

# VALUING PEOPLE IN LEICESTER

## Nothing About Us Without Us

### Issue 33

# Leicester's growing!.....

**If** you live in Leicester you cannot fail to have heard about the exciting re-generation work that is taking place in the heart of the city and the development of Highcross Leicester. This major building work around The Shires will continue for the next 18 months.

**Our** representatives from the Employment Action Team are making sure that Planners and the site developers are giving people with disabilities, including people with learning disabilities, full consideration. This work relates to meeting requirements in terms of access issues and recognising people with disabilities as important consumers. The Planners have also made a commitment that people with disabilities will have access to the opportunities for training and employment that this project has stimulated.

**During** October and November a number of information days were held across the City at various different community venues.

Remploy will host the next special event at 51, Humberstone Gate, from 10 until 4pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**Look** out for further information events and make sure that you and your learning disabled colleagues go along and register an interest.

## Person Centred Planning

There's been a lot happening with Person Centred Planning just lately - so this seems like a good opportunity to update you all!

As you know, David Brown and Peter Penfold are in post as Person Centred Planning Assistants. They will be working on a quality project, looking at how Person Centred Working is helping people with learning disabilities to live better lives. They will be interviewing service users to find out how their lives have changed.

I will be running a similar exercise, looking at how staff in services, (day and residential) are using Person Centred Approaches in their daily work. Keep an eye out for us, as we may well be visiting you.

Training is going well.

- The 1-Day **Awareness** course is still proving popular, so if you want to book a place on the course, please allow plenty of notice.
- The 2-Day **Person Centred Thinking Skills** course is coming to Leicester and starts in November. We are hoping to get as many managers and senior staff through the training first, so that as the program rolls out, your managers and supervisors will have a good understanding of the practices being shown, and can support you to put them into practice.
- Path and Map facilitator courses have gone really well this year, with lots of new people being trained to facilitate plans. So that we can use the skills that have been learnt - please let me know if there is someone in your service who will benefit from some futures planning so that I can liaise with the facilitator teams and organise a meeting.
- We are now running our 1-Day Awareness course in Gujarati, so if you think anyone in your service would benefit from attending this course in their first language - please contact the Staff Development Unit on 0116 221 1700 to book a place. The people who attend this course are helping us to put together a picture of what is available for people with learning disabilities in other (Gujarati speaking) parts of the world.

- We have trained some new trainers for the 1-Day Awareness course, and are hoping to be able to run the course in Urdu next year.

We are looking for Good News Stories. If you know of anyone whose life has changed for the better, as a result of Person Centred Approaches, please let me know. My contact details will be at the bottom of this page.

We put 2 projects forward for the CSIP Positive Practice Awards this year - the 1st being the Gujerati Training, which we believe is the first non-English-speaking, course in the country. The 2<sup>nd</sup> being the Audio version of the Awareness Handouts. We know that some of our learners were finding it hard to read the handouts, even though the words used are easy - so we worked with Vista to record the handouts on to CD. We were sadly not short-listed - but we feel that these were great projects and worthy of recognition.

Lastly - I wanted to let you know about the DVD that has been produced to tell carers about Person Centred Planning, Health Action Planning and Communication Passports. The Leicestershire Partnership Trust and the Leicester and Leicestershire Learning Disability Partnership Boards commissioned the DVD. The DVD is filmed using local people and talks about the 3 tools and how they link together. It is just a taster, and is not designed to replace any training. There will be several launch dates arranged - and I will let you know when they have been booked.

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# **Carers Action Group**

## **What is it?**

The Leicester Learning Disability Partnership Board set up this group.

- It is for family carers of adults with learning disabilities or young people with learning disabilities who are going through transition from school to adult services.

## **What does it do?**

The purpose of the Carers Action Group is:

- To keep carers informed about what is happening for people with learning disabilities in Leicester
- To give carers a chance to say what they think about what is happening
- To involve carers in planning and policy making
- To work in partnership with other carer groups and organisations (for example, the Parent Carer Council, Ansaar, Adhar, CLASP)

## **News Bulletin**

- A news bulletin is sent out to family carers of people with a learning disability on a monthly basis.

## **Events**

- Flyers are sent out about 2 to 3 weeks in advance of any Carers Action Group events.

**If you would like more information or to go on our mailing list to receive the News Bulletin, please contact:**

**Jo Burke, Carers Participation Officer - 0116 2254757**

