

Carers WorLD

A news-sheet to inform and involve people caring for someone with a learning disability

No.9

Jan 08

Valuing People Now
- is it right for people with learning disabilities in Wakefield?

Free events – Lunch Included!

Although there have been very significant steps forward since Valuing People was launched in 2001, the government recognises that there is still plenty to be done.

As a result a consultation document 'Valuing People Now' was launched at the end of 2007.



They are asking Partnership Boards to consult with people with learning disabilities and their carers about their latest proposals.

For this reason two events have been planned for the east and west of the district. Both will take place between 10am and 2pm, with discussions running until 1pm, to be followed by lunch for the final hour.

The first event is on **Wednesday 13 February** in Pontefract Town Hall, whilst for those on the Wakefield side of the district the date is the following **Wednesday, 20 February**, at Sandal Rugby Club.

If you are interested in attending, you will need to book a place by Friday February 8th. Please contact Sara Pearson by email smpearson@wakefield.gov.uk or telephone 01924 304019.

BME Development Worker

A new Development Worker, Arshad Mahmood, specifically for people with learning disabilities and their carers, from the Black, Minority, Ethnic communities will be working for Family Services from February 4th.

Please contact Sara Pearson as detailed above if you would like to talk with Arshad when he starts.

Development Day

A really big thank you to everyone who managed to take the time out from their busy lives to attend the Carers Development Day in Treacy Hall at the end of October.

Feedback from the day seemed very positive and it was great to see carers coming together to discuss issues and share experiences in such an open and honest way.

Action Plan

The main issues raised on the day were subsequently discussed at the November Carers Sub-group meeting.

They were ranked into priorities for the next 3 years, and grouped into 8 different themes:

- Carer involvement
- Information and education for carers
- Care for carers
- Recognition and carers' support
- Short breaks
- Improved activities for people with learning disabilities
- Educating society
- Stability



This forms the basis of the action plan which will be presented to the carers sub-group for discussion.

Carers Sub-group

It was great to see several people from the Development Day had attended the meeting in November. (Unfortunately due to illness I didn't make it myself!)



I hope you will continue to come along, and it would also be good to see those carers who attended earlier meetings in 2007.

The next meeting takes place on Thursday 7 February. (Regular attendees please note change of date...apologies but this was unavoidable).

The following meeting is on Thursday 3 April. All meetings are held at the Tenants & Residents Federation in the centre of Wakefield between 10.30 and 12.30, and anyone caring for someone with a learning disability is very welcome. For more information on the work of the carers' subgroup visit www.ldpb.org.uk or contact Sara (as above) or myself at Carers Wakefield.

Self Directed Support information day

The terminology 'Self Directed Support' may be something you know about...but in many cases possibly not!

For that very reason Inclusion North are organising a number of meetings for family carers across Yorkshire; the aim of which is to:

- Tell you about Self Directed support & government policy on people having more control
- Share some families direct experience and how it has affected them
- Help you think about what it could mean for your family
- Allow you to meet the local 'lead'

Our local event is on Thursday 27 March at St Austin's Church, Wentworth Terrace, Wakefield, and runs from 10am to 3.30pm.

To find out more and to book a place contact Pip Franklin on 0113 2626409 or email Pip@inclusionnorth.org

Respite: share your thoughts and experiences

Family Services are looking at the way in which short breaks (also known as Respite care) for people with learning disabilities and their carers are provided in Wakefield. Recent national reports have highlighted the need for Local Authorities to audit their provision of short break services. The areas Family Services will be looking at will include: the availability and quality of different types of short breaks throughout the district (including emergency situations), how short breaks are allocated to each family, and the service provided by the Short Stay Unit at Batley Road.

Family Services believe that short breaks should be provided in line with the following key principles:

- Equity and fairness
- Choice and Flexibility
- Opportunity to use individual budgets/ In Control for short breaks
- Premises which are suitable
- Better outcomes for people with learning disabilities
- Carers reassured that their family member's needs are met

Your views as carers are vitally important - whether you use short breaks (respite) services at the moment, or may need them in the future. If you are interested in speaking to someone, or attending an event (probably in March), as part of the consultation process, please contact Sue Shearon - Family Services (01924 303570).

Housing Developments

Keyring is a supported living network for up to 9 people with learning disabilities who want to, or already, live in their own tenancies in the network area.



They receive support as needed from a KeyRing Community Living Volunteer. The network will be operational from the end of January, and will be around the Alverthorpe Road area of Wakefield. KeyRing already successfully supports over 900 people in other areas of the country. There are still some vacancies in the Wakefield Network. If you would like more information please contact Glenn Swindell on 07966 760005.

LD Bungalows

The construction of ten new build bungalows - each for up to three people with learning disabilities and complex needs have been commissioned. There is a tight eligibility criteria - either for young people who are coming from children's services, who need their own home, or to ensure that people do not live away from Wakefield district. Two of the four bungalows which are for young people leaving children's services are due to be completed at the end of February. Another, to enable people to stay in, or return to, Wakefield district, is due to be finished by the end of May. The final 7 bungalows are due to be built over the next year.

Planning for the Future

Mencap are organising a series of free events across Yorkshire and the North East to help carers of people with a learning disability make financial provision for the future.

If you need to find out more about setting up wills and trusts for the benefit of the person that you care for this could be a useful session.

Unfortunately Wakefield is not 'on the circuit' this year, but you may be able to make it to Leeds.

The date for your diary is Thursday 28 February, between 12.30 and 2.30pm. The venue is The Lecture Theatre, Leeds Art Gallery, The Headrow, Leeds.

Understandably these sessions are always popular so you are advised to book your place quickly, by contacting Gina Collins, Wills & Trusts Team, Freepost WD3537, London EC1B 1AA or by phone on 0207 696 6925.

If you are booking in writing, please be certain to provide full name and contact details so that Gina can contact you if there are any problems. Also, since there are several events across the region make sure that you state that it is the Leeds event you wish to attend.

Regional Older Carer Support Workers Network

This week (Jan 23), Vicky and I organised a meeting to find out what is happening for carers in other areas across Yorkshire and Humberside.

It was a very interesting day which highlighted that with continued funding and more joint working just

how much more could be achieved in the long-term!

REPLY SLIP	
<p>Although each of the featured articles shows contact details, you may prefer us to pass on your details on your behalf. If so please tick the relevant boxes, add your name, address and phone number and return this to: Chris Clark</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carers Wakefield & District FREEPOST NEA 8632 25 King Street Wakefield WF1 2BR</p>	
Valuing People Now events	
- Pontefract Town Hall	
- Sandal Rugby Club	
BME Development Worker	
Carers Sub-Group	
Self-Directed Support Information Day	
Respite	
Housing Developments	
Planning for the Future	

Name

Address

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Telephone number



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