



NEWSLETTER

September 2010 - Issue 48 - "Connecting people across Conwy"



You are invited to an evening open meeting with guest speakers, Mel Samson and Debbie Powell from Llandrillo College on:

Independent Living Skills Courses available at the college.

Why is it of interest for you to attend?

- Listen to what full and part time courses are available
- Gather information and leaflets
- Ideas on what may be of interest to you
- Ask questions
- Meet other members and chat over a drink

WHEN & WHERE

- Tuesday 21 September 2010
- 7.00pm to 9.00pm
- HSBC Suite, Colwyn Bay Cricket Club, Rhos on Sea.

No need to book - all members welcome on the night. Look forward to seeing you there.

Canolfan yr Orsedd Update



We have previously reported, and some of our members will be aware, that the time for relocating services from Canolfan yr orsedd to the new building in Craig y Don is drawing closer. The builders are making good progress and the expected date for the move at the moment is the end of September.

By the time you receive this newsletter an information session will have been held to give an update on the progress and plans on Wednesday 4 August to answer any questions that those involved have.

Members Wanted

Colwyn Bay Gateway Club are looking for new members. They meet in the Methodist Church, on Wynn Avenue, in Old Colwyn every Wednesday 7.00pm - 9.00pm. For further details contact:

Paul Wild: 01492 5310022

E mail: paulwild@fastmail.fm

Pat Thomas: 01492 518243

www.colwyngateway.ik.com

News...News...News

Law Commission

From the consultation day held on Thursday 10 June a report has been produced by Conwy Connect for learning disabilities. The day was for service users, parent/carers and professionals to come together and give their views and opinions on proposals drawn together from the Law Commission on the Review of Adult Social Care Law to make the rules and laws clearer.



As part of the day's introduction Sue Davies, Senior Co-ordinator of Conwy Connect, explained the aims of the day to actively involve members, listed, and record views and experiences for a report to be produced. A total of 33 people attended.

A short presentation was given by representatives from the Law Commission on:-

- What is the Law Commission?
- Why they are looking at Adult Social Care Law
- Their ideas to make the laws and rules about Adult Social care clearer

What we did?

In attempt to make the day easier to understand we grouped each section of the main themes that the Law Commission are consulting on, and



responded to each question in the sections of;

- Single Statute
- Assessments
- Eligibility for service
- Care Plans
- Care when moving to a new area
- Safeguarding Adults

There were 3 workgroups of Service users, Parent/Carers, Voluntary Organisations and Professionals who contributed their opinions on the day

Next steps

- Information from the day was used to produce a report
- This was completed in June and sent to the Law Commission.
- The report has been circulated to those present.
- The Law Commission will produce their final report in 2011.





Friendship Group

Shop Till You Drop

"Shop till you drop!" seems to be the message in these photos of a coach trip to the Trafford Centre, in Manchester, on Saturday 26th June. The Friendship Group had organized a trip to the Trafford Centre last November and it proved so popular with our Members, that they asked us to run the same trip again - so we did! By the look of these happy shoppers, loaded up with bargains they made the right choice!

S a t u r d a y
26 J u n e



Friendship Group EXPLAINED

The 'Friendship Group' has been undergoing some changes recently.

PLUS

Friendship Group Plus is an 'add on' to the existing Friendship Group. These events are organised solely by the Friendship Team, which currently is Darren, Nora, and Shell. They will be organizing additional simple activities called 'Team Trips', using only postcards and phone calls, with some minimal help from Jennie, who helps to run the Friendship Group.

Team Trips

PLUS

On Saturday 19th June the Friendship Team organised an informal event as part of the Friendship Group Plus. This was the first outing organised as part of the Team trips initiative. The venue was Forte's in Llandudno and it was well attended. Everybody enjoyed themselves pictures were taken and the weather was fine, and there were no complaints. All the best. The Friendship Team.



Members would like to thank Abacab Coaches for being supportive, flexible, and efficient in providing coaches for Friendship Group Trips.





Person Centred

Celebration of Volunteering

On Tuesday, 27th April 2010 at 12:30pm, myself, Shell Williams and Darren Whitby attended Venue Cymru in Llandudno.

