



**Linking adults with learning disabilities and
volunteers to do activities both enjoy**

**The Adult Service:
Feasibility Study
Report 2000**

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Interest Link Borders Feasibility Study Report

Introduction

This report brings together a number of documents produced during a feasibility study initiated by Interest Link Berwickshire and carried out in 1999-2000. This study looked into the possibility of providing a befriending service for adults with learning disabilities to cover the whole of the Scottish Borders area, using the service developed in Berwickshire as a base.

These documents include:

- ❖ the initial study plan produced in July 1999
- ❖ the study report produced in March 2000
- ❖ the results of the potential service user survey carried out (together with the information leaflets and forms used in the survey)
- ❖ the record of the study consultation process
- ❖ details of the steering group that considered the results of the study
- ❖ an analysis of the local organisations involved with adults with learning disabilities (all of which were involved in the consultation process)

As a result of the feasibility study, a Business Plan for Interest Link Borders was drawn up and this is available from the co-ordinator.

Interest Link Borders

New Project Feasibility Study Plan

July 1999

1. Background

The past three years have seen Interest Link Berwickshire develop steadily from a small pilot project into a well-rounded organisation delivering the first-class service its users deserve. The challenge now is to see if the experience gained in Berwickshire can be used to provide a similar befriending service to adults with learning disabilities in the other three districts that make up the Scottish Borders area.

Over the last year, informal soundings have been taken from relevant statutory, private and voluntary organisations in the area as to whether they would like to see projects similar to Interest link Berwickshire set up in their locality. Without exception the response was positive, enthusiastic and accompanied by offers of assistance. It also confirmed that there were no other organisations in the area offering a similar service and indicated a strong demand from potential service users. As a result, the committee has decided that a formal feasibility study should be carried out by the co-ordinator during 1999/2000 to research the viability of setting up new projects.

2. Details of the feasibility study

(a). The first step will be to contact and make presentations to all the public and independent organisations in the area which have care for adults with learning disabilities as part of their work. The aim will be to consult and involve as many people as possible and gather ideas and enlist support for the potential new projects. A steering group will also be formed, representing the interests of service users and care providers across the Borders, to guide the study, assess its results and possibly take things forward after its completion.

(b). These initial contacts and presentations will prepare the ground for

(i) a full survey of potential service users to accurately assess the demand for the service. This will be carried out largely through day centres, supported housing projects, nursing homes and voluntary support groups.

(ii) an assessment of potential volunteers. This assessment is likely be fairly limited but could identify particular local sources of volunteers and the experience of local bodies that work with volunteers.

(iii) the formation of provisional local management committees for each project. This will ensure there are a sufficient number of people in each area who are prepared to actually be involved in running and managing the projects,

(iv) preliminary enquiries as to funding or underwriting available from local and central statutory bodies. Interest Link Berwickshire has a good record of raising funding from non-statutory bodies but a bedrock of statutory funding will be needed for long term stability of a larger organisation.

(v) discussions on the structuring and operation of new projects, for example the areas they would cover, their staffing, specific local conditions that need to be catered for and how the various projects would be managed and relate to each other.

(vii) exploration of practical matters such as availability of convenient and inexpensive office space, venues for meetings and the possibilities of obtaining cast-off computers.

3. If the feasibility study results are positive

If the study shows that there is sufficient local demand and support for new projects then a formal development plan would be drawn up by the steering group and applications for funding would be made to public bodies, the National Lottery Charities Board, local businesses and grant-making trusts. If sufficient funding was obtained the new projects would then proceed.

4. Costs of the feasibility study

To give the co-ordinator the time to carry out the study, an assistant co-ordinator will be employed for five hours per week at £6.40 per hour for an initial period of six months. This post will be advertised in the Interest Link Berwickshire July newsletter and local press.

Specific funding will be sought for the costs of employing the assistant for six months, which will be around £1,250 (Salary & N.I.: £850, Travel and other expenses: £300, recruitment advertising costs £100)

If the feasibility study results are positive, the duration of the assistant's post may be extended to enable the co-ordinator to draw up a development plan, apply for funding and assist in setting up any new projects. Specific funding would be sought for this extension.

