
Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

15th March, 2006

Report of
Councillor Hazel Noonan

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Coventry Learning Disabilities Partnership Board

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 At their meeting on 10 May 2005, the Cabinet approved a process of reporting back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of those outside bodies appointed to by the City Council. This reports sets out details of the work of Coventry Learning Disabilities Partnership Board over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the City Council continues to appoint to this organisation.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The Coventry Learning Disabilities Partnership Board has a membership that includes people with learning disabilities, family carers and the voluntary sector together with representatives from the City Council and Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust.
- 3.2 The Coventry Learning Disabilities Partnership Board is responsible for:
- influencing plans for people with learning disabilities in Coventry
 - checking we have the right services and support available and that they are working properly
 - making sure that we have plans for change and that change can happen
 - passing information to everyone about the development of services
 - making sure that everyone knows what is happening and what they have to do

3.3 The Board in consultation with people with learning disabilities, family carers, the voluntary sector, and representatives from the Teaching Primary Care Trust and Community Services have developed a Strategy for 2004-2007 and beyond. This is a strategy for improving the lives of people with learning disabilities and providing better support for family carers. It sets out a vision to establish a real working partnership with people with learning disabilities, carers and all staff and agencies in the city.

3.4 The strategic aims of the Partnership Board, as set out in the Strategy are:-

- People with learning disabilities are encouraged to make real choices and decisions about where and how they live their lives, and enabled to lead full and purposeful lives in their communities and to develop a range of friendships, activities, relationships and employment where appropriate
- Carers are recognised and supported in their role and receive support for as long as they and the service user wish, and are enabled to take part in person-centred planning
- Services support people to get the kind of life they want for themselves and are good quality, cost effective and support people, and are regularly evaluated, continually improved and delivered locally as a matter of course.

This Strategy follows the themes in the Government's White Paper Valuing People 2001 and shows Coventry's priorities and actions to deliver change. The key areas are:

- Partnership Working
- More choice and control for people with learning disabilities
- Supporting carers
- Improving health
- Disabled children and young people
- Housing, fulfilling lives and employment
- Quality services

The Learning Disabilities Partnership Board has eleven sub-groups who each have responsibility to develop plans for change and work towards making change happen.

3.5 Progress that the Partnership Board has overseen over the last twelve months includes:

- approval of a modernisation agenda for supported day opportunities following a successful user-led review
- development of a Learning Disabilities Commissioning Plan and a Housing Plan following a housing needs survey, which is leading to the provision of greater housing options for people with learning disabilities and enabling people placed out of city to move back into Coventry
- developing better support to family carers including new Carer Short Break Scheme and appointment of a Carer Breaks Co-ordinator
- creation of a new post of Development Worker for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities to work within communities to research need and support the development of culturally sensitive services
- supporting the growth of advocacy services for people with learning disabilities in the City

3.6 The Learning Disabilities Valuing People Co-ordinator links to the Theme Group Advisors Meeting of the Coventry Strategic Partnership to ensure that the priorities identified have a raised profile and link into the Community Plan.

- 3.7 The Partnership Board meets regularly on a monthly basis and provides an authoritative voice on services for people with learning disabilities. The Board receives information and provides a viewpoint on city wide and national consultations.
- 3.8 The Partnership Board has taken part in a national pilot to monitor and manage performance of the implementation of the White Paper Valuing People and the Coventry Learning Disabilities Strategy. This work has been nationally recognised by the Valuing People Support Team.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

- 4.1 The continued appointment would provide:
- political presence on the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board
 - a greater understanding of the issues relating to learning disabilities
 - a direct link between Elected Members and members of the Board, including people with learning disabilities and family carers
 - involvement by Elected Members in the development of services and progress with the modernisation agenda for people with learning disabilities

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

- 5.1 The Learning Disabilities Partnership Board meets on a monthly basis and holds regular events, examples of which are Housing, Health and meeting the needs of Black and Minority Ethnic Communities. Councillors H Noonan and Mrs Lucas are the City Council's representatives on the Board, over the last twelve months (March 2005 to February, 2006) there have been 10 meetings of the Board; Councillor H Noonan has attended 9 and Councillor Mrs Lucas has attended 4.
- 5.2 No remuneration applies to the attendance at the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper	Location
Coventry Learning Disabilities Partnership Board Strategy 2004-7	Woodside
Schedule of City Council Appointments to Outside Bodies	CH61