

Happy New Year from everyone at North West Training & Development Team.



NW Self-Advocates Forum Conference (October 2005) report by Jason Rhodes, Conference Organiser...

Once again the time for a conference has returned and as expected everyone was feeling **athletic** in Oldham. The one-day conference was held at a hotel in Chadderton near Oldham and around 100 people attended which meant about 20 self advocacy organisations were represented.



The two themes for the day were

- The need for health care professionals to have disability awareness training
- Bullying

Jason Rhodes and Suzanne Marshall worked up a good partnership as co-hosts and warmed the delegates up before the first speaker Ibrar Riaz gave us a round up of what happened at the National Self Advocates Forum.

Next up was Mark Shrimpton from the Disability Rights Commission who told us about the commission and a recent project to look at part of the health service. This prompted a lively discussion with a lot of people sharing their personal experiences

Stop The Press

The date and venue for the next three day north west self advocates conference has just been agreed. It will take place at the Britannia Hotel, Standish, near Wigan and will run from Wednesday 3rd until Friday 5th March 2006. As we did at the last three day conference there will be two free places available per organisation (additional places available for a fee).

Full details and programme will be available soon but if you want to register your interest contact Jason Rhodes on jason.rhodes@nwttdt.com or give him a ring on 01254 306850.

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After a rather hectic lunch break the conference started on the second theme of the day 'Bullying'. This was started by a presentation on bullying from Hilary Duff from Oldham. After that the group started to share their experiences of bullying and everyone agreed that it needed to be stopped, FOREVER.



Picture courtesy of the Oldham Chronicle

The 'Truth About Me' drama group from Accrington performed a short play called 'No more bullying' which went down very well with the audience. Following on from this was the 'open mike' session where everyone got the chance to get a point of view across to all. Finally it was back to our co-hosts to round off the day and close the conference with hopeful and inspired speeches.

For further information about future conferences or the work of the NW Self Advocates Steering Group please contact Jason on jason.rhodes@nwttdt.com or on 01254 306850.

Step by Step = Brokerage at its Best



Step by Step

Step by Step is a small organisation who specialise in providing assistance to people to access,

plan and organise any support they need. The organisation was set-up at the end of 2003 and was born out of six or seven years of experience in brokerage gained in its sister organisation, Partners Foundation Ltd, with the aims of meeting the growing demand for self designed and directed services and to ensure there was no conflict of interest between Partners Foundation and those they work with and for.

Both organisations hold a deep-seated belief that by working in partnership, assisting people and organisations to be creative and innovative, they can find a solution to every problem. With the result that people really have control over their own lives. 'We are proud of

being one of the most experienced providers of brokerage in the North West and have a proven track record which many people with disabilities and their families will testify to.'

'Many families can and do arrange their own care but some need help navigating the many institutions they come into contact with. We have assisted people with issues that may seem small, like getting the bank to agree an account in the persons own name, to big issues like working with architects and builders to build peoples own dream house and find the funding to make it a reality.'

Step by Step are currently working in six boroughs in the North West

sharing best innovative development with others whilst still learning themselves. They passionately want to spread the experience and knowledge they have gained and have designed training and mentoring systems to share their skills. 'We don't want to corner the market or make brokerage a mystical thing that only a few can do. We are working to make it available to all and the first choice of those who need support to be fully involved citizens.'

Step by Step are also involved in the development of the national In Control project and are excited about the growing strength of self directed support approaches in current government guidance.



Should you wish to contact Step by Step you can give them a ring on 01706 357711 or by e-mailing believe@livingnetwork.org.uk or through their forums on www.livingnetwork.org.uk .



Posture Care

Plans are underway to improve access to good posture care support in the North West with finance secured to facilitate the training of the first posture care tutor by PCSP (UK) Ltd www.posturalcareskills.com

A bid has been submitted to the DfES to secure further funding to develop a North West infrastructure that will support the development of services across the region to offer training opportunities to families and direct support staff working and caring for anyone with movement difficulties. If the bid is successful the NWTDT will work in partnership with PCSP (UK) Ltd to develop services, the DfES will announce successful bids in January 2006.

UK Health and Learning Disability Network

The UK Health and Learning Disability Network transferred from the NWTDT to its new host organisation the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities www.fpld.org.uk on the 1st October.