Interest Link Borders Feasibility Study Report

March 2000

1. Purpose of study

- a. To establish if there is a demand from adults with learning disabilities throughout the Scottish Borders for befriending projects similar to Interest Link Berwickshire
- b. To establish if local management committees could be formed and what the management structure of the new project should be.
- c. To establish if funding is likely to be available

2. Potential service user survey

❖ As many potential service users as possible have been surveyed. The survey has been carried out principally through accommodation providers and day centres and as well as assessing the number of people keen to use the service, other information such as potential service users' preferred activities and the preferred frequency of those activities has been gathered. Care has been taken to avoid potential service users being surveyed by both their accommodation provider and day centre.

❖ 229 of 299 potential service users surveyed (77%) had said they would use a service.

3. Proposed structure and management of new project

a. Structure

❖ a central body registered as a charity with the Inland Revenue.

❖ up to three new local branches which together with Interest Link Berwickshire would be projects of the central body and would cover:

(i) Roxburghshire: based in Hawick and also covering Jedburgh, Kelso and St Boswells

(ii) Central Borders: based in Galashiels and including Melrose and Gattonside,

(iii) Peebleshire: based in Peebles,

(iv) Berwickshire; this would continue to be based at BAVS in Duns and would include Earlston and Lauder.

❖ The allocation of service users between branches would probably depend upon where they lived rather than any day centre they attended, but this would be a matter for individual decision and co-ordination between the projects. Similarly, the 6 current service users living in Kelso who attend Lanark Lodge Day Centre in Duns could choose to stay with Berwickshire or change to Roxburghshire.

b. Management

❖ Each local branch would have its own committee, along the lines of the Berwickshire committee and consisting of

service users,

volunteers,

family and professional carers and

representatives of local care providers and relevant statutory and voluntary agencies.

- ❖ Local care providers all seemed happy to provide representatives for the relevant local committees. Statutory agencies such as Social Work Department and Borders health board sometimes have objections to employees serving on committees but demands on the time of committee members in the Berwickshire project have been fairly light and so this problem could hopefully be overcome.
- ❖ Each local branch would also have its own part-time co-ordinator, working 15-20 hours per week, possibly mainly from home, but in any case with a desk and committee meeting facilities in a local office (possibilities include: Hawick, the Streets Ahead office; Galashiels, the Brothers of Charity's Lawyers Brae drop-in centre; Peebles, the Volunteer Resource Centre)
- ❖ The committee of the central body would consist mainly of representatives of the local projects but would also have, for example, representatives of relevant area wide bodies such as Social Work Department and Borders health board and people with expertise in specific relevant areas. It would also have a co-ordinator, working 10 hours per week.

c. Division of Responsibility

- ❖ There would be an assumption that operation of the service would be organised and carried out by the local branches unless there were definite reasons for the central body to be involved
- ❖ Each local branch would therefore conduct its own registering of service users, recruitment of volunteers, link creation and link support. Advertising, training and fund-raising would be divided between the local branches and the central body
- ❖ The central body would act as a forum in which the branches could discuss and agree matters of common interest, such as relationships with other bodies, best operational practice, information sharing and development of new initiatives.

d. Suggested names;

These could follow Interest Link Berwickshire; i.e. Interest Link Roxburgh/Roxburghshire, Interest Link Central Borders and Interest Link Peebles/Tweeddale. The central body would be Interest Link Borders.

e. Reasoning behind the above proposals; [see the Business Plan for full details of the factors affecting the project structure]

- ❖ The extension of the service through new small local branches rather than by simply expanding the original project appears to be accepted good practice for such projects and was also recommended by the 1998 independent evaluation. The main benefit would obviously be that each branch would cover an area that was geographically small enough to be manageable and also not have so many service users that the project lost its community nature. At the same time a central body is useful to efficiently carry out functions that can be centralised and enable co-ordination of the whole. This structure combined with a central body would also be suggested by the experience of other organisations seeking to

cover the whole of the Borders while providing a community based service such as the CsVS, VBs and Rural partnership.

❖ The idea of only having one registered body with a number of branches seems to be favoured by funders.

4. Operating procedures of new branches

These would be based closely on the Berwickshire project (see Code of Practice) and would be developed by the central body and individual branches as necessary.

