

NORTH WEST TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM



Director: Lynn James-Jenkinson



Date of submission:

19th September 2008

Subject:  Update report to Commissioning Group

Executive summary:

The following report is a summary of the activity of the NWTDT in the period May to July 2008 and the actions taken to implement the Business Plan agreed by the Commissioning Group.

Recommendations:

1. That the Commissioning Group accept the contents of this report.

REFLECTION



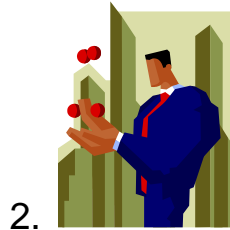
This is an exciting time for the NWTDT with the development of:

- Pathways Associates Community Interest Company Ltd which will give a route to generate development monies for the Region and better support Provider organisations.
- 0 to 19 Matters programme of training and development support for Children's Services
- Research Centre linked to academic institutions across the North West and wider. This will give us an opportunity to support research, evaluation and consultations across the region at a more competitive price for subscribers than is evidently the case at present. It will also assist the NWTDT evaluate the outcomes of our work better and give us a route to evidence future developments.
- A growing number of Associates wanting to work with NWTDT which is further widening the resources, flexibility and skills we can offer subscribers.



CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
pages 3 - 6

2.

3.



**INCLUSION, SELF ADVOCATE AND
FAMILY LEADERSHIP**
Pages 7 - 12

4.



ACTIVITY
Pages 13 - 26

5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMISSIONERS – page 26

6.



CONCLUSION
Page 27

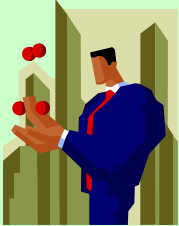


(13)

1. INTRODUCTION

The previous report (12) has been circulated to Self-Advocates, Health and Social Care Lead Officers and the Family Forum. The report is also available on the NWTDT website

2. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT



Lynn



Commissioning Group –

REQUIRED OUTCOMES



- Quarterly report to be submitted against business plan produced by team members.
- Report to be circulated.

Report circulated and available at www.nwtdt.com

An Annual Report 2007/2008 has been produced and circulated, copies available at www.nwtdt.com

Lynn will be representing NW ADASS at the ADASS national Learning Disability Group.



Budget –

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- End the year balancing the budget.

Subscription invoices have been raised for Local Authority Adult Care Services And Primary Care Trusts.

Individual contact is being made with senior management teams within Children's Services across the North West. To date 2 Local Authorities have confirmed they would like to subscribe for a period of 3 years.



Service Level Agreements

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Agreements to be finalised with all Primary Care Trust's, Local Authority's and Care Services Improvement Partnership/ Valuing People

Service Level Agreements are being prepared to reflect the subscription programme with Children's Services across the North West and a programme of work is being developed.



Communication-

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Further develop the website and improve communication with the Region.
- Improve skills within the team in producing more accessible information

Plans are in place to develop the website over the course of this financial year. This is being lead by Phil Palmer and will link with the development of our new partner organisation.



Team –

REQUIRED OUTCOMES



- Agreements to be finalised and monitored
- Range and number of Associates to be further developed. Each strategic lead to aim to support 2 new associates to create capacity and sustainability across the region
- Develop agreements with partner organisations working to achieve NWTDT mission.

Agreements have been finalised for this financial year. Again the number of Associates/ Partner organisations working with the team continues to grow, particularly in relation to new business across Children's Services.

Our partnership agreement with In Control and with Pathways Associates Community Interest Company will be confirmed during the course of this financial year.

Research Centre

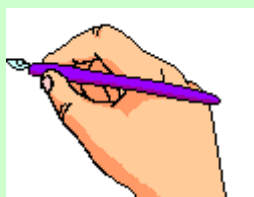


Pam

REQUIRED OUTCOME



- To set up a Research Centre which will find out the best ways to make sure people have good lives.
- The researchers will talk to people about their lives and things that are happening that are good, and things that need to change.
- The researchers will also talk to policy makers and managers in North West England about the way they are working and find out about things that help people to have good lives, as well as things that need to change.
- Reports will be written which can be used to help policy makers and managers to change the way they do things to make sure people have good lives.



