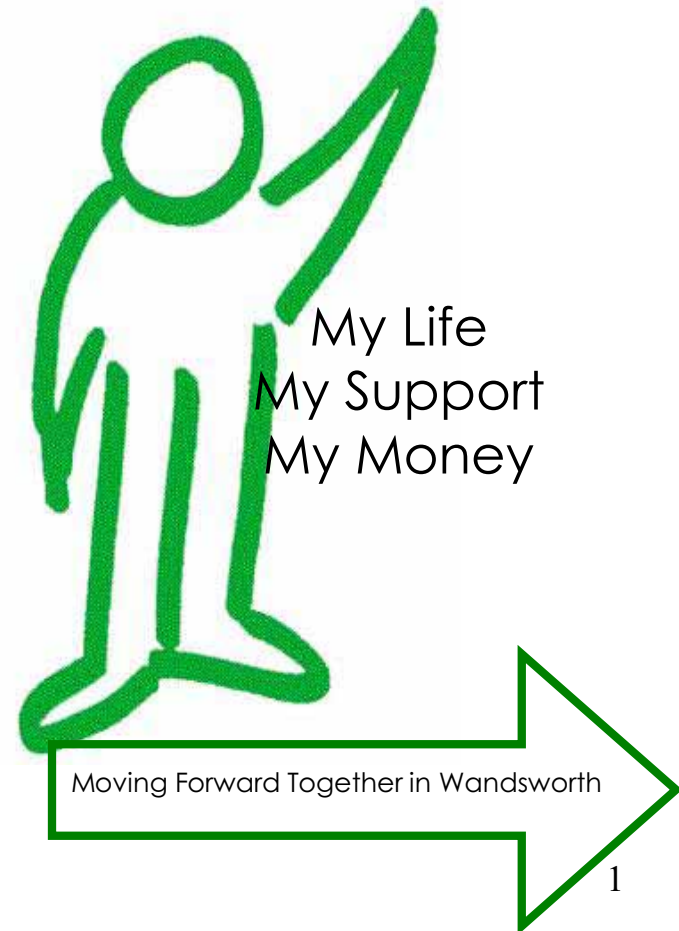


The Wandsworth Vision

Shaping Future Opportunities and Support for PEOPLE with Learning Disabilities in Wandsworth.



On July 19th 2007 a workshop was facilitated to share local success stories and share the vision for **Shaping Future Opportunities and Support for PEOPLE with Learning Disabilities in Wandsworth**.



Over 50 people attended. There were people with learning disabilities, staff from a range of services and carers. The event was interactive with people having time to share stories and ideas for working together towards a better future for people with learning disabilities.

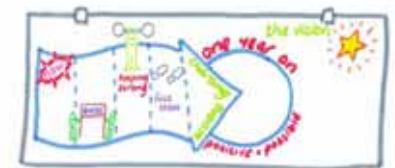


The following pages give:

- details of the Strategy
- a record of the discussion and ideas for action from the day
- information about the new Website.



What next? Now all the ideas will be presented to the Partnership Board and the Strategic Implementation Group so a plan of action can be agreed. Next year we will all meet again to see what has actually happened to improve the opportunities and support for people with learning disabilities.



Path

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The strategic vision for Wandsworth is based on a commitment to person centeredness in terms of four aspirations or principals. In all we do we should be ensuring that:



Individuality:

Each person needing support is regarded as a unique individual with her/his own strengths, aspirations and needs

In Control:

As far as possible, each person should have the opportunities and support to take control of their life.

Inclusion:

As far as possible, these opportunities should be in the mainstream of life together with fellow, and mostly non-disabled, citizens

Equality:

These opportunities and support should seek to reduce the inequalities between disabled and other citizens (as the new disability equality duty requires)

Moving Towards 2012 in Wandsworth

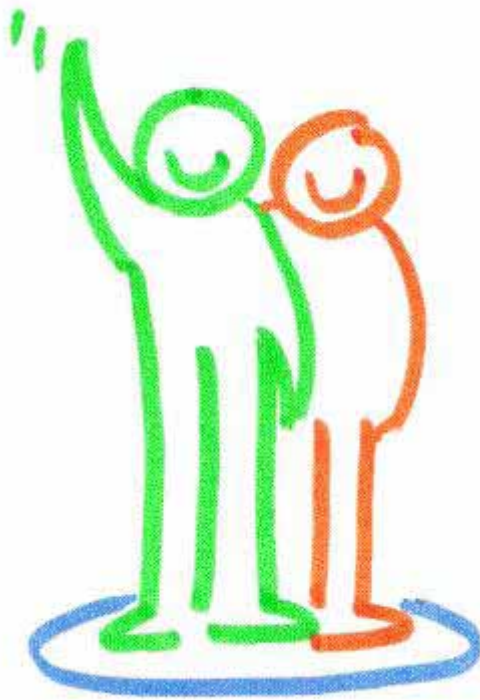


Local Successes Over the Last Year

The creation of an advocacy project!