5. Funding

(a) Background: After a relaunch grant of £6,000 from BVCCF, Interest Link Berwickshire has received most of its funding over the last four years from grant-making trusts (£34,600), with the addition recently of two grants from Social Work Department of £1596 and £1775, a grant of £1,000 from Borders Primary Care NHS Trust and £1,165 from the lottery Awards for All small grant scheme

(b) Funding for the new project:

❖ While it has been possible to rely on grant-making trusts to fund a small project with a budget of £10,000, it would be necessary to have a portfolio approach to fund a larger entity which might ultimately have a budget of approaching £60,000

❖ Ideally this would involve securing funding from statutory bodies for “core” costs such as salaries, employees’ expenses and office costs, and funding from grant-making trusts for the packageable, project-specific costs such as volunteers’ expenses, recruitment and training which they are happiest to fund.

❖ Hopefully a joint funding package, including say Social Work Department, Borders Primary Care NHS Trust and, in time, possibly the Scottish Executive could be agreed to reduce dependence on one core funder.

❖ If the Social Work Department was unable to provide funding at the moment, an application could be made to the National Lottery Charities Board, under their community involvement/poverty & disadvantage funding programme, for the entire cost of the projects, with the statutory agencies perhaps providing a pledge to replace the core element of the funding at the end of the NLCB grant.

❖ If a lottery application was unsuccessful, other very large funders such as Lloyds TSB Foundation and UVAF could be approached.

Potential Service User Survey

The survey was carried out by care staff at the various housing projects and day centres in the area. Efforts were made through Scottish Borders Council Social Work Department to find potential service users who do not make use of these services. Experience in Berwickshire has shown that because of the degree of disability of potential service users (by definition all service users are unable to live independently) there are very few who do not use public or independent services. It is likely that this situation is repeated in the rest of the area and that the potential service users surveyed comprise over 90% of those in the area.

To avoid duplication, day centres surveyed only those service users not living in the housing projects surveyed.

As can be seen by the survey forms, information was also gathered as to the sex and age of potential service users, the type of activity they would like to do and how often. Use has not been made of this data in producing these results but it could be made available on request.

A. By Service provider

Accommodation providers	Number who would like to use project out of total numbers surveyed
Ark Housing Association, (inc Kelso respite)	Kelso: 3 of 3 residential 2 of 4 respite Hawick: 8 of 8 Peebles: 10 of 15 Gala 1 of 11
Brothers of Charity	61 of 80
Choices,	6 of 6
Garvald Training Centre	18 of 32
Garvald Farm	4 of 8
Streets Ahead	16 of 20
Trinity House	4 of 6
Day Centres:	
Brothers of Charity	Lawyer's Brae: 10 of 10 Leisure/Retirement: 2 of 2 Activation: no non-Brothers of Charity residents Reivers Industries: 25 of 25
Gala Day Services.	10 of 10
Katherine Elliot Centre, Hawick	40 of 40
Victoria Park, Peebles	9 of 19
Total	229 of 299 (77%)

B. By branch

Central Borders

Accommodation providers	Number who would like to use project out of total numbers surveyed
Ark Housing Association,	Gala 1 of 11
Brothers of Charity	61 Of 80
Streets Ahead (Melrose)	3 of 4
Day Centres:	
Brothers of Charity	Lawyer's Brae:10 of 10 Leisure/Retirement: 2 of 2 Activation: no non-Brothers of Charity residents Reivers Industries: 25 of 25
Gala Day Services.	10 of 10
Total	112 of 142

Roxburgh

Accommodation providers	Number who would like to use project out of total numbers surveyed
Ark Housing Association, (inc Kelso respite)	Hawick: 8 of 8 Kelso: 3 of 3 residential 2 of 4 respite
Choices,	6 of 6
Streets Ahead (Hawick)	13 of 16
Trinity House	4 of 6
Day Centres:	
Katherine Elliot Centre, Hawick	40 of 40
Total	76 of 83

Tweeddale

Accommodation providers	Number who would like to use project out of total numbers surveyed
Ark Housing Association,	10 of 15
Garvald Training Centre	18 of 32
Garvald Farm	4 of 8
Day Centres:	
Victoria Park, Peebles	9 of 19
Total	41 of 74

Survey of Carers

During the consultation period around 80 family carers were talked to directly and all expressed enthusiasm for the planned service. In addition, all housing and day centre project managers talked to their care staff about the planned service and received positive replies without exception.