Pam is writing the business plan; this is needed so everyone will know what the Research Centre is going to do.



Money will be needed to pay for the research and the reports. Pam is finding out where money may come from, and who else may be looking for money to do the same kind of research.



We will start bidding for money by the end of this year.



3. **INCLUSION/ SELF-ADVOCATE AND FAMILY LEADERSHIP** **Regional Task Force**



Lynn

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- To maintain a joint regional force to influence change.
- To make sure Valuing People and the new white paper agenda is a priority and focus for the NW
- Ensure self-advocates are supported to enable true participation in the group.
- To deliver joint regional action and direction to lead officers and to continue to stimulate innovative across the North West.
- To influence and inform the National task force or other bodies relating to regional priority issues.

Regional Task Force meeting have been arranged for the year to reflect the priorities from the Regional Self Advocate Conference and Regional Family Forum. The Regional Task Force meeting in September will focus on the theme of Making Our Partnership Boards Work. A copy of the notes from the day and presentations will be available on the NWTDT website (www.nwtdt.com).

Partnership Board Reviews

- Circulate 'Making your Partnership Board work' book
- Provide support for each Partnership Board to assess current performance with regard to Self- Advocate and Family Forum priorities

Copies of 'Making your Partnership Board work' have been circulated free to each Director of Adult Social Services and Chair of each Partnership Board. Additional copies are available at a cost of £15 to cover printing costs from NWTDT.

The Regional Task Force will consider the roll out of this at its next meeting in September which will assist in the development of a regional support programme.

Self Advocates



Regional task force/ National Regional Forum representatives



Jason



Dene and



Pippa

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- People traditionally excluded will be receiving advocacy support from a range of sources. Learning Disability Partnership Boards aware of and using regional and national self-advocacy leaders who come from their areas and are supporting their leadership skills.



Regional Self Advocacy Reps on the National Forum

Paddy Burke from Liverpool People First

Mark Shackleton from ReAct Lancaster



Regional Task Force reps

Suzanne Marshall – Oldham

Paddy Burke – Liverpool

Carol Roberts – Liverpool

They will join Sean Dempsey from Salford Being Heard, Glen Buckley from Salford Being Heard, Rebecca Ferguson from People First Bootle, Ibrar Riaz from Mowbray Self Advocacy Group and Alan Hurst from Tameside People First who continue to represent the Regional Forum for another year

Derek Russell – Blackpool

Jonathon Hurley - Liverpool

Have been asked to act as reserves should any of the representatives be unavailable.

CONFERENCE PRIORITIES



Following the conference held in Blackpool the 3 new big issues are:-

- Self Advocacy – fund us properly, long term financial independence
- Transport – hear our needs and do it, involve us more in saying what we need and training others. Speed bumps can hurt!
- Friendships and Relationships – don't go blocking my heart, families and staff give us the chance to make real friendships and relationships

As well as the 3 big issues above the other important things identified by the Forum were:-

- Give us national leadership training to go on TV for ourselves; please don't always have organisations speaking for us.
- Less talk more action on Valuing People, we have said what we want our lives to be like – more action to make it happen please.
- Accessibility, minimum won't do – the same people still get excluded from everywhere, DDA duty is not happening properly.
- Better leadership for partnership boards and long term plans.
- Give us a job, don't pay us peanuts and don't take away what I have – benefits trap.
- Housing I want – to buy or not to buy!

Regional Self Advocacy

NWTDT continues to support the Steering Group and IC Jason Rhodes who has successfully organised the annual Regional Self Advocacy conference at St Anne's in January 2008 which identified the "Three Big Issues".

NWTDT continues to provide support to the regions two national representatives to promote the regions work and issues at the quarterly national forum events.

The elected Regional Forum representatives to the Regional Task Force have continued to meet and participate actively within meetings. Attendance levels of elected reps have reduced this year, seemingly due to a combination of some of them having busier and more fulfilling lives, but also as some have not been supported to attend. This we are still addressing.



