

November 2010

BUILDING INCLUSIVE KENT COMMUNITIES

Our story so far



Values Incorporated



Foundation for People
with Learning Disabilities



BUILDING INCLUSIVE
KENT COMMUNITIES

Introduction

Building Inclusive Kent Communities is a two year project funded through Kent Adult Social Services (KASS).



The project wants to learn about working with community groups and services so that everyone is welcome and included.



The Foundation for People with a Learning Disability and Values Incorporated are supporting this work.

Values Incorporated



The districts of Swale, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells have made a plan that shows how different community groups and services can work together.

Including Everyone

- Being a part of the community is important to everyone.
- We all want to live in safe, welcoming and easy to use communities.
- Getting access to the community does not just mean being able to getting into buildings.
- It also means being able to have easy information and people around who can help you get the things you need and want.

Some community groups and services in Kent are doing lots to make sure everyone is included. However, this is not happening everywhere.



Working Together

The project wants to learn about the things that help people work on shared plans. It will celebrate the good work that is already happening.

District teams include community groups, faith groups and public services including libraries, sports and leisure centres, the police, hospitals and many more.

The project also wants to find out which things make the biggest difference in helping community groups and services to create real change.

This could be getting communities to work alongside people with learning disabilities to:

- Find things out together,
- Plan new things that would make the places where we live and work better for disabled people,
- Show the good things people with learning disabilities can offer other people and change poor attitudes,
- Make information easier,
- Create new ways for people to meet and mix together.



Nothing
smaller than
14 point

Learning Together

We have been learning a lot about the work people have done through their action plans. We know that:

- People with a learning disability have not always been included in all the different plans communities make,
- There are lots of things that stop people from different groups and services meeting up and working together,
- Services for people with a learning disability sometimes need to step back and help community groups and services open up to everyone,
- Most of the people we have met want to get involved,
- When people with learning disabilities are included the whole community benefits,
- Communities are full of talented people and new opportunities and choices can happen,
- Making sure that everyone can use their local communities will take time and lots of hard work,
- Having local champions is very important to keep this work moving forward.





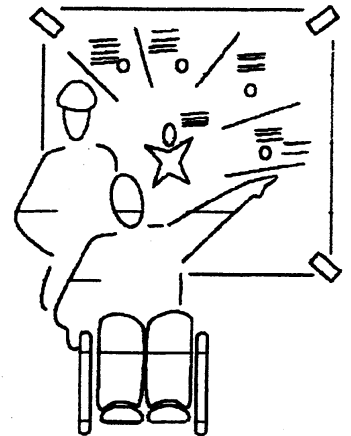
Development Days

Last year the teams from Swale, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells all met up. We had 3 development days where people could learn and share what they were doing with others.

Teams came and shared their ideas about how people could get included in things. They thought about the people and places that were already welcoming and new people they could meet.

Community groups reminded us that it is not just about services. Sometimes it is the places people meet together, have fun, learn and make friends.

We will be planning another day for everyone to meet up later this year.

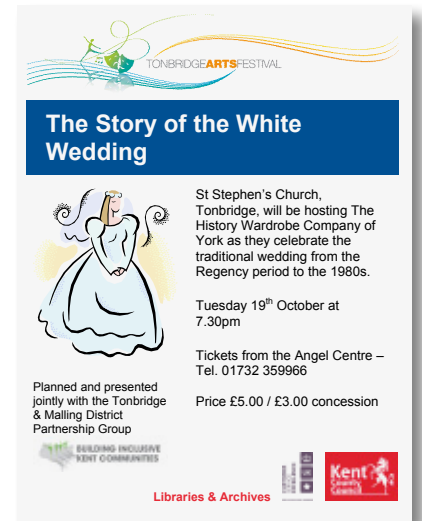


Tonbridge and Malling

A planning group has been set up that includes Kent Libraries, The Borough Council, Kent Adult Social Services, Larkfield Methodist Church, The Beat Project, The District Partnership Group and The local Access Group.