Addendum: Berwickshire

As an existing project, Berwickshire was not surveyed as part of the study. However, in the interests of completeness and as Berwickshire will be part of the new area-wide project, the statistics for it are set out below.

Adults with learning disabilities in Berwickshire

Living in accommodation projects	Number who are registered with Interest Link Berwickshire
Station Avenue:	9 of 11
Mount View:	6 of 9
Lennel House:	13 of 18
Marchmont:	0 of 4
Attending day centres and not living in the above accommodation projects	
Lanark Lodge	17 of 33
Total	45 of 75

Total size of new project

Taking these figures for Interest Link Berwickshire into account, the total number of service users for the new project would be around 275 from a possible 375. (73%).

Further use of research

As will be seen from the survey materials below, information as to gender, age and interests and the frequency with which the service would be wanted was also gathered. Although this was gathered primarily for internal planning, it is hoped that an analysis of this information may also be included as a further addendum to this report.

Consultation Record

In addition, all organisations were written to and sent the feasibility plan and report.

Organisation	Main contact	Contact to date
Ark Housing	Nic Goodwin	Met area manager Nic Goodwin and all four project managers (Kelso, Peebles, Gala and Hawick) on 3/9/99. Talked to Kelso staff on 23/11/99. Visited Peebles project 1/12/99. Nic is on steering group and Interest Link Borders central committee. Conducted user survey. Local representatives on all branch committees. Talked to/received service user survey replies from 20 carers
BIAS (Borders Independent Advocacy Service)	Joan Lawson	Met Joan and discussed plans
Borders Carers Centre	Fiona Morrison	Spoke to Fiona McGill 30/6/99. Received letter from co-ordinator Fiona Morrison 21/7/99. .
Borders Local Health Council	Moira Balmer	Received newsletter for June 1999. Submitted article for their October newsletter
Borders Network	Julie Seymour	Julie delegated by Neil Simpson & Bridget Sinclair. Spoke 28/10/99 and visited 9/11/99. Julie is on steering group and Interest Link Borders central committee. She has sent a general e-mail to Borders Network staff. No representatives on branch committees
Borders Parent to Parent	Jackie Wilkinson	Referred on to FRENZ
Borders Primary Care NHS Trust	Irene Morris	Visited 9/10/99 at Newstead. She is enquiring about possible funding. Have asked her to do a general e-mail to BHB staff. On steering group.
Brothers of Charity	Charmain Ledsham	Visited 22/9/99 and 10/11/99. Display put up in Lawyers Brae drop-in centre 10/11/99. Charmain on steering group and Interest Link Borders central committee. Conducted user survey. Possibility of office space available at Lawyer's Brae or St Aidan's. Talked to/received service user survey replies from 25 carers
Borders Voluntary Community Care Forum	Annette Scobie	Spoke to Annette several times at length. Annette is convenor of steering group and Interest Link Borders central committee.
Capability Scotland	Jan White	Jan White is on steering group and Interest Link Borders central committee (see also Gala Day Centre)
CBAVS (Central Borders)	John Wilson	Received letter 19/8/99. Visited. No office space available