With support from a keyworker a person got a new G.P. and moved house

Support to an individual throughout her divorce and the start of her realising her own self-worth.



New referrals treated as individuals and not just being pushed into services

Better symbol software to assist communication

The creation of the Project Manager post for the strategy.

Good travel training and opportunities for work experience

A Travel Buddies Project will start soon!

A young woman with learning difficulties is training to be a part-time youth worker.

People with learning disabilities are being listened to more.

Professionals are Communicating more.

A new medication (Buccal Midazolam) is improving life for some people with epilepsy.

MORE Local Successes

A leaflet to give info to young people in transition has been created

People with learning difficulties have run training for nurses at St George's

A series of workshops for parents approaching their child's transition from school facilitated by Contact A Family

Training by self-advocates continues at the Dept of Psychiatry of Disability at St George's

On going supporting practice at St Mary's

A social skills group facilitated jointly by the Health Team and Generate

Joint work between the Joan Bicknell team and the Children and Families Team.

Supporting a person's family to let go and allow more independence and to feel happy doing so.

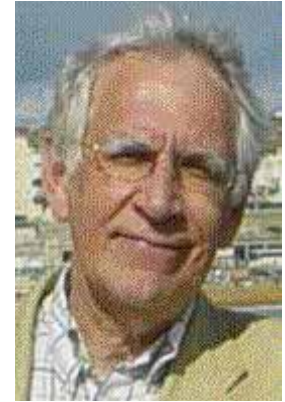
Increased support to people with complex needs at Atheldene through improved links with the health team.



WE ARE SUCCESSFUL WHEN:

REFLECTIONS ON MAKING PROGRESS IN WANDSWORTH

Reflecting on these 21 stories, David Towell, the 'My Life' Champion in the local strategy, identified some of the key lessons for achieving further success.



- We start from an **inspiring vision** of how people with learning disabilities can be part of the life of our communities, having the support to pursue their dreams and make a contribution.

This vision is best expressed in the good stories we heard of individuals growing in self-confidence, making their own choices, learning new skills and getting better lives.

- We invest in helping people and families gain a **strong voice** in shaping local opportunities and listen carefully to what they have to say.

For example, starting young, we are making real progress in helping young people and their families explore what they can achieve as adults, as in the 'Dynamite' initiative.

- We combine our efforts to make progress **one person at a time**, tailoring new opportunities and support to each individual.

So we heard some good stories of individuals facing big challenges in their own lives and getting one-to-one assistance over a period to 'move on' to better things.

- We collaborate with mainstream agencies to **open up opportunities** in services we all use.

So as well as people getting real jobs, we talked about using public transport and getting good health care.

- We work hard to **develop our own skills** so as to be more effective in meeting new aspirations.

Good examples here are the investment in communication training, teamwork among health and social care professionals to better serve people with complex needs and the role people with learning disabilities are themselves taking in training mainstream professionals (e.g. at St. George's) to serve everyone better.

- We take time out to **learn from elsewhere** about what might be good to develop in Wandsworth.

So we heard a story from Lambeth of accessible ways of mapping what's available in local services and another from Greenwich of how people are making use of mainstream leisure facilities.



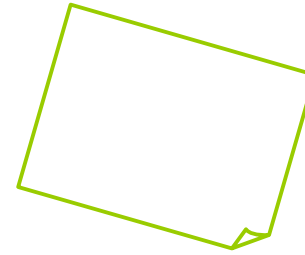


The stories also helped us see how the **bigger picture** is taking shape in Wandsworth, enabling us to build on all these examples so as to move things forward for lots of people with learning disabilities and families. The key elements in this bigger picture are:

- Investment in **strengthening local leadership** (for example through the Champions and new senior appointments to implement the strategy).
- Clarification of how different elements of the strategy **fit together** (as in the 'Moving Towards 2012' diagram earlier in this report).
- Leadership commitment to **testing all future activities and proposals against** whether they best meet the **four strategy principles** of Individuality, In Control, Inclusion and Equality (also defined earlier in this report).
- The widespread commitment (encouraged by workshops like this one) that – whether we are taking small steps or larger ones – working together **we can make a big difference** in people's lives across the Borough.



