meeting?

Name	Area
Alan Owst	Hull
Angie Dyson	NE Lincs
Barrie Warner	Wakefield
Claire Collins	Leeds
Danielle Mitchell	Leeds
David Barker	North Lincs
Raymond Holloway	Hull
Steve Foy	Leeds
Sue Lear	North Yorkshire
Sue Newton	York
Malcolm Burnside	Halifax
Kay Kirk	Doncaster
Judith Wild	South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw
Julie Cole	Leeds

Karen Murray	North Yorkshire
Maggie Kelly	York
Derek Barker	East Riding
Di Lofthouse MBE	North Yorks
Frits Rab	North Yorks
Hugh Lundberg	Hull
Jean Riley	North Yorks
Jill Burton	Hull
Jim Martin	North Yorkshire

Apologies	
Rosie Pope	East Riding
Karen Amos	Bradford
Neil Elsom	Barnsley
Gillian Carlin	Bradford

