

# Valuing People Now Newsletter

for the West Midlands



**Issue 4**  
**Summer 2010**

## Coming up in Issue 4:

### **Celebrating Health**

People in Wolverhampton think about health and celebrate Learning Disability Week. [Page 5](#)

### **The Boy Who Opened Doors**

People with learning disabilities open a new show in Herefordshire. [Page 6](#)

### **Go WEST for Employment Support**

Warwickshire County Council launch new service. [Page 12](#)

**All of this and so much more inside...**

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# Welcome

## Editors Welcome

### A welcome note from Chris Sholl



Hello everyone, welcome to the latest Valuing People Now newsletter for the West Midlands.

A huge thank you to everybody who was involved in completing their Learning Disability Partnership Board annual report. Many people have told me that, although it was hard work, it was worth it. This is the first time that Learning Disability Partnership Boards have gathered information in this way to help them plan their priorities.



Members of the regional programme board have been visiting Learning Disability Partnership Boards to find out how they are doing, and tell them about the regional board. We hope you find these visits useful.



Since the last newsletter, we have a new Government and a new Minister, Paul Burstow. He has confirmed that employment, housing and health continue to be the priorities for people with learning disabilities. We know from the annual reports that there are good things happening, but still a lot more to do to.



I look forward to working with you to make this happen over the coming months.  
Best wishes, Chris

# Regional News

## Learn from the Past, Plan for the Future

### A different sort of X-Factor



In March this year BILD's (British Institute of Learning Disabilities) PAST Project – Personal Advocacy Story Telling – held the first of three consultation events. It was at the Nishkam Centre in Birmingham.



The events are called 'Personalisation and BAME communities - finding the X Factor'.

They are being held to find out why people from Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic communities do not access personal budgets. Lots of useful activities took place during the event.



There were talks from:

- Naomie Madden from Grapevine - they are working with young people from Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic communities in transition.
- Sirraaj Nadat - he told his personal story. Video recordings of Sirraaj and other peoples stories will be put on to the BILD website soon.
- Keith Smith - he gave a presentation about the 'Giving us a Voice' project.



# Regional News



The groups talked about why they think people from Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic communities do not access personal budgets'.

At the end of the event, everyone was asked what they think needs to change and what actions should be taken.



Lots of people felt that the work from this PAST project could be linked into the Giving us a Voice Project.

The information from the PAST project consultation events will be put together in a paper. The paper will give useful information about how to work better with people from Black, Asian, Minority and Ethnic communities.



To find out more about what happened at the event or what will happen next, contact:



Sondra Butterworth  
Email: [S.Butterworth@bild.org.uk](mailto:S.Butterworth@bild.org.uk)

or go to the website  
[www.bild.org.uk](http://www.bild.org.uk)

## Housing Support

### Ambrey Associates tell us what they know

Ambrey Associates have helped to promote different housing options over the last year.

## Report



Amanda Nally and Cath Round have written a report on the work they did between November 2009 and April 2010. It tells us what they found and gives some ideas for work that still needs to be done. It will be added to the Valuing People Website soon.

People who attended the events that Amanda and Cath arranged said that they were very useful, gave lots of information and that it was good to link up with other people across the region that are also working on housing.

Amanda and Cath want to thank everyone who worked hard and gave their time to support and join in with this really important work across the region.

The Regional Learning Disability Housing Forum will continue to meet. Peter Cross from Sandwell has agreed to help with this.



## Learning Disability Week gets the Healthy Treatment

### People in Wolverhampton celebrate health



Wolverhampton Integrated Learning Disability Service is working with Mencap to celebrate Learning Disability Awareness week 2010.



There were a series of events starting with a health fayre on the 22nd June at the Neil Dougherty Centre. There were all sorts of things to join in with like using a Wii Fit and people to talk to about your health.



The Special Olympics team showed different sports activities at Aldersley Stadium on the 23rd June.

The week ended on 25th June with an open air aerobic workout In Wolverhampton City Park. It was supported by our local radio station.

These events were interactive, fun, actionpacked.



For more information please contact:  
Diane Webb  
Primary Care Facilitator  
Telephone: 01902 572572.

## About Face Theatre Company New show launched in Hereford



About Face Theatre Company's new show "The Boy Who Opened Doors" had its premiere at Herefordshire's Shades of Grey diversity festival on 15th May.