Ideas for Action and Headlines



For the next part of the day people were asked work in one of six groups which would focus on the six areas detailed in the chart on page 5. People were free to select the area which most interested them.

The groups were then given 45 minutes to decide what headlines they would like to see in a news bulletin in Wandsworth in 1 years time and to suggest the key steps we need to take to achieve these.

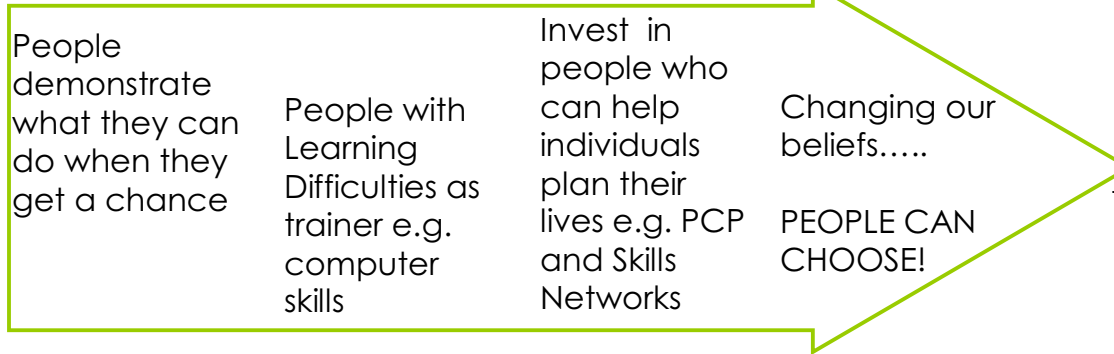
These ideas will contribute to the development of the project work plan for 2007 - 2008.



The following pages are a record of the work of each group

Putting People in Control.

Likely Steps to desired



2008 Headlines

Lots more people are listened to and supported to choose the life they want for themselves.



More disabled people having a real say in Wandsworth policy making.. 'Having Our Say'



BIG CHANGES e.g. Roehampton Hostel used to help individuals each get the life they want.

Opening Up the Community.

Likely Steps to desired

2008 Headlines

Negotiating better rates/charges

Working with self-advocates develop training for staff/managers in mainstream services.

Set up befriending/ buddy scheme so people don't always need paid support to access mainstream activity.

Leisure Opportunities for ALL in Wandsworth

Build awareness in schools to reduce bullying, increase understanding and acceptance - develop good volunteering for 6th formers as part of citizenship.

Build links between parents of both learning disabled and non learning disabled parents with informal settings for parents to share experiences of 'letting go'.

Finding friends in School

Find out how Lambeth Map was developed to give ideas

Use local talent to design

Seek sponsorship from local business

Launch of Wandsworth's Community Map

Strengthening the Voice of People and Families.

Likely Steps to desired

2008 Headlines

More choice in Day Activity, Housing and Travel

People with Learning Difficulties may have different aims and wishes from their families who may fear taking risks. Advocacy professionals to have more contact with families.

Allie gets her flat and cooks her first meal!

Fred gets more help at night to live independently

Travel trainer champions 10 independent travellers

Self-advocates and families/carers talking, listening and problem solving together. MORE ADVOCATES!

Wandsworth invests £250k in Advocacy

People get the kind of housing they want and need

Self - Advocates celebrate victory as ribbon is cut on the new lift at Clapham Junction 14

Having a Good Place to Live

Likely Steps to desired

2008 Headlines

Being BOLDER - taking risks

More choice and PCP support

- Enough support v over protector
- Engage with specialist organisations who support people to get own homes.
- Work with community
- Raising standards of existing care homes where standards are 3 or 4 (should be 1 or 2)

Clear guidelines and e-forms

More information /advice ideas about housing opportunities
Identify people who can live more independently - PCP

Get rid of Social Work waiting list

Learning Disability services to work more closely with Housing
Filling in gaps for people with changing needs
e.g. dementia, mental health problems

Some people with learning disabilities have the opportunity to part own their own home.

20 more flats for people with Learning Disabilities

A number of people with complex needs move back to Wandsworth to be closer to their families.

