

Cllr Simon Allen, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing Key Issues Briefing Note

Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel – March 2013

1. PUBLIC ISSUES

Learning Disability Partnership Conference

About 245 people came to all or part of this year's Partnership Conference – more than 100 people at the Conference had a learning disability. There were also more than 25 family members as well as professionals, support staff, providers and officers and staff of the Council and Sirona.

The Conference opened with local good news stories. Some were very personal to the people telling the story and some were about group or organisational achievements. These included:

- Brian and Alex shared some really exciting images of work that Action on Hearing Loss had created during a project called Transient Graffiti. This was a community arts project and working with local artists the group created images to project onto Bath Abbey at the start of the Christmas Market.
- There was a short film of Simon at Somer FM – where he is a DJ twice a week. Simon then shared with the conference his love of music and how he had always wanted to be a radio DJ. With support from Dimensions Simon now has a show twice a week on Somer FM.

In the afternoon there were ten workshops, each considering a different theme. The Workshop groups were all asked to think about the thing they all had in common and to try to agree three things which could be changed or improved in the lives of people with learning disability. Each Workshop got to feedback their ideas at the end of the day.

There is more information from the Conference on the BANES Networks website along with photos and a short film of the day www.banes-networks.co.uk

2. PERFORMANCE

Independent Living Service Wins National Award

The Independent Living Service (ILS) commissioned by the Council and provided by Curo has been named national winner of the National Housing Federation's Community Impact Awards. The judges felt Curo's passion and commitment shone through in this innovative project which has improved quality of life for more than 500 people in the Bath and North East Somerset area.

For many the Independent Living Service has been an alternative to residential care through simple adjustments that make life easier – from home adaptations and shopping deliveries to money advice. Awards' judge Claire Bailey-Jones said "The scheme has a positive impact upon family, friends and neighbours of those who use the service. It can be used as a template for housing associations across the UK to

help people stay in their own homes for longer. Absolutely fantastic and cannot be commended enough!”

3. SERVICE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

A large group from across the BANES Networks shared with the Learning Disability Partnership Conference the exciting changes within the Networks over the last 12 months as well as the projects that will take the Networks into the future. In 2012 the Networks became a business in its own right. The Networks are called BANES Networks CIC. A CIC is a Community Interest Company and this means that the business works with and for the community – for the Networks this means it is run by people with learning disabilities for the learning disability community as well as the wider community.

The group explained that the CIC are working with Your Say to learn how to run a business. The CIC has a Project Group and everyone in the Project Group is learning new skills in how business works. The group explained that it is learning how money works and how to keep accounts of the money the CIC has and spends. As well as thinking about ways to make money.

Since becoming a CIC, the Networks have opened two new businesses. Both are food based. There is a café in Keynsham called “Saturday Kitchen” which opens on the first Saturday of the month at the Key Centre in Keynsham. The Saturday Kitchen sells homemade soup and cakes as well as art and craft. The second business is called “Bath Bistro” and this is a restaurant which is open every 6 weeks at Manvers Street Café@Centre. Both of these new businesses are creating real work opportunities for Network members as well as a service to the community.