We received invitations in the post from Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, Mr Trefor Jones C.B.E. in the gracious presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

We were nominated by Conwy Connect for our voluntary work with the Friendship Group.

Darren and myself were proud to have been chosen to attend this event celebrating the dedicated work of volunteers from North Wales.



BIG PLAN

A Good Life After School

By the time you read this article Conwy Connect will have hosted a party to celebrate people's achievements after completing the very first Big Plan in North Wales.

We helped people to talk about

When I leave school...

How can I have a good life?

How can I make friends?

How can I be happy where I live?

How can I be part of my community?

got the t-shirt



All of the young people got a Big Plan t-shirt and a box of 'goodies' including pens, loads of stickers and fun stationery plus plenty of paper.

Planning Service

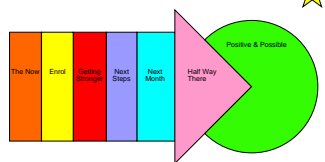
What has happened since the last newsletter?

Training Day

Conwy Connect is always looking to recruit new facilitators and was lucky enough to be able to host a two-day training session for people who had expressed an interest in becoming person centred facilitators.

To enable people to start planning as quickly as possible the training focussed on 3 main tools.

PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope)



MAP (McGill Action Planning)
Personal Futures Planning

People from counties across North Wales came together and took turns in processing, graphicing, and being the focus of planning.

The sessions also took in a whistle-stop tour of what facilitation involves and how people could adapt the tools to suit the person.

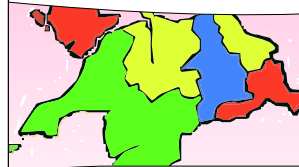
From the evaluations it seemed that most people enjoyed it. We will have a further update on the progress of our new facilitators after their induction. Hopefully there may be some photos and a small blurb about each one in the next newsletter.

We would like to welcome all our new facilitators to Conwy Connect and hope that their time as facilitators is a rewarding and stimulating experience. Look out for more information later.

Make It Happen (with a smile)



The Make It Happen meeting which was due to be held in June was cancelled. They are due to meet in September to review the aims of the group.



PCP Networks

Conwy Facilitators Network

A date has been set for the Conwy facilitators to meet and to provide advice and support on Tuesday 7 September. Look out for your invite from Clara.



North Wales Person Centred Planning Network

Conwy Connect will be hosting the next North Wales Person Centred Planning network meeting on Wednesday 22 September 2010.

The meeting will be held in Rhos on Sea and if you would like to know more please contact Clara at the office on 01492 536486.

If you are interested in attending then please contact Learning Disability Wales on 029 2068 1160.

News...News...News

Accommodation & Service User Guide

These two guides have been completed and are in the process of being translated. They will be available shortly on the Conwy County Borough Council website.

Printed hard copies and information on disc will be available on request. Please ring Hilary Kewley at Glan y Don, call 01492 575374 to find out more.

The launch of the Accommodation Guide and updated Service Users' booklet is expected to take place at our AGM on Tuesday 30 November 2010, 7.00pm - 9.00pm at the Colwyn Bay Cricket Club, Colwyn Bay.

Open Meeting

This was held on Wednesday 19 May at the Colwyn Bay Cricket Club 7.00pm – 9.00pm. Guest speaker Gareth Foulkes Policy Officer from the Equality & Human Rights Commission explained the work that the Commission are doing on Disability Related Harassment and the formal inquiry they are launching.

Following the presentation there was discussion on:-

- Who the Commission needed to talk to
- Investigating ways of submitting evidence.

Outcomes from the meeting were for:-

- Gareth to meet with Conwy Connect again

- To visit some of the advocacy groups
- Gather real evidence of harassment
- Identify any particular towns, villages and estates that are hotspots for disability related harassment in North Wales that the Commission need to pay close attention to.

A summary sheet with questions to answer if harassment has happened to a person is available on the website www.equalityhumanrights.com or Contact Conwy Connect for further information.

How to get in touch?

