

## Thanet District Partnership Group Notes of Meeting on 23rd August 2010

### Feedback from Kent Partnership Board July meeting

Review of KPB. The Kent Partnership Board will be writing Terms of Reference for the Board, Delivery Groups, DPGs and the new Cabinet.



Terms of Reference are a guide to how groups will work.

The Cabinet will be made up of professional and non professional people. It will help the Kent Partnership Board make decisions and make things happen.

The Good Health Group talked about their action plan and what they are doing. Some people being asked to keep a diary of their experiences of visiting health services. This information will be used to try and make health services better.



The Kent Housing Action Plan makes sure the big points about housing in Valuing People happen. People with a learning disability should have a choice of where they want to live.



### Advocacy Partners

Rachel is the new advocate for Thanet.

An advocate is someone who helps you have your voice heard.

They can help you find information eg about housing, parenting, finance etc.

An advocate can help you understand your choices and help you explain what you want to say to other people.

Advocacy is a free service. You do not have to pay to have an advocate.

Advocates cannot take sides with other people or tell people things about you.

Advocates do not make choices for you or tell you what to do.

Advocates cannot work with you all the time but will arrange meetings at times convenient to you.

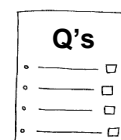
Advocates can work with you on particular issue until your voice has been heard.

When the advocate has finished their work they will stop seeing you. But if you need an advocate again you can ask for one.

To contact Rachel or ask for an advocate please ring 020 3355 7141 or email [kent@advocacypartners.org](mailto:kent@advocacypartners.org)

### **Telling the Health Service What we Think**

Last year the Good Health Group did a survey to find out peoples experiences using the health service.



This year people are being asked to keep a health diary of their experiences of using health services.



Each district has been asked for find 10 people in each district to fill in a diary. The diary must be returned by the end of September. People can have help to fill in the diary if you need to.

## Valuing People Now

This is the Government's plan for making things better for people with learning disabilities. It says people should have:

- The same rights as everyone else.
- The support to live the life they choose.
- Be able to have a say in decisions made about their life.
- Be involved in everything going on in the community.



Valuing People Now says people think the following things are important to them:

- Planning how to spend money for your own care and support.
- Better Health
- Housing and being asked about local housing plans.
- Work, education and having an ordinary life.
- Relationships and having a family if they want.
- Advocacy and getting the right support and information.
- Transport
- Keeping safe.



How will all this happen?

Lots of different departments in the Government and Local



Councils and other organisations should work together to make sure things happen.

We talked about what people thought had changed, or not changed. The DPG Planning Group will write a report about what we said and give this to the Kent Partnership Board.

The report will also be on the Thanet DPG Website at [www.thanetdpg.co.uk](http://www.thanetdpg.co.uk).