IC Jason Rhodes

Jason Rhodes continues to offer good support to the Regional Forum and Steering group, and is starting to plan for next year's conference as well as taking some brave steps within his updated business plan, to expand his business with the aim of generating more income to become self sustaining.

Good times!

Family Forum



Lynn

REGIONAL CONFERENCE PRIORITIES 2008/2009

1. **Accountability of Partnership Boards**

- Support Family Members to take part
- Involve people in really deciding the priorities
- Be clear who the Lead Officer is
- What do you spend Carers Grant on and who decides?

2. **Housing** – accessible and in areas where people want to live

3. **Transitions** – all of them!

The Regional Family Forum representatives have arranged a series of meetings throughout the year to assist in preparing for the Regional Task Force/ National Carers Group and planning support to families across the region.

At the next representatives meeting in September the group plan to develop a support session which will be provided through each Partnership Board across the North West. It was decided that this would be more useful this financial year than a regional conference. The priority is to make contact with as many families as possible to gather their views and feed them back Regionally and Nationally.

The group agreed that 2 Representatives will attend the National Carers Group this year in order to inform the Group of developments and achievements in the North West and bring information back from across the country.

Health and Social Care Leads



Lynn

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- To operate and support leads to deliver the Regional task force direction and action plan.
- To continue to foster joint working across sub regions of the North West for both LA and PCT's.

Regional Health and Social Care Leads meetings have been arranged for the year to reflect the priorities from the Regional Self Advocate Conference and Regional Family Forum.

The Regional Health and Social Care Leads meeting in July focused on the theme of Health, specifically Performance Management Framework linking to the Strategic Health Authority. A copy of the notes from the day and presentations are available on the NWTDT website (www.nwtdt.com).

Providers



Lynn

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Establish and Develop Pathways Associates as a route to support Provider development

Our Partner Organisation will provide a route for Provider Organisations to subscribe once this has been formally established. There has already been interest expressed in developing this.

Tony McDermott represents the NWTDT Commissioning Group on the Board of Pathways Associates Community Interest Company Ltd.

The Organisation is in the process of registering as a Community Interest Company and will commence trading as soon as this is in place. A business plan is in the process of being developed which will assist in attracting funding through Local Enterprise Partnerships.

In addition our partnership with Self Direct produced a well attended and oversubscribed Provider event. We have planned to rerun this due to demand in August/ September.



Care Services Improvement Partnership

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Copy quarterly report to CSIP representative to report on outcomes.
- Secure Service Level Agreement between NWTDT and CSIP/VPST

Lynn and Dave are in the process of agreeing and formalising this.

North West Mental Health Commission

During this quarter a team, co-ordinated by NWTDT, completed and provided the outcomes of a consultation around people with a learning difficulty who experience mental health issues for the new North West Mental Health Commission. This delivered powerful messages from the perspectives of individuals, family carers, Commissioners and staff. Significantly initial approaches via Learning Disability Commissioning leads from a representative sample of areas yielded very poor responses, except from Calderstones, but a good range of responses, which are intended to give a voice to this important group, were received when we widened approaches to a couple of localities that we believed would champion this work, and to family and self advocate networks.

4. ACTIVITY

Personalisation



Lynn



Step by Step Living Network



Care Services Improvement Partnership **CSIP**

VALUING PEOPLE
Support Team

Policy developments/ supports in relation to Self Directed Support

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Self-directed support is a national priority, through the individual budgets and direct payments policies and with person centred planning continuing to be at the heart of the delivery of Valuing People.
- Work in partnership with organisations to secure funding to further develop and promote this.
- Promote and develop ways of self directed support being an option for all.

Lynn continues to provide support to the North West In Control Network.

NWTDT integrate Self Directed Support into all aspects of the training and development work we do.

The establishment of Pathways Associates Community Interest Company Ltd will assist in securing development monies for the Region through this organisation and others who are members of the consortium which will further promote self directed support.

Person Centred Planning



Pauline



Helen Sanderson



REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Continuation of current programme of work, including website and dissemination of good practice, locally regionally and nationally
- Training and Development Support @ Person Centred thinking/ culture and tools



Pauline

Finding the Meaning in Our Work - Supporting organisations to refocus on the purpose of our work.

