



Spring 2011



The Learning Disability Coalition brings together a number of learning disability groups and supporters from across the country, to form one unified voice to campaign for public funding for people with a learning disability so they can have the same choices and chances as everyone else. The coalition strongly believes that people with a learning disability have the right to live independent lives, with the support that they need.

The coalition aims to provide a unified voice to government and key decision makers, gather evidence on cuts to services happening at a local level, raise awareness of the financial pressures on learning disability services, campaign for better services, and develop a greater understanding of resources needed in the long-term to support people with a learning disability.

The Learning Disability Coalition has launched 'Protect the frontline', a national campaign to hold the government to account on its promise to protect frontline services.

Frontline services are vital for people with learning disabilities who need support for

The Learning Disability Together Network brings together groups and services from across Brighton and Hove to create more opportunities for members of the learning disability community to access work, learning and volunteering opportunities, and leisure facilities.

Members of the network meet up every other month to discuss issues of importance to them and to the learning disability community.

The Network is managed in partnership by Care Co-ops, the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) and Impetus. The network is funded by the Learning Disability Development Fund and Awards for All funding from the Big Lottery.

Any organisation or group is welcome to join the network and attend its meetings.

Find out more at
<http://ldtn.cvsectorforum.org.uk>
or contact Libby Young on (01273) 810237
or email libby@cvsectorforum.org.uk

If you would like to include an article, or advertise an event or project in a future edition of this newsletter, or to add things to the network's website, please contact Libby Young - details above

everyday activities such as eating, bathing, dressing, health, housing, learning, and safety.

More information about the coalition's work can be found at their website:
www.learningdisabilitycoalition.org.uk

Personalisation

People who use public services have diverse needs and aspirations which do not fit into or match with the public services provided by the government. Rather than continuing to offer general services aimed at the whole population many public services, particularly adult social care services, are offering ways for individuals to decide and choose what services they want to use.

This change is known as Personalisation. It is also often called other names such as 'independent living', 'person-centred support' or 'self-directed support'. They are all based on the same principle, which is that people should have choice and control over the support services they need to go about their daily lives. As well as increasing choice and control Personalisation puts a greater emphasis on prevention and early intervention services which can help to stop individuals from entering into crisis.

Personalisation involves the individual controlling their own support, and this often means they are given their own budget to buy the support that they want and require. This money is often called 'Direct Payments', 'Personal budget' or 'Individual Service Funds'. It can be used to buy a wide variety of support services from social care support, to carers' support, to leisure and culture activities which help to maintain individuals' general health and well being.

For an easy read briefing on Personalisation visit: www.cvsectorforum.org.uk/briefings

Skills for Care, an organisation which provides funding to support and improve training and qualifications for people

working in adult social care services, are currently undertaking research on the implications of people employing their own care and support. Information about this can be found at:
http://www.skillsforcare.co.uk/research/research_reports/direct_employers_workforce.aspx

Personalisation and learning disability



The Department of Health published a report in July 2008 which found that for people with a learning disability, 68% of those surveyed said that individual budgets had changed their view on what could be achievable in life.

Personalisation and Personal budgets offer an excellent opportunity for people with learning disabilities to become more involved in decisions about their own care. It does however require individuals to receive accessible information and clear communications about the choices available to them. Personalisation also requires other services to enable individuals to take full advantage of the opportunity, eg peer support, advocacy, PA training, Staff agency training.

Useful link

ASpire supports adults with Asperger syndrome, High Functioning Autism and similar social issues through mentoring and group activities.

Visit: <http://www.bh-impetus.org/aspire> for more information.



January Network Meeting

At its meeting in January members of the Learning Disability Together Network came together to hear about the work which the Canterbury Oast Trust are doing to support and provide training opportunities for people with a learning disability.

The Canterbury Oast Trust is a charity offering support to people with learning disabilities in Kent and in East Sussex. The Trust runs a number of social enterprises which provide volunteering and training opportunities to the people they support. For example they have a Rare Breeds Centre, which is a major farm-based visitor centre, where people with learning disabilities grow plants to sell, learn animal husbandry, deliver catering services and serve at retail outlets.

