



Regional Task Force

29th February 2008

Feedback from review of funding for advocacy in
the North West



Introduction

- The NWTDT is a small not for profit organisation which was established in 1984 and since then has been providing support, training and consultancy and networking opportunities to its customers across the region. Its mission or purpose is to provide support to its major stakeholders to ensure ultimately that people with learning disabilities are supported to have the very best quality of life possible.
- Every NW Local Authority and PCT pays an annual subscription to the NWTDT which is agreed at the NW Branch of the ADSS. Since April 2006, in recognition of this unique partnership of the Regional Valuing People Development Fund is commissioned through the NWTDT also.
- The NWTDT is currently hosted by Salford City Council which ensure that all our funding can be used to deliver the agreed mission.
- The NWTDT works at the interface between people who may use services, their families and services and has described its mission as to ‘facilitate the full inclusion of people with learning disabilities in community life, through partnerships with people with disabilities, families and organisations and the ways in which it delivers this mission.

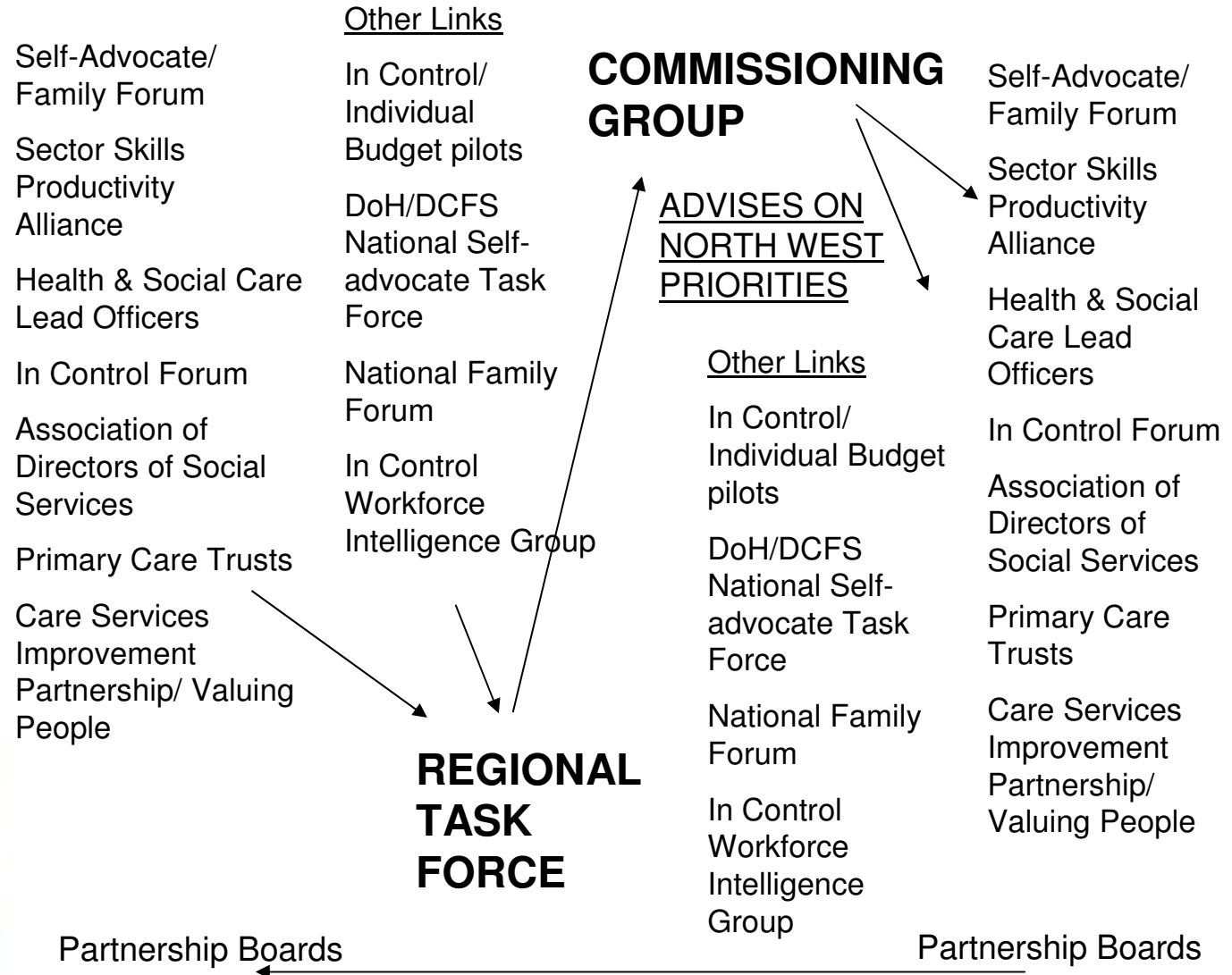


Services

These are:

- To develop local capacity for change through courses, mentoring, supporting and developing projects.
- To review the Region's achievements against locally and nationally defined outcome and identify priority areas for more focus in the North West.
- Linking people together and developing partnerships through interested networks, courses and conferences.
- Providing leadership and developing ground breaking projects, training and contributing to research and translating policy and research into action.
- Sharing what is being learned through conferences and publications.
- Sharing good practice and providing (where requested) knowledgeable feedback to individual localities on their comparative performance.

NWTDT Links/Governance



Questionnaires



Sent to as many organisations as we had contact with and circulated at the Regional Self-Advocates Conference in January 2008 – 12 returned

We asked 6 questions



Thank you to IC Jason Rhodes for making the questionnaires accessible and sending them out for me.



Where does the money for your advocacy group come from?



- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Social Services | 3 |
| 2. | LDDF | 5 |
| 3. | Local Authority | 1 |
| 4. | Charitable Trusts | 1 |
| 5. | Lottery | 1 |
| 6. | Fundraising | 2 |
| 7. | Service Level Agreement -
Health and Social Services | 1 |
| 8. | No funding | 1 |

How long is the money agreed for?



- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. 3 years | 3 |
| 2. November 2008 | 1 |
| 3. March 2008 | 1 |
| 4. April 2009 | 1 |
| 5. Unlimited | 2 |
| 6. Yearly | 2 |
| 7. No funding received | 1 |

How do you keep in touch with people?



- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Phone | 5 |
| 2. Meetings | 9 |
| 3. Website | 1 |
| 4. Letter | 7 |
| 5. Day Services/ visits | 5 |
| 6. Email | 4 |
| 7. Talking to people | 1 |

How do people join?



- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Events | 2 |
| 2. Leaflets | 1 |
| 3. Social Services tell people | 1 |
| 4. Facilitator | 2 |
| 5. Contact us | 5 |
| 6. Invite them/ come to meetings | 9 |
| 7. Word of mouth | 4 |

How could the Regional Task Force help your advocacy group?



- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|---|
| 1. | Give us/ get us more money | 3 |
| 2. | Information about money | 3 |
| 3. | Regional meetings | 1 |
| 4. | Come and see us | 1 |
| 5. | Keep in touch | 5 |
| 6. | Copies of minutes | 1 |
| 7. | Keep us up to date | 2 |
| 8. | Links | 2 |
| 9. | Invite us to come | 1 |
| 10. | Conferences/ training | 2 |
| 11. | Don't know | 1 |

Do you access a computer with email?

1. Yes 6
2. Yes via Support Worker 6



What does this tell us?



About money

- Mainly Local Authority funding
- Mainly 'funny money', time limited – but that's the voluntary sector for you!
- Only 2 groups reported they were actively looking for and secured other funding – lottery.



It is financially naive groups who need support to improve business approach to funding particularly – it is not wise to be reliant on one source of money especially when that source is the one you may come into conflict with.



What does this tell us?



About communication

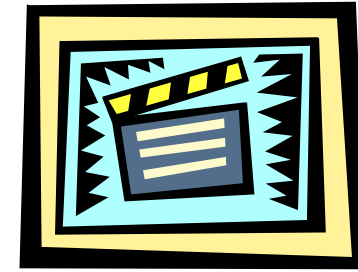
- Contact with people appears to be mainly through meetings with people already receiving services.
- Groups appear to be reliant on people approaching them.



There does not appear to be a 'marketing strategy' relating to the support such groups could give people locally.



What could we do?



About money



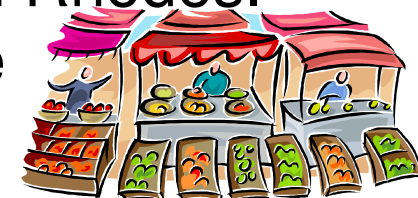
- Provide information about funding sources and encourage people to share what they have found and how they got it.
- Provide some training/ a conference about how to work as a business better.



About Communication



- All the groups had email, we will send them Regional Task Force minutes.
- We will publicise that the minutes are on the website if others want them through the Regional Forum and IC Jason Rhodes.
- Provide training/ a conference about marketing.





Thank you

To everyone who completed a questionnaire for us



To IC Jason Rhodes and Gary Barnes for their help in making the questionnaire accessible, mailing them out and being 'keeper of the papers' for me when they came back!