Anyone interested in joining the network can do so by going to this link www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/page.cfm?pagecode=FBFM

The invitation to join is an open one to anyone with an interest in health and learning disability issues.

Janet Cobb now works part time as the network co-ordinator for the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities and part time as the health lead with the NWTDT and can be contacted on jcobb@fpld.org.uk or janet.cobb@nwttdt.com

Children and young people with complex and continuing health care needs

An event took place in October to raise awareness of young people with complex and continuing health care issues and to facilitate some thinking in relation to individualized budgets and this group of people many of whom are dependant on medical technology.

This is a new group of people who are coming into adult services who wouldn't have survived before the 1980's because the medical technology and expertise to support them wasn't available.

About half of this population have learning disabilities (we think! as no research has been done on this) and in 2000 there were about 6000 children across England, many of whom will be moving into adult services over the next five years.

Draft three year strategic plan for adults with learning disabilities 2006 - 2009: consultation

On 23rd November 2005, the Healthcare Commission started a consultation for its draft three year plan for adults with learning disabilities. The plan aims to promote much needed improvement to the health and healthcare of people with learning disabilities in England over the next three years. The feedback from people who use services, family carers and learning disability organisations will be incorporated into the final three year strategy, which aims to raise awareness of the needs of people with learning disabilities and will help them to change their experiences of health services.

To download the draft three year strategic plan for assessing and encouraging improvement in the health and healthcare of adults with learning disabilities 2006-2009 go to

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/assetRoot/04/02/16/28/04021628.pdf



To download the easy read version of the draft three year strategic plan for adults with learning disabilities 2006-2009 go to

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/assetRoot/04/02/16/29/04021629.pdf

If you would like to give your views on this draft plan, please download the questionnaire from

www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/assetRoot/04/02/16/30/04021630.pdf

and return by 31st January 2006 to:

Learning Disability Consultation
Healthcare Commission
Freepost LON15399
London
EC1B 1QW

Oldhamers In Control



Oldham adult services are embracing the In Control model throughout all areas of the service. The Oldham In Control Steering Group is leading a pilot – spreading the word and collating stories and feelings as we go along.

'We are currently piloting the Resource Allocation System document (available, along with other useful information and resources on the www.in-control.org.uk) with our care management teams and feeding back to the national In Control team on how it feels.

We have started In Control with people currently in receipt of services who have indicated a wish to have more control over their own lives and a desire to change their present circumstances. We have started deconstructing supported houses and enabling individuals to take their entitlement and use the In Control model to gain control of their own lives. This is leading 215 individuals, who are currently using a Direct Payment, to pay for services to move over to the In Control model again facilitating them to use their entitlement more flexibly and more creatively.'

Oldham are developing a toolkit / information pack to give people the confidence to take the lead down the In Control route and as Oldham has been chosen as one of the local authorities in the Individualised Budget Payments pilot with the Department of Health, we have developed an Individualised Budget Payment Agreement which will be applied for the pilot scheme and also for 'In Control'. These two documents when completed will be available to other local authorities to share in our experience.

We have also been successful in securing £80,000 to invest in a brokerage firm to broker for people in Oldham. This will boost the process; the knowledge and experience then being dispersed further and further, empowering more and more people to gain back control over their own lives.

The aim in Oldham is that everyone will be invited to become involved in the development of a new service system through a series of working groups in the first quarter of 2006. After April 2006, everyone coming to review or newly eligible for service in Oldham will complete the self assessment - online if they prefer. By April 2007 everyone eligible for a service will have

completed the self assessment. All these people will know their personal entitlement/ individualised budget payment and will then be able to design their own service - through In Control.

Oldham believes that the best person to design a service is the individual who is eligible for it: a truly person centred way of service delivery. In Control is the model that can make this happen for the people of Oldham.

Minister, Liam Byrnes – announced from Oldham on Monday 21st Nov, that Oldham MBC along with 12 other sites in England had been successful in leading the pilots for individualised budgets for the DOH. This brings approx £200k to Oldham to help in the full implementation of individualised budgets for all adults and older people receiving social care in Oldham.

For further information about 'Oldhamers in Control' contact any of the following: Viv Slater, Karen Saville, Angi Hammond, Donna Aspinall on 0161 911 3868.