The team is working with organisations to develop their workforce with regard to “Finding the meaning in our work” this programme is assisting workers to understand the personalisation model and the role they have in supporting people its development and implementation.

We have found that one of the best ways the team has been modelling these planning events has been through delivering “live planning” - an effective approach to planning and building resources with the person and families, bringing people and supports together to listen, understand and more importantly, take action to make a real difference. This programme truly models ‘how to’ and supports people develop the skills required particularly in relation to Support Planning in a real situation which results in outcomes for all concerned.



Helen Sanderson



H SA continue to support the region through facilitating the Person Centred Planning Network meetings.

There's No Such Thing as an Unimportant Day
9th September 2008

Building a 'Person Centred Culture'

10th November 2008

'Valuing People Now' tells us that Person Centred Approaches must become the 'norm' in services. What questions do we need to ask and what do we need to do to make this happen?

Commissioning and Contracting

13th January 2009

How can we use Person Centred Information to enable providers and commissioners to deliver change?

From Valuing People Now to Community Contribution

February 2009

A key priority of Valuing People Now is helping people find jobs and to contribute to their communities, yet this is the area where the least seems to have happened for most people with learning disabilities.

Measuring Quality and Celebrating Success

11th March 2009

How do we know that we're being successful in our person centred work? How is CSCI regulating PCP? How are we learning from plans and people's achievements?

Workforce Development



Dene

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Trainers Network -Continuation of work programme supporting the Regional Trainers
- GM Joint Training Partnership-Training Partnerships that promote and support self-advocates/families to plan, lead and take part in training.
- NW Sector Skills Productivity Alliance Promotion of strong links with North West Sector Skills Productivity Alliance - Promotion of strong links with National and Regional work in relation to workforce development Network
- Dissemination of Research findings with TUC/ RCN and MMU to celebrate the NW workforce

- Supporting the Social Care and Nurse workforce – raise awareness of the agenda and positive implications for the workforce.

The Regional Trainers Network

Leslie Barcham has taken up the vacant part time Valuing People Workforce Development Position as from May this year. Leslie has been seconded from the British Institute of Learning Disabilities and will be outlining current and future national workforce development initiatives to members the Regional Trainers Network at its November meeting; she will also be offering advice concerning Workforce Development plans to members of the network. This follows a network event earlier this year that focused on developing a workforce development strategy.

Leslie has asked the NWTDT to act as a critical friend to support her in her new role and the NWTDT has accepted this request.

Skills for Care continue to be informed and invited to events with the aim of combining our resources and identifying the potential for joint working on our shared agendas in 2008/09.

Greater Manchester Training Partnership

An event was held on the 23rd May 2008 to establish if members would like the partnership to continue now that the Strategic Health Authorities funding of the partnership has ended. This resulted in the decision from the group to continue the project, supported by any monies held by NWTDT that has not been used in the short term.

National Developments NToW

The National Workforce Intelligence Group continues to raise awareness of individualised budgets at national events and a dedicated website however its activity has been relatively minimal this financial year.

Regional Developments NToW

Individualised budgets awareness raising continue to take place across the region funded by Skills for Care and supported by NWTDT

NWTDT sponsored a regional event in May involving Michael Smull to raise awareness and improve competence in relation to individualised

budgets and workforce development attended by over thirty participants nationally mostly from the independent sector

Workforce Development Research

In 2007/08 commissioned research by Professor Duncan Mitchell of Manchester PCT and Manchester Metropolitan University looking into the effects on the North West workforce involved in the Hospital Closures within the framework of The Model District Service. This work has been completed and various presentations are taking place. NWTDT are disseminating this information through publications.

The above work has been financially supported by the TUC and the RCN have been involved in monitoring the researches progress.



Breaking the Cycle Lynn

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Partnership Boards ensure that a 'champion' is identified for 'local services'. This person to lead on producing an agreed local action plan, that promotes development of local services and reduction in out of area placements

NW Managed Network.

