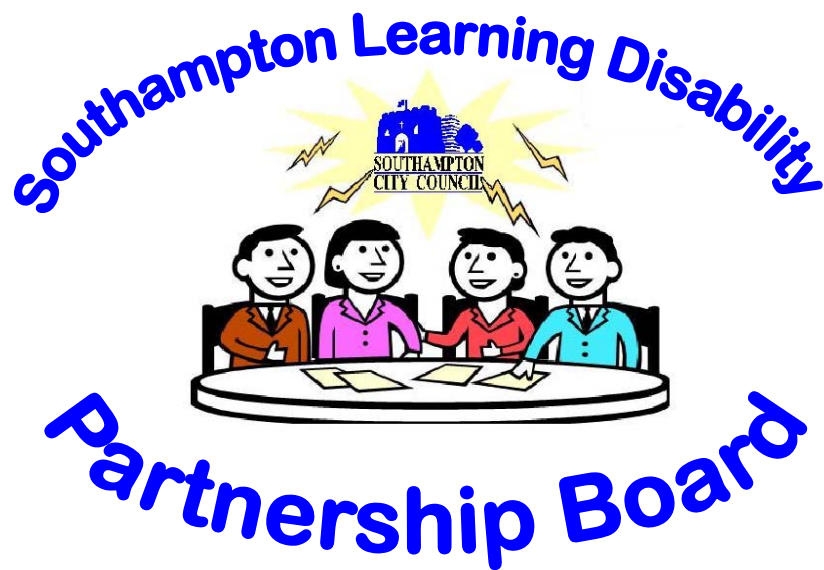


Southampton Learning Disability Partnership Board

Open Day Report



24th July 2010

Andrews Church, The Avenue, Southampton

The day started with some really important people. Richard Partridge, The Mayor Councillor Carol Cunio Matthew King and Councillor Ivan White. All four spoke about how Southampton had worked really hard to make people with learning disabilities lives' better and how they hope to see it improve further year on year.



Councillor Ivan White co chairs the Partnership Board and works hard to make the needs of people with learning disabilities one of Southampton City Council's top priorities. He spoke passionately about the Partnership Board and was positive about the Council's plans for the future.

Matthew King is the other Chair of the Partnership Board. He has been on the Board for 9 years and has really enjoyed the responsibility of managing the meetings.



Lots of people came to listen to the opening speeches before the day started and everyone seemed to be having a great time.

Many different people with important jobs came to see what the open day was about. Hilary spoke with Police Officers and PCSOs about what Hampshire Constabulary are doing to improve their services for people with learning disabilities.



The Police brought their uniforms for people to try and on to see what it felt like to be a police officer. They also let people get in their police car and see all the special equipment they need to do their job. They sat with the people from Hate Crime. The Board has said it is very important to tell people about hate crime and how to report it.



The Fire Rescue Service came to promote fire safety. They brought lots of different easy read leaflets for people to take away with them. They answered lots of questions that people had about fire safety and what to do in emergencies.



They also brought one of their cars which people could have a look at and sit in the driver's seat.





Southampton Community Learning Disability Team had a stand which offered anybody answers to questions they had about the services they provide. They also had lots of leaflets with important information to give out. They were proud to talk about what they've done so far people with learning disabilities in Southampton and what they are planning to do in the

future. They were next to the stand on Health where there was general health information and information on annual health checks.



Southampton Day Services had a stand in the main hall which showed lots of different activities that people can get involved in at the day centres. The art had been painted by local artists with learning disabilities. There was lots of information about leisure in different parts of the city that everyone can go to.



Housing were in the main hall. They were there to talk about what the Council are doing to improve housing for people with learning disabilities. They were passionate about independent living and improving their services further.

The Drama Group TAG had a DVD to show people what they have been doing.

Pete from Person Centred Planning came to tell people about plans that help people to have a choice



about what they wanted to do with their lives and being in charge of their own futures. Becky from Putting People First was also there to talk about having your own money to buy the care you want.



Becky Badger from Choices Advocacy talked about how the charity helps give people with learning disabilities a voice. Busy People – a group of people with learning disabilities were also there to talk about their hard work for the Board.



City Limits were in the main hall to offer people advice on jobs and employment and how they can help people to start working.



Neil Harley brought his canoe to show to people and to talk to about his sporting success, he is going to the Olympics.



Calypso Café provided all the refreshments. The staff were really friendly and provided an excellent services. They sold cakes and hot drinks and provided tables and chairs for people to sit and chat.



Mencap talked about what they do to support adults and children.

Jane is the Family Link worker who came to meet with family carers



Everyone got to voice their concerns on the day and got to meet people they wouldn't normally talk to in everyday life. This meant that lots of different groups of people became aware of the services in Southampton for people with learning disabilities.



Everyone that came got talking to one another and had a great time.



Photos by the LD Photo Club; Marisa Swift.

Report put together by Marisa Swift