Association for Voluntary Service)		
CBVB (Central Borders Volunteer Bureau)	Jim Stewart	Received letter 18/8/99 Visited. VB Committee invited to nominate a branch committee member but offer not taken up
Choices Community Care Services	Martin Crawford	Visited. Conducted user survey. Martin is on steering group and Roxburghshire branch committee.
Disability Scotland	Kath McLean	No Borders branch. Sent infopack to research office, Kath McLean.
ENABLE Instep	George Watson	Visited in 1998. Visited on 20/9/99.
ENABLE: Galashiels	Laura Hardy	Visited in 1998. Visited 20/9/99. Will nominate Central Borders branch committee member
FRENZ	Marion McKenna	Spoke on 6/8/99.
Gala Day Services	Jan White	Visited 20/9/99 Conducted user survey. Jan White is on steering group and Interest Link Borders central committee (see also Capability Scotland).
Garvald Farm	Bridget Bagan	Spoke to Bridget July 99. Visited 14/9/99. Conducted user survey. Talked to/received service user survey replies from 4 carers
Garvald Training Centre	Martin Dawson	Spoke to Martin. Visited 14/9/99. Conducted user survey. Martin is on Tweeddale Branch committee. Talked to/received service user survey replies from 12 carers
HITS (Head Injuries Trust of Scotland)	Sylvia Ruddy	Spoke 15/9/99 Received letter 15/9/99
Katherine Elliot Day Centre	Mary Carlin	Visited in 1998. Visited 17/9/99 Conducted user survey. Mary is on steering group and Roxburghshire Branch committee. Talked to/received service user survey replies from 4 carers
LEAD (Linking Education and Disability)	Carole Gascoigne	Rang 13/9/99. LEAD deals mainly with physical disabilities.
People First	Anne Suckling	Pre-existing relationship with Interest Link Berwickshire. Anne is on steering group and Interest Link Borders central committee.
RAVS	Iain MacKintosh	Visited
Roxburgh Volunteer Bureau	Sue Bennett	Visited. VB Committee invited to nominate a branch committee member but offer not taken up
SBC Community Education Dept	Marjorie Hutton	Visited 10/11/99. Marjorie is on steering group

SBC Social Work Dept	Tricia Hunter	Visited 31/9/99. She has sent a general e-mail to Social Work Department staff. Tricia is on steering group and Central Borders Branch committee.
Scottish Down's Syndrome Association	Wendy Thomson	Visited committee meeting at Abbey Row, Kelso 29/9/99. Most of their members are parents of children with Down's Syndrome: very few adults with learning disabilities involved. Talked to 5 carers
Streets Ahead	Pamela Collinson	Visited headquarters in Hawick on 17/9/99 Pamela is on steering group and Roxburghshire Branch committee. Liz Ainslie is on Central Borders Branch committee Conducted user survey. Possibility of office space available at HQ in Hawick. Talked to/received service user survey replies from 5 carers
TAVO	Marlene Borthwick	Visited Office space may be available in Volunteer Resource Centre
TVB	Alison Lambert	Visited VB Committee invited to nominate a branch committee member but offer not taken up
Trinity Housing	Doug Mather	Visited 17/9/99. Conducted user survey. Doug is on Roxburghshire Branch committee
Victoria Park Day Centre	Clifford Carrie	Visited 1/12/99. Conducted user survey. Clifford is on steering group and Tweeddale Branch committee.

Steering Group Members

Organisation	Representative	Sector	Geographical Area
ARK Housing Association	Nic Goodwin	Independent: Accommodation provider	Borders/ Peebles
Borders Voluntary Community Care Forum	Annette Scobie	Independent: Voluntary Community Care	Borders
Borders Primary Care NHS Trust	Irene Morris	Public: Health	Borders
Borders Network	Julie Seymour	Public: Community Care	Borders
Brothers of Charity	Charmain Ledsham	Independent: Accommodation, Day Service & Domiciliary Provider	Galashiels
Choices Community Care Services	Martin Crawford	Independent: Accommodation provider	Hawick
Continuing Education Department	Marjorie Hutton	Public: Education	Borders
Gala Day Services	Jan White	Independent: Day Service Provider	Galashiels
Interest Link Berwickshire	Sheona Muir	Independent: Befriending service provider	Berwickshire
Interest Link Berwickshire	Mark Wilson	Independent: Befriending provider	Berwickshire
Katherine Elliot Centre	Mary Carlin	Public: Day Service provider	Hawick
People First	Anne Suckling	Independent: Community Care Service Users	Borders/ Peebles
Social Work Department	Tricia Hunter	Public: Social Work	Borders
Streets Ahead	Pamela Collinson	Independent: Accommodation & Domiciliary provider	Hawick
Victoria Park Centre	Clifford Carrie	Public: Day Service provider	Peebles

Analysis of Scottish Borders organisations involved with people with learning disabilities

A. By type of organisation

Public Sector

Scottish Borders Council:

