

Appendix 1

The Local Strategic Partnership – The West Berkshire Partnership

Extracts from

A Better Future for All:

A Community Plan for improving quality of life for all in West Berkshire
2003 – 2008

What is the West Berkshire Partnership?

The West Berkshire Partnership was launched in September 2001. It brings together organisations, businesses, agencies and groups from across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. Any organisation can join it.

The main purpose of the partnership is to tackle issues of local concern more effectively by reducing wasteful duplication of effort. This will ensure we are working together more efficiently and are making better use of existing resources while attracting new resources into the area. It will also help overcome confusion about who is responsible for taking action and who can be held accountable if necessary.

The West Berkshire Partnership is responsible for developing the long term Community Plan for West Berkshire on behalf of all the partner organisations. Its other major role is to provide an umbrella for existing partnerships and plans, and if necessary to merge and rationalise them to increase effectiveness. The West Berkshire Partnership will also play a valuable part in supporting requests for new resources for West Berkshire from Government and elsewhere.

The Community Plan is developed by all the organisations in the wider Partnership. The Management Board's main job is to help bring all these ideas together into one plan and then make sure the things in the Action Plans get done. The Partnership has a written constitution which can be viewed on the Partnership Website can be found at: www.westberks.gov.uk.

Vision

“To ensure that people in West Berkshire are able to enjoy a high quality of life by having equal access to services, a safe and healthy environment to live in and prosperity through a range of meaningful work opportunities.”

Appendix 3

STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

To oversee the strategic commissioning agenda between West Berkshire Council, Newbury and Community PCT, Reading PCT.

To agree commissioning intentions jointly between health and social care and other stakeholders for each user group.

To understand current investment patterns and inform future resource allocation priorities for health and social care.

Membership

Margaret Goldie	Jan Bartlett
Bev Searle	Sheila Hayes
Jan Evans	Reading PCT Rep
Teresa Bell	

Strategy Group chairs as appropriate.

Meeting Frequency

Bi-monthly.

Specific Tasks

1. To define the joint strategic direction for health and social care related services in West Berkshire.
2. To oversee the development of user group commissioning strategies in line with that direction.
3. To oversee the work of:-
 - The Learning Disability Partnership Board
 - The Mental Health LIT
 - The Older People's Strategy Group
 - The Physical Disability Strategy Group
 - Carer's Strategy Group
 - Housing Programme Board
 - Supporting People Core/Commissioning Group
 - Performance & Quality Assurance Board

4. To agree overall resource allocation priorities for health and social care and related services in West Berkshire, and make proposals for resource shifts where appropriate. To agree spending priorities for grants as appropriate.
5. To ensure user and carer influence and engagement with the whole commissioning process.
6. To provide a regular report on commissioning activity to Members and PCT Boards.

Appendix 4

West Berkshire Learning Disability Partnership Board

Purpose:

To implement the aims and objectives described in Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century

The LD Partnership Board is required to:

- be led by a senior local government officer or elected member
- cover the West Berkshire Council area
- have a membership that is representative of all stakeholders with a responsibility or interest in learning disability services
- appoint a lead officer to take responsibility for implementing Valuing People
- appoint champions for transition services (child to adult) and employment
- meet a minimum of four times a year

Membership:

Includes representatives of *social* services, health, education, employment, housing, care and support, service users and carers

- Each member will undertake to attend each meeting or nominate a deputy
- Each member will undertake to keep his/her organisation or group informed on the discussions, recommendations and decisions of the Partnership Board
- Each member will have the authority to commit his/her organisation or group to strategic and funding decisions made by the Partnership Board

Role:

The Learning Disability Partnership Board is expected to:

- Commission, approve and submit to the Department of Health a Learning Disability Joint Investment Plan (for 2002/3)
- Receive, prioritise and approve bids against the Learning disability Development fund and bids for the capital element
- Promote effective arrangements that enable young people with learning disabilities to move from children's to adult services across all agencies
- Develop effective links with other agencies relevant to implementing Valuing People, including Connexions Partnerships, local Learning Partnerships, Supporting People, Benefits Agency, Job Centre Plus
- Collate information on advocacy services in order to inform funding bids and decisions on local advocacy services
- Foster the development of schemes and services that enable people with learning disabilities to benefit from direct payments
- Recommend policies and measures to promote social inclusion, independence and equality

Appendix 2

Direct Payments

Extracts from the West Berkshire Council "Practitioner's Guide to Direct Payments, April 2004.

What are direct payments?

Anyone assessed as needing a service from social services could be eligible for direct payments instead. Direct payments are cash payments paid by social services to enable the service user to manage and arrange their own care. Direct payments are an empowering alternative to traditional services, enabling service users to take charge of arranging their own support in order to gain greater choice and control over the support they need. Government policy is very favourable to service users having greater access to direct payments. West Berkshire is committed to extending direct payments and see this as a first choice for service users. The expectation is that service users will opt **out** of the direct payment scheme not opt into it.

Who can receive a direct payment?

The Community Care Direct Payments Act (1996) states that the following groups of people are eligible to receive direct payments:

- Disabled people (16+)
- Older people
- Parents of disabled children
- Carers (16+)

From April 2003 councils have a duty to offer direct payments as an option to all those who meet the eligibility criteria for a service.

Who is eligible for direct payments?

To be eligible for direct payments, the service user should meet the following criteria:

- **Be assessed as needing a service:** direct payments can only be used to meet assessed needs.
- **Be willing.**
- **Be able to manage (with or without assistance):** some people will be able to manage their direct payments with little assistance whereas others will need intensive support. The Direct Payments Support Service will explore the level of support required.

- **Be able to indicate preferences and make choices:** a key philosophy behind direct payments legislation is that the disabled person has greater choice and control. The disabled person must therefore be able to demonstrate an ability to indicate preferences and make choices.

What services can direct payments purchase?

Direct payments can purchase any community care service the service user has been assessed as needing with the exception of permanent residential care.

Examples may include:

- personal care
- day services
- respite care (short term breaks)
- mixed packages of care: e.g. agencies + employing own staff or direct payments + council arranged services
- jointly funded packages e.g. packages funded by social services and the NHS

What can direct payments not purchase?

- Permanent residential care
- Local authority services
- Acute health care needs funded by the NHS

For further information contact:

The Direct Payments Support Service, Greenfield House, Highview, Calcot, Reading RG31 4XD

Tel: 07966 649 562

Fax: 01189 419 182

e-mail: alan@kinglseycentre.org.uk

More information can also be found on our website – go to www.westberks.gov.uk and search under “direct payments”.