Health and Wellbeing

Likely Steps to desired

- Implement hospital passports
- Provide information pre-admission in accessible format
- Staff induction
- Training
- Flagging up system (notification of patients needs)
- Before and after staff experience of effectiveness of above

2008 Headlines

Survey shows that patient satisfaction of hospital experiences at St George's is exceptional

- Network of Education and Training resources from local business partners
- Network with transport providers
- Survey clients for leisure preferences
- Business case to expand exercise practitioners role in Wandsworth
- Survey before and after user experiences

Wandsworth comes up with 'Freedom Pass' to Leisure Centre Facilities for People with Learning Disabilities

- Health facilitator starting in post
- Identification of people with LD on GP registers
- Support for people to use/access services
- Improved outcomes (more patients using services they need and want)

Record number of people with learning disabilities using community health services

Having Good Opportunities Outside of the Home

Likely Steps to desired

- Council embraces individual budgets for all
- Business leaders/businesses involved in development and offered training /info regarding how they can capitalise on purchasing power of individuals, therefore making money.
- Economic Development and Employment Officers, not Social Services staff, to help set up social enterprise or support people into workforce.
- Wandsworth SS and Health commit to employing people with Learning Disabilities.

- Work with families and staff re: supporting friendships and relationships
- Give people guidance re: relationships, sexuality etc. Not social services unless protection issues

- Person centred plans/profiles/my life documents etc etc

2008 Headlines

Wandsworth employs people with learning disabilities...50 people in f/t employment.....30 people stop using services and access the mainstream....the community becomes more welcoming and accessible.

Dating Agency a Great Success!
24hr service available to people who want to enjoy late nights out with friends.

♦ Team of co-trainers outsourced
♦ People supported to live full lives
♦ Self-Advocate challenges over privacy breach.

My LIFE My WORLD

At the end of the day a new Website developed by people in Wandsworth for people in Wandsworth was launched.

The aim of the Website is to ensure:

- good communication
- the sharing of ideas and stories
- images are available to improve the quality of accessible information.

The communication task group supported by the Communication Champion, Meryl Young, have worked hard over the past 2 years to the Website a reality.

Thanks to everyone for your hard work and commitment!



We were very pleased that Cllr Vanessa Graham attended the workshop and presented the awards to the self-advocates who designed the logo and created the name for the Website

NOW.....
Why not have a look at the Website at

www.mylifemyworld.info

Commitment Cards.....



Carry on with offering workshops and help people develop within themselves.

Being updated by the strategic implementation group at future meetings

Raise profile of people with LD locally/nationally.

Become more involved in group/partnership working.

Ensure people we support have person centred plans

Lead the move for people supported to access opportunities beyond services

Continue involvement with the Website development.

Continue to attend group, support around health issues e.g. MH

Act as a link nurse to roll this out to other wards. Anything else to help.

Strengthening self-advocacy groups to speak up for others.

Planning how to do this; supporting a growing network of PCP facilitators

Join partnership board and work with community /acute group.

Support the Facilitation of the Strategy

Lead health project.

To continue acting as a Champion

I would like to be kept informed.

At the end of the day people were asked to complete commitment cards. We have a record of these and will be in touch with people.

This page summarises some of the commitments.

Moving Forward Together in Wandsworth towards 2008

This event was the first of what will become an **annual event** to celebrate the progress of the strategy for shaping the future opportunities and support for people with Learning Disabilities in Wandsworth.

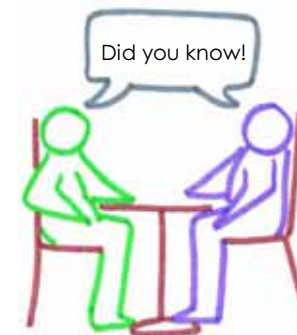
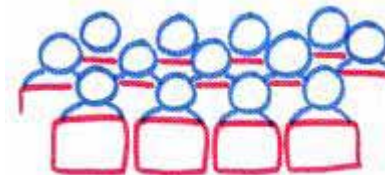
The stories and ideas for action from the day will be presented at the **Partnership Board** and the **Strategic Implementation Group (SIG)**. Where an action plan for the next year will be developed and approved. The Project Manager, Sally Warren, will then support the implementation of the plan over the next year.

You can keep involved and informed by:

- actively being involved in one of the task groups
- looking at the Project News section of the Website www.mylifemyworld.info
- reading the bi-monthly newsletter
(please send your e-mail address to swarren@wandsworth.gov.uk)
- attending the lunchtime workshops to be held on the last Friday of each month between 12 & 2pm at Platform 1
- attending the next annual event to celebrate, report on progress and plan the next year.



Edwina Morris
Interim Assistant Director Adult Social Services



Keep in Touch

If you have any questions about this report or the strategy or if you would like to know how to get involved.



Please contact:

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