Social Work Group

Community Education Department

Day Centres: Katherine Elliot Centre, Hawick

Victoria Lodge, Peebles

Residential: Trinity House, Hawick

Borders Health Board:

Borders Network

Borders Primary Care NHS Trust

Independent Sector

Ark Housing Association,

BIAS (Borders Independent Advocacy Service)

Borders Carers Centre

Borders Parent to Parent

Brothers of Charity,

BVCCF (Borders Voluntary Community Care Forum):

Capability Scotland

Choices,

Disability Scotland:

ENABLE: Galashiels Branch:

Borders Instep Project:

Eildon Housing Association,

Streets Ahead ,

Garvald Training Centre

Garvald Farm

Gala Day Services.

HITS (Head Injuries Trust Scotland)

LEAD (Linking Education and Disability)

Living with Disability

People First

Scottish Borders Volunteer Bureaux:

Scottish Borders Councils of Voluntary Service:

SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations)

Scottish Down's Syndrome Association

Tweeddale Learning Disabilities Update group

B. By type of service provided

Bodies with specific statutory duties to provide care and accommodation

Scottish Borders Council:
Borders Health Board:

Bodies charged with implementation

SBC Social Work Group
SBC Community Education Department
Borders Network
Borders Primary Care NHS Trust

Day Centres:

Katherine Elliot Centre, Hawick
Victoria Lodge, Peebles
Lanark Lodge
Gala Day Services.
Brothers of Charity

Accommodation providers (Nursing, sheltered and independent)

Trinity House	Garvald Training Centre
Ark Housing Association	Garvald Farm
Brothers of Charity	Mount View
Choices	Lennel House
Eildon Housing Association	Streets Ahead

Domiciliary Service

Streets Ahead
Brothers of Charity

Service user/Community representatives

BIAS (Borders Independent Advocacy Service)
Borders Carers Centre
Borders Parent to Parent
BVCCF (Borders Voluntary Community Care Forum):
Capability Scotland
Disability Scotland:
ENABLE: Galashiels Branch
 Borders Instep Project
HITS (Head Injuries Trust Scotland)
LEAD (Linking Education and Disability)
Living with Disability
People First
Scottish Borders Volunteer Bureaux:
Scottish Borders Councils of Voluntary Service:
SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations)
Scottish Down's Syndrome Association
Tweeddale Learning Disabilities Update group

C. By area in which service provided

National only

Disability Scotland

SCVO (Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations)

National with one Borders branch serving whole area

ARK (Borders & East Lothian office at Peebles)

Capability Borders (Selkirk)

ENABLE Instep (Gala)

HITS (Head Injuries Trust Scotland) (Gala)

LEAD (Linking Education and Disability) (Gala)

People First Borders (Peebles)

National with district branch(es) in the Borders

ARK (Peebles, Hawick, Tweedbank and Kelso)

ENABLE Selkirkshire

People First (Duns, Langlee, Peebles)

Scottish Down's Syndrome Association (Hawick)

Borders bodies with a central contact point only

Borders Carers Centre

Borders Health Board

BIAS (Borders Independent Advocacy Service) (Gala)

Borders Local Health Council

Borders Parent to Parent Borders

BVCCF (Borders Voluntary Community Care Forum):

Borders bodies with a central contact point and branches

Borders Network

Borders Primary Care NHS Trust (includes G.P.s, cottage hospitals, community nurses)

Scottish Borders Council:

SBC Social Work Group

SBC Community Education Department

Scottish Borders Volunteer Development Agency

Scottish Borders Forum of Councils of Voluntary Service

Streets Ahead (Domiciliary Service)

Organisations with district presence

Berwickshire

BAVS & BVB

Brothers of Charity (Earlston)

Eildon Housing Association,

Lanark Lodge

Lennel House

Mount View

People First

Central Borders

Ark Housing (Tweedbank & Gala)

Brothers of Charity(Gala, Langlee, Tweedbank, Selkirk)
Capability Borders (Selkirk)
CBAVS & CBVB
ENABLE: Galashiels Branch:
 Borders Instep Project:
Gala Day Services
People First