Standing items on the agenda which are discussed at each meeting are:

Out of Area Placements

Discharges from Calderstones

The NW Shared Risk Pool

Gaps in Services.

Updates form the NW Forensic Practitioners Forum

Other areas of discussion /presentation have included:

Contact with CSIP, CSCI and VP regarding commissioners concerns on the interpretation of the guidance for registered care as oppose to supported living.

Commenting on the Draft Low Secure Specification

Breaking the Cycle

Concerns re LD Registered Nurse Training

Transition and young offenders

Presentation by the New Forensic Support Service.

The NWTDT, Valuing People Support Team and Specialist Commissioning Team will be feeding back their progress at the next Regional Trainers Network event in September, concerning a regional project to support specialist practitioners involved in the support of people with challenging behaviour. The project will later widen its scope to support the whole workforce community including family carers and people that use services. The project includes a regional skills/training audit and modular training programme aimed at improving the ability and capacity (in its first phase) of the independent sector to provide challenging behaviour and forensic step down services.

Central Lancashire Learning Disability Services are working closely with NWTDT with this initiative

Other work linked to positive approaches to challenging behaviour includes a Physical Intervention Audit of Wirral Services and the development of a North West Regional Group to develop quality standards and training for challenging behaviour and forensic services.

Ethnicity and Culture



Nabela

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Continuation of current programme of work, including website and dissemination of good practice.

Valuing People Now and the Valuing People Support Team say that there will be more developments of the learning disability ethnicity programme.

There will also be more developments of the regional network. NWTDT are working with the National Advisory Group on Ethnicity.

Our regional network meeting on the 14th of July in the North West was well attended, and continues to be a good forum for Authorities in the North West to link with organisations, to share information and learn about government's plans in relation to ethnicity. We intend to have our second meeting in January 09.

The Healthcare commission guidelines require all public bodies to undertake Equality Impact Assessments as part of best practice in terms of service provision.

The Race Relations Amendment Act states that all public bodies have a legal responsibility to assess and consult on how their policies, service delivery and functions affect different racial groups, and to monitor any possible negative impact on Race, Age, Disability, Gender, Sexual orientation, Religion and Belief.

The Equality Impact Assessment has to be carried out on all strategic plans, this offers choice and more informed decision making, enabling effective targeting of policies and procedures, encouraging meaningful engagement with a range of diverse groups, facilitating open communication and demonstrating accountability.

This process is a way to make sure individuals and teams consider the impact of their work on individuals who use services, staff and the local communities and assists in taking action to improve services, policies and strategies.

We must make sure that all the laws about treating people from minority ethnic communities in a fair way (Race Relations Amendment act, 2000), are used to make things better for people with a learning disability.

Valuing people Now Says that Valuing People will only be successful if it is working for everyone. All services must do what the Race Relations Amendment Act says.

We held an event on the 1st of July regarding Equality Impact Assessments and will holding another day later in the year ,as we feel that this is very important. We will be briefing the Regional Health and Social Care Leads at their next meeting on 10th of October to raise their

awareness of Equality Impact Assessments and what action they need to take.

It is important that we learn from each other about how to make things better. There are lots of people entering the country and a lot more people with disabilities from minority ethnic groups. We have developed a 2 day programme which we will be running in October and November looking at developing Good Practice in Learning Disability Services When Working with People from Minority Communities and Raising Awareness of Learning Disability & Ethnicity. Places are still available on both these events.

Transitions – all of them!



Pauline

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Extension of the current programme to gain a network covering every local authority in the North West.
- Development agenda @ Early Support, Aiming High for Disabled Children and Extended Schools
- Dissemination of support programme to all NW Directors of Children's Services



Transition Network.

The Network events the NWTDT have been facilitating twice a year will now be taking place in conjunction with the Health Network facilitated by CSIP.

Over the past year, the Team has been seeking opportunities to develop real partnerships with organisations to facilitate working together. In future the network events will bring people from health, education and social care to share and understand the role they have in supporting young people towards a more effective transition ; from children's services to

young peoples perspective, to adult services. Each event will alternate a different theme.

The next event is on 6th November and will be focusing on hearing the voice from youth about health care matters.