Performed by 3 actors with learning disabilities, The Boy Who Opened Doors is magical and powerful with a beautiful set, puppets and original music.



It is a moving story about a young boy's journey to being an adult. It shows his ability to stand on his own two feet and make choices to achieve his goals.



One audience member said

"I could watch it again and again...there's something moving and touching about this simple story that reaches straight to your heart..."

Performances last for half an hour and are available for booking now.  
Suitable for family audiences 6 years or over.

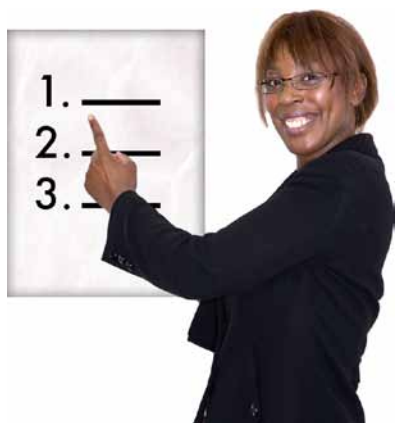


For more information  
Telephone: 01568 616 301  
or go to the website  
[www.aboutfacetheatre.org.uk](http://www.aboutfacetheatre.org.uk)

## Keeping a Check on Services People with learning disabilities lead the way

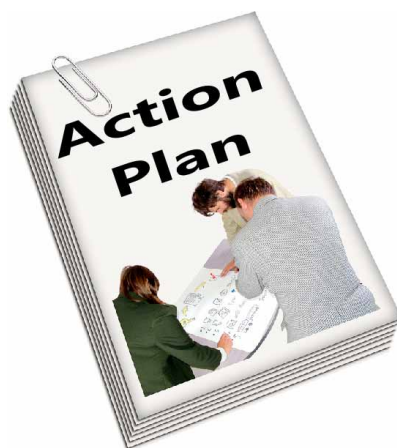


In 2004 a group of self-advocates got together and decided they wanted to find out how they could check that services were giving people with learning disabilities a good quality of life. The Changing Our Lives Quality Audit team was formed.



The group wrote a set of Quality of Life Standards and developed a person centred way of checking services. In the last two years this team has carried out checks on lots of different services.

Each check is led by trained people with learning disabilities, with support from staff at Changing Our Lives. After each check, there is an action plan for changes that need to be made.



The Quality Audit team have been recognised by Co-Director for Learning Disability, Scott Watkins and the national Valuing People team. Chris Sholl, the West Midlands Regional Valuing People Programme Lead praised the Quality Audit team for the partnership work they are doing.



To find out more  
Telephone: 0121 520 0813  
Email: [jayne@changingourlives.org](mailto:jayne@changingourlives.org)

## Transition In Birmingham How the pathway is working



Over the last two and a half years the Transition Team at Birmingham City Council has been working with lots of schools and other people all over the city. This is to help young people with disabilities from the age of 14 years old to plan for the future.



They have been using the Transition Pathway to make Transition Reviews at year 9 more person centred. It also helps to make sure that all the things that are really important to the young person are talked about. Things are written down in a way that is easy to understand before the meeting happens.



Everyone is helped to understand more about the young person and how they can help them do what they would like to do when they get older.



From September 2009 to May 2010, 459 person centred Transition Plans had been made by schools for young people with disabilities.

Lots of people are being trained to use the Transition Pathway so that all young people with a disability can leave school with a person centred transition plan and do the things they want to do when they get older.

## Breaking Down Barriers Building relationships with the Police



The Making Our Choice Self-Advocacy Group in Walsall has been continuing its work to build relationships with local police officers. They are working to break down the barriers which stop people with learning disabilities from reporting crime.



After visits to the West Midlands Police Training Centre in Birmingham and the Community Safety House in Brownhills in 2009, 13 self-advocates visited the police custody block at Willenhall Police Station.



They learned what happens when a vulnerable person is arrested and what their rights are. They had their finger prints taken; were "cautioned" by the police and had a pretend interview with one of the police constables.



The self-advocates learned a lot and felt that all the police officers also learned some very valuable lessons. Important things about the different type of support a person with a learning disability might need when arrested.

The relationship between adults with learning disabilities and Walsall's police officers is getting stronger because of these visits. The barriers are being slowly but surely knocked down.

