

ADVOCACY LEADS

Leeds
Advocacy

THE NEWSLETTER OF LEEDS ADVOCACY
JUNE 2010 –ISSUE 19

“Speaking out for people with learning disabilities ...”

Joint Advocacy Review

The Joint Advocacy Review of Advocacy Services in Leeds has been presented to Leeds commissioners. The review was jointly conducted by *Leeds Council and NHS Leeds together with Advonet (formerly Advocacy Network Leeds)*. *Leeds Advocacy has been actively involved in the review as one of the key players. We have consulted service users and engaged in the focus groups.*

The need for the review was identified in a CSCI inspection of older people services in Leeds and the wider review of safeguarding for adults, resulting in the recommendations in the Adult Social Care ‘Independence, Well Being & Choice Inspection Action Plan’. Recommendation 13 of the action plan stated that **“the council should build on the wide availability of advocacy services by specifying and focusing the circumstances in which it should be used to empower people”**.

The report recognises that advocacy is a key element in delivering the Personalisation agenda and in supporting effective safeguarding of adults. The review’s main aim was to look at advocacy Services in Leeds currently receiving statutory funding, including a mapping of the wider advocacy organisations. This was to support implementation of the above recommendation and to inform future advocacy services commissioning decisions.

Several consultations were undertaken with advocacy service users and the advocacy provider organisations and with other stakeholders. Twenty organisations who deliver some form advocacy and are associate members of Advonet and another ten who provided independent advocacy were invited; this included Leeds Advocacy and Articulate Advocacy.

Recommendations

- 1) The need for advocacy is clear - NHS Leeds and Adult Social Care to take note of the list of service provision gaps identified in the process of this project, and establish a work stream between NHS Leeds, Adult Social Care, the Advocacy Providers (and their service users) and Advonet in order to begin to address those gaps and to identify priorities for investment/disinvestment across Leeds.
some of the priorities identified.
- 2) To complete the mapping of funding of advocacy services. Including source of funding i.e. by Leeds City Council (specific to each Directorate), NHS Leeds and any other funding sources. To clarify
... contd over the page

Leep1 Office Opens for Business

Leeds People First have opened the new Leep1 office. Leep1 is a new company run and managed by and for people with learning disabilities with support from Articulate Advocacy. People First have formed an advisory council for this new project.

Leep1 is about self advocacy work, where people with learning disabilities speak up and do things for themselves. They will be offering jobs, opportunities and experiences for adults with learning disabilities as the traditional day centres close.



The Leep1 office base is located in the Unity Business Centre and is currently open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (more days to be added later). You can contact them on 113 243 9477 or email manager@leep1.co.uk.



Leeds Advocacy Fun Run, Walk or Wheel



A big thank you to everyone who came along to help out, take part or support the event.

We had a wonderful sunny day on Sunday 23rd May for the 44 participants who completed the 2k walk and wheel around the spectacular blooming rhododendrons and the walled rose garden, or the 5k cross country run, which took us up lots of hills along the avenue and through the woods full of bluebells. It was a fantastic family fun day and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, many staying around for a picnic or ice-cream afterwards. The first person past the finish line for the walk and wheel race was George Long, and Andrew Lee won the runners race.



Sponsor money is still coming in, so if you still need to collect your money from your sponsors, then please let us have it as soon as possible. So far to date we have raised over £1,000 which will go towards the new website design and build.

We hope to make this an annual event so if you were not able to join us this year then hopefully you can

join in 2011.

Still on the subject of running races, Michael Long's niece Helen Wilson is going to be taking part in 2 big national races to raise money for Leeds Advocacy. She is taking part in the Sunderland 10k on July 18th and then later on she will run the Great North Run on 19th September



Helen, 31, has no previous running experience and is in the early stages of training. She will be updating her blog regularly with details of her training aches and pains. As she now lives in

Northumberland, she will be training on country roads braving the potholes, wind and rain as she does so. You can read her blog through http://widdrington.journalive.co.uk/helen_wilson/

Michael Long is one of Leeds Advocacy's first advocacy partners and said he has benefited enormously from citizen advocacy support over the years. Helen wanted to help raise funds for the service, as well as raise awareness of the fantastic work it does in enabling adults with learning difficulties to fully engage with their community and with the services available to them. If you would like to sponsor Helen then please contact Karen in the Leeds Advocacy office and she can put you in touch with her.

Contd from front page ...

- whether the service is grant funded or by contract and to identify length of contract and expiry dates.
- 3) A clear service specification to be developed for each of the advocacy services receiving funding from NHS Leeds and/or Adult Social Care and a service level agreement put in place.
 - 4) That the "mapping" exercise be used to update the outdated Advonet advocacy directory, which can then be disseminated to the Advonet membership, the Community and voluntary sector and to Health and Social Care staff.
 - 5) That the Advocacy Network Leeds Standards be revised and updated to reflect the national developments so that there is an agreed definition of advocacy within Leeds as a whole.
 - 6) That the NHS and Adult Social Care negotiate and utilise the current resources held by Advonet in order to raise awareness amongst Health and Social Care professionals and to disseminate resources widely within these organisations.
 - 7) That the NHS and Adult Social Care work with Advonet to deliver appropriate training to their key staff including potentially electronic based training.

Importantly with the co-operation of Adult Social Care at Leeds Council and NHS Leeds the report as been accepted quite positively by commissioners.

New Drop-In Service

In an attempt to reach some of the people from South Leeds who have been on the citizen advocacy waiting list for a long time, we have run a couple of pilot drop-in sessions at the Belle Isle Family Centre.

Hopefully this will become a regular service which will be run by volunteers, and if it works out then we shall start similar services somewhere in North Leeds later in the summer. If you would be interested in joining the team of volunteer advocates then contact Katie or Mitali in the office for the next information sessions.

Published by

LEEDS ADVOCACY

Unit A4, 26 Roundhay Road, Leeds LS7 1AB
 Tel: (0113) 244 0606 Fax: (0113) 224 0178
 E-mail: office@leedsadvocacy.org.uk
 Web: www.leedsadvocacy.org.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Leeds Advocacy is a company limited by guarantee; registered in England and Wales, No 2533285, and a registered charity; No 1000375, founded in 1989.

Copyright © Leeds Advocacy 2010 unless otherwise indicated