Supporting Children and Young People



We are delighted to announce, that the NWTDT will be delivering a workshop for young people, moving on from education in Blackburn.

This has been commissioned by a school to develop better supports for young people preparing to move on from secondary education. . The course will have families, teaching staff and social care employees working on person centred approaches, and person centred planning together.

This is a great opportunity for services to work together in support of young people and their families, the theme of all the person centred planning developments focuses on circles of support and community connecting.

The newly developed programme of support for Children's Services – '0 to 19 Matters' will be launched during September and October with Children's Services and through Kidz up North in November with children, young people and families. Already 2 Children's Services have committed to subscription for 3 years and we are having discussions with a further 2 areas. Watch this space!

Supporting Older Citizens

The work to develop this area of work continues with meetings planned in Sefton with the Social Work team for Older Citizens.



Peer Advocacy Step by Step Living Network/ Dr Laurence Clark

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Produce an accessible brochure for self advocates to walk through the process of obtaining and managing a personalised support package - under an individualised budget or not.
- Promote this around the region

- Identify and train a range of peer mentors to advise and assist individuals to start up and manage their supports.

The peer mentoring / booklet work has started, Laurence and Vicki have produced a project plan and a room at Breakthrough's building in Manchester has been booked for 20 October and 19 January for our meetings to thrash out the booklet's contents.

Publicity for this project will go out at the start of September – we will be looking for 7-10 participants.

In addition Laurence has almost finished the 1st round application for the Third Sector Programme to further support peer mentoring which, if successful, will sustain this project in the next phase.

Health



Janet Cobb



Catherine Webster

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Support the development of Health Checks for people
- Support district activity relating to implementation of independent enquiry recommendations
- Support Valuing People Now health priorities
- Support implications from the Darzi review as they relate to people with a Learning Disability.
- Support activity relating to Health Care Commission audit findings.
- Support SHA Performance Indicator framework development to assist PCT commissioners explicitly consider the needs of people with learning disabilities when commissioning mainstream healthcare.

WHAT WE ARE DOING NOW

1. We are looking at the way in which we work with and support Acute Hospitals to look after people with a Learning Disability. We have asked each area to provide information on *Acute Liaison Nurses*. We now know that we have at least 5 of these posts within the North West. We also have 6 areas where the Community Learning Disability Teams do this work.

2. We are looking at the way in which we work with and support Primary Care to deliver Health Checks for People with a Learning Disability. We have asked each area to provide information on *Primary Healthcare Facilitators*. We now know that we have at least 15 of these posts within the North West

3. We are expecting the Independent Enquiry into *Death by Indifference* to request the development of these roles and we wanted to know how we are doing so far. The Inquiry will report within the next two months and we will ask the Health Network how the NWTDT can help them to do better.

4. We cancelled our May Network Meeting because not many people could come. We hope to book a replacement meeting in July. This will give us a chance to discuss the National Inquiry Report with the Network members.

5. We have supported the NW Regional Task Force to write to Mike Farrar (CEX of the SHA) to express our concern about people with a Learning Disability not being consulted with in the consultations recently done with regard to the Darzi report, we have also expressed our concern that the North West SHA does not have a lead for Learning Disability which means that the chances of people with a Learning Disability and their families continuing to be overlooked is high.

WHAT WE ARE PLANNING TO DO

1. We have booked Health Network meetings on 11th September 2008 and 27th November 2008. We will use these meetings to discuss and agree action plans for the *Valuing People Now* final document.

2. We are planning to hold events on these subjects:

Postural care, body shape & wheelchair / Guiding

Environmental assessment / visual impairments

SHIELD - Sexual Health Innovative Education for Learning Disabilities

Hearing impairment and learning disability training day

Epilepsy awareness training day

HAPs / Vision in HAPs

Hearing / visual impairments & Communication

3. Next year we will start to think about *Children and Learning Disability* – in particular CAMHS and Complex Needs

4. The year after we will add the *Criminal Justice System and Mental Health* to our agenda.



Quality Dene/ BILD

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

Support people to inspect and comment on the quality of services locally

Experts by Experience and Service User Reviews

Although this contract has finished some of the experts aim to continue to take part in service reviews. Discussions are taking place with the Valuing People Task Force to ensure continuation in 2008/09



Housing Lyn/ Housing Options

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- A programme in collaboration with a number of stakeholders that supports the development of support and services closer to home, prevents exclusion and inappropriate out of area placements, to include work on commissioning, housing options and regulation.

