

# Workshop – Inclusive Communities

## Facilitators:

Mal Hampson (Halton Speaks Out)

John Hunt (Halton Speaks Out)

The **aim** of this workshop was to share with delegates the work we have been involved in with in Halton that has enabled young people to build a more inclusive community

The **objectives** were to:

- Evidence how we have worked to empower young people in becoming leaders of change within their community
- Evidence how the work of young people has challenged and enabled our community to become more inclusive
- To share how working in partnerships with others can affect change

## Background

Our Bright Sparks Project is an innovative approach to supporting young people and their families to be part of challenging and developing services within the community. The project has been working in Halton addressing many issues.

- Disabled children and young people should enjoy the same rights and opportunities as other children.
- That the views of children and young people have a right to be heard and should be part of developing an inclusive society and should be fully included in every aspect of society.

## Workshop

After welcome and introductions there was a brief presentation to give the background and context for the work. A group discussion followed covering the following issues and contributed to the actions listed in the actions table:

- a) Empowering young people to be leaders of change in developing a inclusive community
- b) Working with the community....supporting inclusion
- c) Partnership working and how is can affect positive change

## General Discussion

- Question on how they are evaluating the Halton project. They have produced a basic report but no formal evaluation.
- This project could only involve people who were capable of the completing training (some reading, writing etc.). Some younger children with severe learning disabilities were involved through their parents, and it was suggested that non-verbal people can take part with support from their staff accompanying them.
- Bullying and harassment was not an element in the criteria but the drama group linked to the project, Ella Together, has done a performance about bullying.

- This is a valuable project – inclusive communities work. A national programme like dementia friends would be great. Promotes culture change.
- How can this project be transferred and replicated? Needs evidence and guidance about how it was run
  - The project has produced a details guide
  - Nick Gore offered to advise on setting up an evaluation
- How could it be linked with Transforming Care? Having evidence from an evaluation will make it easier to include this in Transforming Care Partnership plans.
- Someone could write to the Valuing People Teams to ask what mystery shopping they did years ago and what can be learnt from it. People First may have some ideas.
- The LD programme board could help raise the profile of people with learning disabilities and autism.
- There are existing schemes of ‘autism friendly’ days out, film screenings etc. These projects could link together.
- Self-advocacy groups may be interested in this type of scheme.
- We could look at this from a commercial viewpoint – a certificate from a learning disability accreditation is good for business. Could approach local business associations. The Halton project was successful in getting several chains on board.
- The LGA could help to disseminate any new work on this.
- Other organisations that could help:
  - Health and well-being boards
  - Autism Alliance
  - Learning Disability Alliance
  - Disability Rights groups
  - Equality and Human Rights Commission (link to reasonable adjustments)
- The graphic facilitation of this session can be used as part of information about the project.

### **Actions**

- Collect evidence to make the case for this model of inclusion
- Explore how HSO can be adapted for children and young people with complex needs
- What elements of dementia friendly campaign are transferable?
- Make connections with Autism Alliance