



Kent LINK External Representatives Meeting Report

Name of LINK Representative	Roger Kendall
Name of External Organisation	Thanet Voluntary and Community Sector Forum
Name of External Group	Disability Hub
Name of lead contact of External Group	Andrew Field
Date of Meeting	28 October 2011
Venue of Meeting	St Georges School, Westwood Road, Broadstairs
Summary of Meeting (If appropriate attach papers)	<p>The purpose of the meeting was to inform members of the group on proposed changes to benefits and employment and examine how any detrimental effects could be minimised.</p> <p>The main speakers were Laura Sandys, the MP for Thanet South, who spoke about the review to disability living allowance being revised in 2013, whereby recipients would have their eligibility reviewed and their ability to work assessed.</p> <p>Thereafter, there was a presentation from David Foley, the Chief Executive of Thanet and East Kent Chamber (of Commerce), who spoke about the way in which the chamber members were attempting to create opportunities for increased employment.</p> <p>The meeting then divided into workshops where experts in the field of training and placement in employment informed participants of the way in which their particular organisations assisted those seeking employment.</p> <p>The profiles of the various facilitators are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penny Dadds Partnership Manager (Kent District Jobcentre Plus) Penny has worked for Job Centre Plus (JCP) for 25 years, 12 of which have been as an Office Manager at Herne Bay, Ramsgate and Margate Jobcentres. Four

years ago, Penny moved to the Kent District External Relations Team and is involved in negotiations with employers planning to move into the area, colleges and other training providers to enhance the support for JCP customers to move off welfare and into work. Penny's work involves meeting with a variety of external organisations to brief them on the help and support available through JCP.

- **Francis Doran**
Supply Chain Manager, Surrey & Sussex (G4S)

Francis joined G4S having worked within welfare-to-work for the first seven years. Initially, Francis delivered employment services as an employment advisor before moving on to manage private sector led New Deal and Pathways programmes. Francis has seen firsthand the benefits of working closely in partnership with a wide range of organisations and has forged local links on the programmes to provide the best service possible. Since joining G4S Francis has been involved in bidding for the implementation of the Work Programme for Kent, Surrey and Sussex and now leads on programme delivery across Kent.

- **Lynn Marchant**
Lead (Kent Mindful Employer)

Lynn started Creating Bridges for the NHS Mental Health Trust in 2003, which was a Service User Employment service for people with secondary mental health issues. It became clear after two years in this role that helping people get ready for employment was one thing, but getting work was another, especially if people wanted to disclose their mental health condition. In 2004, Lynn head about the Mindful Employer initiative in Devon lead by Richard Frost, who agreed for Lynn to set up the initiative in Kent. Kent Mindful Employer now has over 80 members in the network, across all sectors within Kent and Medway.

- **Steve Chapman**
Director Voice4Kent (The Skillnet Group CIC)

"I have had paid jobs in the past, but they did not work out because I did not have the right support at work. I went to a Speaking Up Group run by the Skillnet Group and that built my confidence and I am now able to speak up for myself and others. I work for Voice4Kent and I am also a Director. Voice4Kent is an independent

campaigning group. It helps people speak up and know their rights. We are the coordinators of the South East Regional Forum for people with Learning Disabilities. I am proud of all the work I do and am thankful for all the support I get and that I do not claim benefits now. I have two hours per week support from Access to Work and it may be increased. Access to Work has been very helpful and efficient".

- **Ann-Marie
Project Lead, Training (The Skillnet Group CIC)**

"In December 2009, I got my current job as Project Lead (Training) where I do various training including Equality & Human Rights, Health and Safety and Disability Awareness training for people who work in the Criminal Justice System. We do this training for a diverse range of people. I support other various different projects within Skillnet Group. I am a Board Member, representing the training team and workforce development. My passion is to support people to get a job and speak up for themselves. Being part of the training team shows people that people with and without Learning Disabilities can get a job. I get support through Access to Work for 2 hours a week which has helped me a lot as I can understand what is being written. I also get support to write emails and put workshops and presentations together".

- **Kirsty McChesney
Advisor (Thanet College)**

After graduating from The University of Reading in 2008, Kirsty developed and managed a learning centre in Ramsgate. During this time, Kirsty provided information, advice and guidance which involved supporting people to gain qualifications in literacy, numeracy and IT. Kirsty engaged with a diverse range of people in the community with a learning initiative linking digital inclusive with social inclusion. Kirsty currently works for Thanet College as an Information, Advice and Guidance Advisor and Job Broker, helping people with re-skilling, retraining and securing employment.

- **Tony Adamson
Lead (Leonard Cheshire Disability)**

Tony has worked for Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD) for three months, leading on the implementation of the Work Programme across four areas, which they are

	delivering as part of Disability Works UK. Prior to this, Tony worked for Mencap for 12 years and has been involved in the consortia since its inception as both Mencap and LCD were founder members.
Recommendations / Actions eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items for LINK bulletin • Items for individual interest group • Issue to Priorities Panel / Governors' Group 	
Date of Next Meeting	

For office use only

Recommendations / Actions

<i>For Office Use Only</i>	<i>Recommendation / Action</i>	<i>Date of Action Taken</i>	<i>Who By</i>
<i>Name</i>			
<i>Date</i>			