NWTDT have developed a partnership with Housing Options who have been commissioned to provide half a day support per Partnership Board throughout this financial year. We are monitoring the uptake of this.

Housing Options and NWTDT are planning a regional conference which will be held on 17th October at Harris Park Preston. Places still available.

CSIP have provided some funding for NWTDT to represent NW ADASS and CSIP at the group who are reviewing the Regional Housing Strategy. We have expressed our concern that again people with Learning Disabilities have not been involved in this review.

Things to do during the day

Getting a Life



Nabela Rahim

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Re-launch of the support to the Regional Network linking to NDT review of Day Service Modernisation and National Getting a Life Project

The Getting a Life Network happened on the 8th July 2008 and was presented by Linda Jordan who talked about the Getting a Life Project and employment. The Second meeting is being planned for January 09.

One of the major barriers which prevents people with learning disabilities from having real choice and control over their lives is the way that different local services, planning and funding happens. Some times this is because of local decision making and sometimes it is because of national policies that don't fit together well.

We need to be more focused on employment support and day service change fitting together in a way that helps people have more control over their daily lives. The network aims to support people involved with the planning, provision of day opportunities to think about what progress has been made, what the priorities are for the future, to share and learn about good practice across the North West and to plan what actions need to be taking in supporting individuals in having more meaningful, fulfilled lives.

The next network meeting in January will focus on Individual Budgets, Carey Bamber will update the group regarding developments.

Employment



Lynn



Deborah

REQUIRED OUTCOMES

- Work with Partner Organisations to secure funding to promote

employment as a valued option for people.

- Promote a range of employment options including self-employment.

Raising the Profile of real paid employment for People with a Learning Disability is a priority of the Getting a Life Network also. We will be holding a conference 27th February to look at this priority which the Cabinet Office, DWP and new National Director for Learning Disability, Anne Williams, will be speaking. Booking will soon be advertised for this event.

Publicly Valued, Publicly Employed

The learning from the experience of the Publicly Valued, Publicly Employed initiative continues at a significant pace. The added value of this initiative is the requirement to do something when gaps appear - it is not enough just to note the need, it is about meeting it.

The number of public sector organisations who have now signed up (and are taking action) currently stands at 16 The number of people with learning disabilities employed with these trailblazers- as a direct result of employers taking action is currently 6

The challenge now is managing the needs and expectation of all the stakeholders. To that end we are focussing mobilising natural supports, encouraging peer group support and not allowing any of the momentum wane.

If there is one thing that is becoming staggeringly clear it is that this is a long haul. Employers will need on going support to truly develop their capacity to continue to grow the number of successful employees who have a learning disability. To withdraw support too soon is likely to result in a one hit wonder. We know now that we must manage the withdrawal of support at a pace that is right for the employer and in a way that will ensure that the new approaches and attitudes are so firmly established they will just get stronger.

The evaluation of the first year of the programme will be published in the next quarter and distributed at the Employment Conference on 27th February 2009.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMISSIONING GROUP

- That the *Commissioning Group* accept the contents of this report.

6. CONCLUSION



This is an exciting time for the NWTDT with the development of:

- Pathways Associates Community Interest Company Ltd which will give a route to generate development monies for the Region and better support Provider organisations.
- 0 to 19 Matters programme of training and development support for Children's Services
- Research Centre linked to academic institutions across the North West and wider. This will give us an opportunity to support research, evaluation and consultations across the region at a more competitive price for subscribers than is evidently the case at present. It will also assist the NWTDT evaluate the outcomes of our work better and give us a route to evidence future developments.
- A growing number of Associates wanting to work with NWTDT which is further widening the resources, flexibility and skills we can offer subscribers.