Roxburghshire

Ark Housing (Hawick & Kelso)
Brothers of Charity (Gattonside, St. Boswells)
Choices (Hawick)
Katherine Elliot Centre
Living with Disability (at Katherine Elliot Centre)
RAVS & RVB
St Aidans Day Centre
Streets Ahead (Hawick & Melrose)
Trinity House

Tweeddale

Ark Housing (Peebles)
Garvald Training Centre
Garvald Home Farm
People First (at Langlee)
TAVO & TVB
Tweeddale Learning Disabilities Update group (at Victoria Lodge)
Victoria Lodge

Survey materials

A. Information leaflet for Carers

INTEREST LINK

Potential Service User Survey

To: Carers

N.B. All information given in the survey will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Interest Link has been providing a one-to-one befriending service for adults with learning disabilities in Berwickshire for three years. It is now looking at setting up new projects to cover the whole of the Borders. Demand for new projects appears to be high, but to plan them thoroughly and make effective funding applications, we need to find out as exactly as possible how many adults with learning disabilities think they would use the service.

We should be very grateful if you would carry out a survey among the potential service users in your care to find out how many might be interested. To help with this you will find enclosed:

1. Information leaflets:

- (a) for potential service users, about the proposed service
- (b) for carers, about Interest Link Berwickshire and how it works: to give an idea of how the new projects would operate.

2. Survey forms:

- (i) individual forms which you might like to use for gathering information internally (not to be returned to Interest Link)
- (ii) a group form on which the information can be brought together and comments made. Some of this information, for example the type or regularity of activity may not be possible to gather but it would be useful to us.

3. Stamped addressed envelope for return of your group form

It is up to you how you conduct the survey but ideally it should be carried out by the carers in closest contact with service users, such as their key workers.

Please complete the form and return it in the stamped addressed envelope provided

If you have any queries please contact:

Andrew Findlay, Co-ordinator, Interest Link Berwickshire, 9 Currie Street,
Duns, Berwickshire TD11 3DL. Tel (pm only):(01573) 410620

B. Information leaflet for potential service users

Interest Link Borders

Linking adults with learning disabilities and volunteers to do activities both enjoy

Is there something you would like to go out and do regularly, but can't because you don't know anyone who you could go with?

Interest Link hopes to set up a service to find you a friend who is interested in the same things you are and could take you out regularly to do them. They could be active things like walking, cycling, playing bowls or golf or they could be more general things like going for a drive, shopping, to the cinema, a cafe or the pub: whatever you like. Even if you're not able to go out, someone could come and visit you at home.

If you think you would like to be linked up with a friend like this please tell the person who looks after you. If enough people want to be linked up we might be able to start the service sometime in 2000.

C. Individual survey form

INTEREST LINK Potential Service User Survey

SUGGESTED FORM FOR INTERNAL INFORMATION GATHERING

Name of Carer/Keyworker.....

Name of Service User.....

Does service user think he/she would like to use Interest Link?.....

If so, what activity or activities would they like to do?.....

.....

How often would they like to do it? Weekly/Fortnightly/Monthly

What is their age?.....

Please complete this form and return it your project leader.

D. House/project survey form for collation of individual forms

INTEREST LINK

Potential Service User Survey

Please complete this form and return it in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

Some of this information, for example the type or regularity of activity may not be possible to get, but if you can, it would be useful to us.

N.B. All information given in the survey will be treated in the strictest confidence.

1. Name of parent organisation:

2. Name of project and/or project unit:.....

.....

3. Name and position of person completing this form:

.....

4. Number of potential service users living in project:

5. (a) Number of potential service users who think they would use Interest Link:

(b) Of these: (i) how many are women: men:

(ii) how many are: 18-30:..... 31-40:..... 41-50:.....

51-60:..... 61-70:..... over 70:.....

(iii) activities: how many would like to do, sports:..... crafts:.....

go to events:..... do general social activities:.....

(iv) regularity: how many would like to do an activity, weekly:.....

fortnightly:..... monthly:.....

6. Do you have any comments on the survey or plans to set up new projects

Please complete this form and return it in the stamped addressed envelope provided

If you have any queries please contact:

Andrew Findlay, Co-ordinator, Interest Link Berwickshire, 9 Currie Street,
Duns, Berwickshire TD11 3DL. Tel (pm only):(01573) 410620