

**Regional Task Force Meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> February 2008  
Harris Park Conference Centre, Preston**

Present: Charlie Barker,  
Sean Dempsey and Paul,  
Tony McDermott,  
Phil Palmer,  
Allan Hirst  
Ibrar Riaz and Dot, Frank  
Hurley,  
Judith Whittam, , Suzanne  
Marshall and Hazel,  
Pippa Harris,  
Denise Allen, Rebecca  
Fergusson  
Paddy Burke  
Carol Roberts and Helen,

Apologies: Isabel Southern, Dave  
Spencer,  
Dave Clemmett,  
Julia Erskine

Guests Tricia Niccol  
Rosemary McLean  
Janice Wycherley  
student,  
Diana Terris

Don Walker,  
Lucinda Yeadon

## MINUTES



Met with the Directors of Children's Services on 18<sup>th</sup> February, we are still waiting for feedback from them

The Theme for this meeting is –  
“How are local Advocacy Services funded in the North West?”  
“How accessible is the North West?”

## BIG ISSUES FROM THE REGIONAL SELF-ADVOCATES CONFERENCE





### 3 BIG ISSUES



### REGIONAL FAMILY FORUM BIG PRIORITIES

1. **Accountability of Partnership Boards**
  - Support Family Members to take part
  - Involve people in really deciding the priorities
  - Be clear who the Lead Officer is
  - What do you spend Carers Grant on and who decides?
2. **Housing** – accessible and in areas where people want to live
3. **Transitions** – all of them!

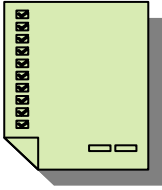


#### **HOW ARE SELF-ADVOCACY GROUPS FUNDED? Lynn James-Jenkinson (presentation attached)**

The group asked Lynn to tell them which groups had sent a questionnaire:-

Manchester People First  
 Macon house service user group  
 HFT - Wirral  
 Links project – Rochdale  
 Chorley and South Ribble CVS  
 BIG group - Knowsley disability concern

Sharon lees – Rossendale  
 Advocacy West Lancs  
 Blackpool Advocacy  
 Carlisle People First  
 Liverpool People First  
 Anonymous x 2



### TABLE – Flip Charts

Help! This has been our voice  
 Fundraising help  
 Say to LINKs can you help us?  
 Get celebrating to back it  
 Help to market it

We talked about bidding for money at a regional level – who would decide how its handed out?

Give them advise not money  
 Does LINKs have money to hand out?  
 Talk to LINKs about how 'we' can help them  
 Need to be more business minded

Need marketing advise  
 Arrange some days/ events that does the best of Day Services  
 Community Connecting will link with LINKs

Need a database of all groups



### WHAT ARE LINKs – TRICIA NICCOL - CSIP (not just Learning Disability)

Local Involvement Networks = LINKs



Presentation (will be on nwdtd website and hard copy posted out) - This is about advocacy, get smarter and better at working with other people who get a rubbish deal too to get the support you need to get the life you want

Local LINKs will have to make good rules

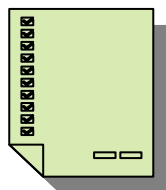
How do you know who will be on it? you don't, why don't you suggest what happens? How do they know what folk want? They don't, that's why it is important you get involved

LINKs are for Children and Adults health services but not children's social care or education services, because these are looked at by OFSTED. Young people will be really important – we all use GP's and health services'

Carey Bamber is the NW lead for this. Carey will have the name of a person in every local authority leading on this. – you need to find out who they are working with @ community involvement

**ACTION**

Lynn to send out a copy of 'LINKs explained' with the notes

**TABLE – flip charts**

LINKs and Partnership Boards need to link!

Put our issues to LINKs – like paid work and relationships and partnership, training

Need to be accessible – pictures, big print, Braille, DVD etc.

Tricia said see how our issues join with others – services give people labels.

Bosses and self advocates need to put the case to LINKs together

Through the Regional Task Force – be a team

Will LINKs ensure people with intellectual impairments will be supported to prepare for meetings – needs funding for them to have their say

LINKs can make sure bosses are doing what they should



**WHAT SHOULD LOCAL AUTHORITIES BE DOING TO MAKE THINGS ACCESIBLE TO ALL? (presentation) Diana Terris, CEX Warrington**

A copy of Diana's presentation will be will be on nwdt website and hard copy posted out.



**CHANGING PLACES** - Rosemary McLean, parent Lancashire

Rosemary told us about the changing places campaign and how important this was to her family and to people who needed this kind of facility to be available in town centres.

The Regional Task Force has said that they will raise the issue with their own Partnership Boards.



**ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT**

This presentation was postponed to a future date.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

**16<sup>th</sup> May –**

Housing

**5<sup>th</sup> September –**

Making our Partnership Boards Work update?

Valuing People Now – what happened?

**21<sup>st</sup> November -**

Friendships and Relationships

**13th February 2009 -** to be decided