Jobs that Work - Joined up thinking, joined up working! A conference report by Lynn James-Jenkinson

On the 18th November NWTDT, Breakthrough UK, First Steps, Valuing People, NIMHE and the Department of Work and Pensions came together with 70 people from across the region to look at the issue of employment and share some good news stories and policy guidance.



The purpose of the conference was to develop a wider understanding of the issues that get in the way of supporting people into real work through -

- Setting the scene in the North West
- Highlighting good practice
- Planning to make a real difference
- Providing an opportunity for networking and information sharing

We had a number of speakers including Sue Boddy (VPST) who talked about the 'Valuing People Employment Programme', Lorraine Gradwell (Breakthrough UK) talking about 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People', Simon Francis (DWP/ NIMHE Social Inclusion) about 'Ideal Employment Situations', Karen Flood (First Step) & Natalie Markham (Liverpool) talking about self employment, Lorraine Gradwell (Greater Manchester) talking about her experiences of 'Strategic Links between Supported Employment Partnership Board sub-groups and Strategic Employment Partnership' and Julie Stansfield (In Control) about 'Using an Individualised Budget to support people into employment'.

The participants worked in tables of regional groupings with Lancashire/Cumbria, Greater Manchester and

Cheshire/Merseyside each developing a PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) for their area in order to identify the actions delegates were going to take together locally. These are in the process of being photographed and put on the NWTDT website.

The whole day was recorded using graphics – thanks Jim – this too is in the process of being photographed so that we can put this on the website (www.nwttdt.com).

The 70 places available for the event were snapped up within 2 weeks of being advertised and nearly 40 people put their names on the reserve list. Clearly employment is a big issue for people in the North West and this is reflected in the Valuing People agenda and in the priorities identified by the Self Advocate National Task Force too.

Delegates on the day told us they would like the following support in the future to support them implement the actions they had identified in the PATH's they developed:

- More opportunities to network, particularly with Learning Skills Council, Connexions, colleges etc.
- Mailing lists of people working/interested in this field
- More information about good practice and practical support from each other
- Regular up to date information and ideas, particularly around policy direction
- Success stories

The NWTDT is intending to develop an employment section on our website shortly (where the PATH's and Graphics from the day will be posted). This will allow an exchange of information/questions/stories and allows networking with each other across the region.

- Support to get employment on the agenda for Partnership Boards across the region

The Regional Task Force will be informed of the desire for this to be seen as a priority across the region in relation to Partnership Boards and events.

- More Benefits guidance

Check out the Valuing People website at www.valuingpeople.gov.uk, lots of information regarding benefits and employment is available through this



- More information about using Direct Payments/ individual budget guidance

Oldham and Manchester have been chosen to pilot Individual Budgets within the North West, it will be interesting to look at how colleagues in these areas use this to support people into employment. Any information will be shared via the Employment Section of the NWTDT website when this is established early in the New Year. In addition at least nine local authorities in the North West are looking at individualising budgets through involvement with In Control, again any information will be posted on the website.

The Regional Task Force and NWTDT Commissioning Group will be agreeing the priorities for 2006/ 2007 over the next few months, these will be published in a future edition of the newsletter.

For more information about future employment developments keep an eye on the website www.nwtdt.com or contact Lynn James-Jenkinson on lynn.james-jenkinson@nwtdt.com. If you have any suggestions or contributions for the NWTDT website around employment please send them to Phil Palmer on phil.palmer@nwtdt.com.



Family Leadership Development Team

The Valuing People Support Team has recently recruited a team of four co-ordinators to work on developing family leadership. One of the new co-ordinators is the NWTDT's very own Lynne Elwell who will continue to work for the team part time as well as meeting the challenges of her new role.

The four co-ordinators are:

Lynne Elwell – who has led the development of Partners in Policymaking and other successful courses in the North West and beyond.



Developing Family Leadership

Background

Families of persons with disabilities need the chance to build their knowledge, skills and confidence to influence changes in services effectively. The task can be tough – families have often spent decades fighting for the best for their family member, and to take the job on for others can be equally frustrating and tiring at times. So as well as developing skills and knowledge about policy, family leadership courses and networks can bring families together and give them strength through their support for each other. There have been many family led initiatives, which have made a real difference, influencing changes locally and nationally. One of the best known is 'Partners in Policymaking'. The Department of Health and the Valuing People Support Team have helped these kinds of courses develop and spread. One example is through the support of 'Academies' that developed a few years ago, where teams came together to learn how to establish leadership courses in their local area.