The Trust also runs a range of life skills projects which provide training and occupation for those with learning disabilities in Farming, Horticulture, Catering, Arts and Crafts, Woodland Management and Woodland Crafts. The Trust also runs a Granary Restaurant, some Tea rooms and has a gallery where people with learning disabilities try a range of arts and crafts classes.

Support with Confidence

Support with Confidence is an approval scheme for Personal Assistants (PAs). PAs registered with the scheme go through an approval process which includes: an enhanced criminal records check, two reference checks, signing up to a Code of Conduct, and ongoing monitoring. PAs will also complete 10 training modules.

It is hoped that this scheme will help people employing PAs to have a degree of confidence in the PA they are employing. The scheme is currently provided at no cost

More information about the Canterbury Oast Trust's work can be found at: <http://www.c-o-t.org.uk/> .

Also at its meeting in January, members of the network discussed what support was available to Personal Assistants, PAs, supporting those with a learning disability. The group discussed the Support with Confidence scheme and some of the training provided by Brighton and Hove City Council.

The notes from the network's meeting in January can be found on the network's website: <http://ldtn.cvsectorforum.org.uk/info/january-network-meeting> .

Three Grace Eyre Foundation clients are on the Learning Disability Together Network steering group and are helping to shape its direction.

to those hiring PAs and at no cost to PAs themselves.

The scheme aims to fill a gap in the current market between the regulated and unregulated PA market. More information can be found at: <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1234994> .

The Brighton and Hove Federation provides an informal notice board service where those looking for or offering PA services can advertise. More information can be found at: <http://www.bhfederation.org.uk/pa> .

Focus on Social Enterprise

Social Enterprise Bill

Chris White MP (Conservative for Warwick and Leamington) is championing a Private Members Bill on 'Public Services (Social Enterprise and Social Value)'.

Many very successful social enterprises already work in the public sector but this bill should make it easier for even more social enterprises to secure contracts to deliver frontline services. If this Bill becomes law it will require all commissioners of public services to consider economic, social and environmental value, not just price, when buying goods and services. This should open the way for more social enterprises, charities and civil society groups to bid for public sector contracts.

The Bill has now entered committee stage for debate. This is where a detailed examination of the Bill takes place and any amendments to it will be made before it goes to the House of Commons for further debate.

Social Enterprise *examples*

Aldingbourne Trust

The Aldingbourne Trust, based in West Sussex, offers supported living and training opportunities to those with learning disabilities. The Trust runs a number of entrepreneurial and commercial activities which involve people with a learning disability.

The Trust operates a coffee shop which offers work placements to people with learning disabilities for 3 years enabling people to progress into other paid work.

The Trust is working in partnership with Southern Rail to involve their service users in

doing up rundown station gardens and maintaining the gardens throughout the year.

Other enterprises include a sensory garden, community allotments, a horticulture group which grows a variety of plants for sale, an antique furniture restoration company, a wood recycling service, a car wash company, arts and crafts service, and a custom cake making service.

The trust also offers training to many different groups, such as social workers, the police, service providers, schools and colleges to improve attitudes and approaches towards people with a learning disability. This training is run by people with a learning disability who use their own experiences to raise awareness about what it is like to have a learning disability.

More information about the work of the Aldingbourne Trust can be found at: <http://www.aldingbournetrust.co.uk/>

Frame of Mind

Frame of Mind is a social enterprise based in West Sussex which aims to help adults with mental health problems and a learning disability. Frame of Mind teaches the art of picture framing in an encouraging and supportive environment, producing over 25 high quality frames per month for sale to local artists and organisations. Frame of mind's rounded approach to training ensures that trainees learn not only picture framing but Adult Numeracy, Literacy and IT Courses which are provided through a partnership with Chichester College. Frame of Mind's achievements have been acknowledged locally and nationally with awards and recognition ranging from the '2009 Arun Business Partnership Training Award' to being shortlisted for the RBS Social Enterprise 100 Award.