The team have made an action plan that includes:

- Being part of the Tonbridge Arts Festival and planning a performance of 'The history of the White Wedding'.
- Bringing people together at a big community celebration called 'Spring Forward'. This event was held in April and was attended by over 200 local people.
- Working with community services including the Borough Council on access to services and linking this to the work of the District Partnership Group.
- Working with the Methodist Church and libraries on a reading group supported by volunteers.
- Supporting a community craft and chat group who will make a quilt for the 2012 Olympic Games under the 'Gift of Quilts' programme.



- Linking with community led projects including Diet, Dig and Dance by the Beat Project.
- Working with Larkfield Methodist Church to look at how we can share good ideas across faith groups. This may include a big presentation to the Regional Methodist Synod where lots of people from the church come to share and learn.



Tunbridge Wells

The Tunbridge Wells planning group is made up of members of the District Partnership Group, Kent Libraries and Voluntary Action within Kent. Tunbridge Wells are working with four community services.

- Voluntary Action within Kent is making an easy volunteer pack with lots of photographs of different ways people can volunteer.
- They are also making their website easier for people to use.
- The Kent Library Service and Shoppers Anonymous have trained mystery shoppers to help them make libraries better for everyone.
- The library service will look at how mystery shopping can be used right across Kent.
- The Borough Council will support people with learning disabilities to be involved in the MELA festival. This is a celebration of lots of different music, foods and cultures.
- People will work with council staff to be stewards showing people around, and involved in setting up and some of the Mela displays.
- Fusion Leisure will look at all the different ways they tell people about the services they provide and how easy they are to use.



Inter-Act (Community Focus Group)
'Building Inclusive Kent Communities'

MYSTERY SHOPPING

We are going to see how good some services are for people with disabilities.

We want 5 people to be our mystery shoppers, to see how good things are.

Mystery shopping is where a person pretends to be a customer to find out how good the service is.

You may do a specific task like asking a question or just go to a place and then tell us what you think.

We can't pay people for your time but will pay expenses plus support!

For more information email:
info.twdpg@gmail.com

BUILDING INCLUSIVE KENT COMMUNITIES



Swale

Swale has set up a planning group that includes the Skillnet Group CIC, Swale Borough Council, Kent County Council, Arts and Libraries, AmicusHorizon, East Kent Mencap, Smart Film and Media, Diversity House and Swale Carers.

The aim of the group is to be a champion for getting all parts of the Swale community included.

- AmicusHorizon is working to include people with a learning difficulty in the youth forum.
- The Skillnet Group and Kent County Council Youth and Community will be working to support the Swale Youth Council to be more inclusive.
- Skillnet and AmicusHorizon have contacted local people with learning disabilities about getting involved in the Sittingbourne festival.
- They have signposted Swale Borough Council festival organisers to get in touch with 'Jargon Busters' to help in the design of easy read flyers and posters.
- The group has put the festival organisers in touch with various people who might want to get involved as stewards and marshals. They have organised most of the marshals and stewards through V-inspired and the Events Marshalling Unit.



- The group has found people from local Speaking Up Groups and has supported them to send their own ideas into the Swale Borough Council Regeneration Plan.
- The group has looked at the Swale Local Area Agreement and what it says about people with learning difficulties. They have highlighted things that need to be followed up.
- They have supported the Swale Community Empowerment Network (SCEN) with easy read information.
- AmicusHorizon and Mencap are looking at setting up a group to undertake Mystery shopping.



Sharing this Work

We will be writing a book to tell people in community groups and services about the work that has been done here in Kent.

The book will also tell people about good things that have happened in those communities that have not been part of this project. Dee Watson who is the Valuing People Now Manager for Kent has been helping us learn about good examples of people being included from across the county. We hope this will also include some examples of work from the National Health Service.

The book will be launched in the spring of next year.

We will be holding a launch party and will send out more information nearer the time.



For more information contact:

Simon Goldsmith

simon@valuesinc.co.uk

Christine Burke

cburke@fpld.org.uk



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Christine Burke

BUILDING INCLUSIVE KENT COMMUNITIES

Our Community Partners

Tonbridge and Malling



Libraries & Archives



Tunbridge Wells



Libraries & Archives



Swale