By email to:

disabilityharassmentfi
@equalityhumanrights.com

By post to:

Disability Harassment Inquiry
Equality and Human Rights Commission
FREEPOST RRL-LGHUX-CTR
Arndale House, Arndale Centre
Manchester, M4 3AQ

(You do not need a stamp)

By phone:

08456 048 810
08456 048 820 (Textphone)

Our New Office

Downstairs office space secured at 10 Rivières Avenue

We are delighted at Conwy Connect that we have been able to secure the downstairs office space. There is no change to our address or telephone details.

Management & Policy Update

May 2010 MAP Meeting

Consultation on Health Services "Growing Stronger Report": Sue Davies presented this report. Helen Jones Nurse Team Manager would be taking the report to 2 team management group. The report would be used as evidence and provide direction.



July 2010 Task Group

Council's Annual Reporting Framework: Ramona Murray Operation Manager for Learning Disabilities reported on this Framework Ramona explained that this replaced what was known as the Joint Review inspection to the inspection by the Care & Social Services Inspectorates for Wales (CSSIW). Penny Garnet had been developing the document for Joanna Griffiths which looked at evidence of Social Services. The document has the headings of Key Activities, development of the activity, results that had been achieved, user/carers experience, evidence and improvements.

L/D MAP Review Report:

This report had been circulated to all members and the outcome from the Strategic Partnership Board is that they would support the recommendations for the group being:-

- This group should continue and be supported until the end of March 2011 because it does add value and should be involved in the development of the new plan.

- If the Board do not continue with this MAP Group because it does not link in to the Health & Well Being Strategy Conwy County Borough Council should consider supporting it.
- The Board should provide a reporting structure for the L/D MAP Group.
- Communication needs to improve; this will be dealt with in the Governance Review.

Conclusions:

This L/D MAP Group is well organised, action and outcome focussed and is highly committed. This L/D MAP Group adds value to it and will be very important in the development of the new plan.

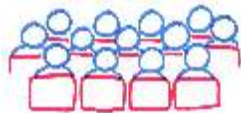


Due to the strength of this group, if the Board did not continue with this group it is highly likely that it will continue in its own right but support should be provided through Conwy County Borough Council as there are significant benefits of this group to them in terms of delivery and consultation.

Support will be in terms of officer time and financial support of the person to write the graphics for the meeting.

The date of the L/D MAP next task group meeting will be 12 August to discuss Transport issues and new guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government on the

Committee Members



Parents/Carers

Joan Hayes (Chairperson) • Kevin Sibbons (Treasurer) • Parveen Valijan • Carol Harrison • Gail Shaw • Sue Stephens

Service Users

Jackie Jones • Jason Rowson

Statutory Services

Ramona Murray (Social Services) • Alex Fryer (Social Services)

Voluntary Organisations

Diane Salisbury (Physical Disabilities Action Group) • Mair Roberts (Carers' Outreach)

Co-opted

Julie Bassett (Parent) • Dr Valijan (Parent)
• Mark Sherridan (PCP Facilitator) • Darren Whitby (Service User)

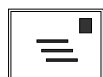
CONTACT DETAILS

Conwy Connect
for Learning Disabilities

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Colwyn Bay
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01492 536486

conwy.connect@virgin.net
www.conwy-connect.org.uk



Address



Phone/Fax



Email and
Website

The office will usually be open from 9.00am - 4.00pm, Monday to Friday. If no one is available please leave a message.

Humanity in Motion



The 10th District would like to invite everyone to this year's games which will be held on Sunday 26 September from 9:30am on the Bank of America's Field of Dreams in Chester.

Last year the Disabled Games had 335 entrants which was a record number since the games began in 2001. There are many events including; Darts, Boccia, Table Tennis, New Age Kurling, Archery, Tennis, Carpet Bowls, Cricket, Putting and Velcro Darts. Competitors may enter up to 3 events initially. Please note that only guide dogs are allowed at the games.

For further information please contact Joan Murray-Jones c/o Oswestry Rotary Club, 5 Greystones Way, Oswestry, SY11 2SJ Telephone: 01244 661531.

We want to hear from you.

Please keep sending us your letters and comments by post, telephone or email.



You can follow us on our Twitter page.

Follow @cc4ld

www.twitter.com/CC4LD

The next deadline for submissions is
Friday 21 January 2011

If you would like some advice about writing something for the newsletter please get in touch and we'll be happy to give you some ideas.