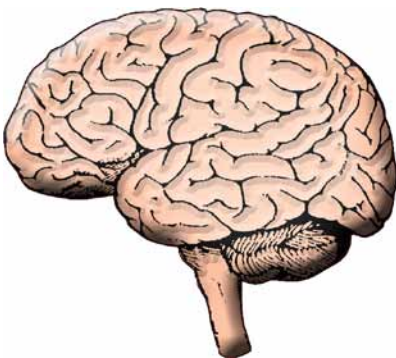
## Mencap Win Award



On 21 April the Mencap Empowerment Project for Adults with Learning Disabilities was given an award at the 2010 Walsall Disability Forum's Annual Awards.



Alison Davies and Alison Horton, went to the ceremony at Walsall Football Club to receive the award for the project.



The Category was the NHS Award for Brain Conditions and Mental Health. The award was for good practices in helping to improve the quality of life for people with Long Term Brain Conditions and Mental Health Conditions.



Do you have something you want to tell the rest of the West Midlands about?

Share your news with us.

Contact:

Emma at Taking Part

[vpnewsletter@takingpart.co.uk](mailto:vpnewsletter@takingpart.co.uk)

Jackie at Valuing People Now

[Jackie.Robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

## Ticket to Ride

### Travel in Herefordshire Made Easy

Last year the People's Union in Herefordshire told us about their easy read guide to feeling safe.



This year, with the support of Herefordshire Council's Learning Disability Partnership Board, they have worked on finding out how easy it is for people with learning disabilities to use public transport.



Lots of people travelled on lots of different buses and trains to see how easy it is to find the right bus stop or platform. They looked at timetables and travel information and tested out travel websites and phone lines.



After all doing all of that, they wrote to the bus companies to tell them about the good and bad things they found. Most things were good and people found travelling very easy.



The Jargon Busters group took all the information and helped to write an easy read guide to travel in Herefordshire.

If you would like a copy of the Transport Guide

Email: [advocacy@herefordshire.com](mailto:advocacy@herefordshire.com).



## Employment Support Warwickshire launch a new service



Warwickshire County Council has launched a new countywide employment service for people with learning disabilities.

WEST, Warwickshire Employment Support Team held the grand opening at the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce.



People with learning disabilities went along to see the employment team and lots of other people who could give advice and information and answer questions.



For more information contact:  
Annette Skermer  
Telephone: 024 76385200

Could you fill this space? Tell us your news.

Contact:

Emma at Taking Part

[vpnewsletter@takingpart.co.uk](mailto:vpnewsletter@takingpart.co.uk)

Jackie at Valuing People Now

[Jackie.Robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk)



## Dates for your Diary



### 2 September 2010

Regional Forum - Birmingham

Contact: [mail@speakeasynow.org.uk](mailto:mail@speakeasynow.org.uk)

### 16 September 2010

Family Carers Network - Birmingham

Contact: [susan@westmidcarers.net](mailto:susan@westmidcarers.net)

### 30 September 2010

Regional Programme Board

Birmingham

Contact: [jackie.robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk)



## Have your event advertised here!

Contact:

Emma at Taking Part

[vpnewsletter@takingpart.co.uk](mailto:vpnewsletter@takingpart.co.uk)

Jackie at Valuing People Now

[Jackie.Robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

## BILD Training and Events

# bild



BILD offers a number of high quality conferences and one day events. They have a strong focus on BILD's priority areas as well as delivering government policy.

The one day events cover the range of important BILD priority areas including:

- Advocacy, choice and empowerment / Practical support for rights and choices
- Better lives, better communities
- Positive behaviour support
- Making personalisation work
- Supporting and developing the workforce
- Understanding autism



To find out more about our training and events, please contact BILD on:

Telephone: 01562 723010

Website: [www.bild.org.uk](http://www.bild.org.uk)

# Your Newsletter Needs You



We need your help to get information in this Newsletter. If you have any news or events that you want to let people know about. Please send them to;

[vpnewsletter@takingpart.co.uk](mailto:vpnewsletter@takingpart.co.uk)

and also to:

[Jackie.Robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Jackie.Robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk)



Please send us your articles by 6 September 2010 for the next Newsletter.

Articles should be no more than one A4 page, and in a plain language. We try to publish all articles, but may have to edit them. Please do not be upset if we change the content of anything you send us.



Please also tell what you think of this Newsletter. Your opinions are important.



**Taking Part**

Independent Services for  
people with learning difficulties  
[www.takingpart.co.uk](http://www.takingpart.co.uk)



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