



Supported Living Peer Mentor Project

The Project

- In 2010 the Housing Subgroup of the Learning Disability Partnership Board in Gateshead applied for funding through PSA16
- We wanted to **encourage** people to plan for supported living
- We wanted to **show** people and their family members what it could be like
- We wanted to **reassure** people that they get support if they needed it.



Housing options

The Project

- We also wanted to help people **avoid** being in a crisis situation when their family carers become unwell or no longer able to care for them.
- We wanted to help people to **avoid** being left homeless and needing to move into somewhere they did not choose.
- We thought the **best** people to do the work was people who had been through this themselves.



Housing options

What we did

- The Housing Subgroup worked with Your Voice Counts to employ a co-ordinator for the project.
- The Co-ordinators recruited people with a learning disability and family carers to be mentors
- We asked mentors to **talk** to people about their own experiences, **share** the good and the bad things that happened, & **show** them where and how they were living now.



Housing options

What the Co-ordinators did

- Recruitment
- Training
- Matched people with mentors
- Awareness raising
- Developed a ‘What Next’ leaflet
- Made and launched the DVD
- Evaluated the project



Outcomes (numbers)

- * So far we have had 48 referrals
 - * 20 for carers
 - * 28 for people with learning disabilities

20



28



Outcomes (Making a difference)

- * Increased awareness of supported living
- * Opportunity to see real life options
- * Opportunity to meet people with real life experience
- * Increased networking among carers
- * Some decisions made but mostly smaller steps towards future planning

Case study

- Young man “Peter” and family
- referred for tenant peer mentor and carer peer mentor
- Wanting to plan for the future
- Whole family (Peter, parents and sister) met with both mentors
- Peter met with tenant mentor and visited his home

Feedback

“ It has been really helpful, before we only had brochures. It’s given our family the chance to get real life experience about supported living and a chance to ask real people the questions we want to ask”

What next?

Funding for a year to keep a part-time co-ordinator, so that we can:

- Publicise DVD
- Circulate leaflets
- Meet with carers groups
- Continue to provide mentoring



The End

Thank-You