The new Family Leadership Development Co-ordinators will use their time to find a few local areas where family leadership is starting to develop and give people help to build on this, according to what works best for them. They will help local people develop the kind of education, training and supports they want to build a network of families who can continue to affect governmental policies. They will work with local groups to get funding and resources so that local programmes can continue to develop.



Molly Mattingly and Christine Burke – who have a long history of working with families and of helping services change. They work for the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities.



Ali Mohammed – who has a social work background and who will help us make sure what we develop is fully inclusive of families from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Cally Ward from the Valuing People Support Team will manage the team.

Tel: 0133 535 0188

Mobile: 0778 965 3178

Email: Cally.ward@dh.gsi.gov.uk



Pauline White from the Valuing People Support Team will provide admin support for the team

Tel: 0117 984 1799

Email: Pauline.white@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Network Meetings	Dates	Arranged By
Health & Social Care Leads Meeting	1 st Mar 06, Harris Park	Joint VPST/NWTDT
Day Service Modernisation Leads Network	16 th Jan 06, NWTDT Office 7 th Mar 06, NWTDT Office	NWTDT
Day Service – Alternative to Special Care Units (Network)	2 nd Mar 06, NWTDT Office	NWTDT
Regional Trainers Network	13 th Feb 06, Globe, Acc	NWTDT
PCP Network	1 st Feb 06, Hough End	VPST
Transitions Network	7 th Feb 06, Glaxo, Lpool	NWTDT Commissioned by VPST
Effective Participation Network	10 th Mar 06, NWTDT Office	NWTDT
NW Regional Taskforce	21 st Mar 06, Harris Park	NWTDT Commissioned by VPST
NW Family Forum	15 th Feb 06, Wigan	NWTDT Commissioned by VPST
Self Advocacy Conference	1 st – 3 rd Mar 06, Wigan	Self Advocates Forum

Say Hello Wave Goodbye!

Many of you will by now have heard about changes to the Valuing People Support Team. Martin Routledge, who has been Regional Advisor for the North West since the start of the VPST four years ago, is moving on to an exciting new role leading work on self directed support across the new Care Services Improvement Partnership (of which VPST is now a part). In this role Martin will continue to chair the board of the In Control programme. In Control has had a big impact on policy and the government has decided to run a national Individual Budgets pilot programme between 2006-8. This will take place in 13 local authority areas, including two in the region - Oldham and Manchester. Reflecting the early work in our region, Liam Byrne, minister in the Department of Health and Phil Woolas, minister from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, launched the programme recently in Oldham. Martin will have responsibility for the team helping the 13 sites to implement individual budgets. Another area of Martin's work will be to help CSIP as a whole to build its work in the area of self directed support. Martin has worked in the North West for many



years, the last ten with NWTDT and VPST. He is very keen to keep linked to the people and energy in the NW which will be vital in the drive toward true citizenship for all people.



We are very fortunate that Julie Stansfield, until recently Director of the NWTDT, will be taking on the VPST regional advisor role until the end of 2005/6 on a half-time basis. As well as continuing the VPST programme, Julie will lead work to set up the post 2006 arrangements for the Valuing People development programme. The programme will be jointly commissioned by CSIP and NWTDT subscribers and delivered for the region by the NWTDT. Julie will continue with her role as Deputy Director of In Control on a half time basis and bring her experience and expertise on self directed support to her new role. After April 2006 there will continue to be a Valuing People Regional Advisor working within CSIP, ensuring that the work of the new partnership reflects learning disability priorities.

Anyway - enough of the formal stuff - in the New Year, when you have recovered from Christmas, Martin and Julie will be having a Say Hello Wave Goodbye party - watch out for the date...

New tsar with learning disabilities to be appointed



The Department of Health is to appoint a new 'tsar' with learning disabilities. They will work alongside the current National Director for Learning Disabilities Rob Greig. As part of their role, the new tsar will co-chair, with Rob Greig, the Learning Disabilities Taskforce.

National Director for Learning Disabilities, Rob Greig said: "Appointing a person with learning disabilities to this salaried role is a significant step forward. I hope other organisations follow our lead and employ people with learning disabilities at the highest possible level."

Minister Liam Byrne spoke at the Learning Disabilities Today conference in November and confirmed that £40m would continue to be identified for people with Learning Disabilities through the Learning Disability Development Fund, which will be kept in its present form until at least March 2008.

Minister Liam Byrne said: "To make sure that we are looking after each other in society, we have to weave a web of care around the individual. We have an ambitious agenda for people with learning disabilities and are determined that they will have more choice and independence in their lives."

As part of the change to his role, from 1 April 2006, Rob Greig will hand over the management of the Valuing People Support Team (VPST) to the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP), where the VPST are based.

CSIP has appointed a new 'National Programme Lead' for learning disabilities to champion the learning disability agenda within their organisation. Sue Carmichael and Debra Moore, both currently Regional Advisors within the VPST, will job share this role.

These changes bring the learning disability programme in line with other teams, such as those for older people, mental health and children, who have a dedicated National Director in addition to senior people leading the change programme through CSIP.

Rob Greig said: "These moves will allow for more senior leadership capacity around Valuing People and more resources to help the Learning Disability Task Force take its work forward."

Richard Humphries, Chief Executive of CSIP said "People with learning disabilities face similar challenges to other people in society. They want access to good healthcare, paid work, quality housing and to be respected by the community as a whole. Bringing the VPST in to CSIP will help us to achieve these things."

Getting to know you, The 60 seconds challenge – Lynn James-Jenkinson, Director, NWTDT



In April 2005 Lynn took up her role as team Director. Lynn's main work interest at present involves looking at ways of supporting real community connections and developing real local partnerships with all providers ...

Who has been the biggest influence on your work life?

A young man I worked with called Chris who was the same age as me and who had lived all his life at Cranage, Chris taught me about the importance of family, patience and tolerance of those around you who 'talk the talk' and haven't really got it yet. Chris is just one of the many people who have taught me how to do my job in the past and hopefully I'll never stop learning.

What is your most treasured possession?

A St Christopher necklace I bought for my Gran with my first months salary and which I got back after she passed away – she had said she didn't know why I wanted it because it was only a cheap thing, I replied I knew that I had bought it! I remember this conversation every time I look at it and laugh.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Visiting family in Spain – as often as I can (its not for the good cheap wine from the Bodega honestly!)

Which words or phrases do you most over-use?

You can eat an elephant one bite at a time – blame Anne Wells (Partners Foundation!)

What do you most value in your friends?

Honesty

What is your motto or word that mean a lot to you?

Mum - when my kids say it to me and when I say it to mine.

What is your favourite cheese?

Stilton

What is your favourite piece of music?

The Pogues – Fairytale of New York

What is your favourite film?

Armageddon – I know the script and still cry

What book are you reading at the moment?

Arbella, 'England's Lost Queen' - Sarah Gristwood

Sue's Lemon Cake

(Makes a 7 inch cake)

4oz/100g butter
6oz/175g caster sugar
2 eggs
4 tbsp milk
Grated rind of 1 lemon
6oz/175g self raising flour

Topping

Juice of half a lemon
3 tbsp icing sugar



Grease a 7in/19cm cake tin and line with greaseproof paper.

Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy.

Beat the eggs with milk and gradually beat into creamed mixture.

Add the lemon rind and flour and mix well then turn into a prepared tin and spread level.

Put the cake in a cold oven and bake at 190C/375F, gas mark 5, for 40-45 mins until well risen and golden brown.

Remove cake from tin and pierce all over with a skewer.

Mix lemon juice and icing sugar to a smooth paste and pour over cake.

Best served cold.

If you have any comments or suggestion for future issues then please let me know.

Phil Palmer, NWTDT
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St James Square
Accrington, BB5 0RE

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phil.palmer@nwttdt.com

Getting Shirty?

You've seen the conference, now buy the t-shirt. This piece of Forum history can be yours for only £12.00. If you are interested in buying a top quality t-shirt please contact Jason Rhodes on 01254 306850 or at jason.rhodes@nwttdt.com

