

# Meeting Minutes



**Meeting Title:** North-West Valuing People

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> April



**Time:** 10.30-12:30pm

**Location:** Zoom

## Meeting Summary



### Welcome and introductions

- Welcome and introductions were made

### Books Beyond Words:



- Books beyond words run book clubs with children and adults who prefer pictures to words.
- These books are not easy read books but stories which use images to help people understand their emotions and issues. There are over 80 books and lots of different topics ranging from books about grief, health issues,

abuse and general story books that have a different tone.

- There is currently a little funding to develop and run book clubs in Surrey. The aim is to have a group of people with learning disabilities to come along to these book clubs but also help run the clubs regularly.
- There is a part time position for someone with a learning disability and another part time position for someone to support who does not have a disability.
- We will train people who will be taking the positions and then the book club can keep going after the training has finished. We will check back in after six months to see if it is working or if anyone needs help.
- We provide a licence so if the book club is meeting online, you can access these books easily.
- The aim is for the book clubs to be small, eight people maximum to enable people to get to know each other and for the conversation to be as relaxed as possible.
- The aim of the book clubs is to allow people to meet socially and talk about subjects that are important to them and help them understand issues in a different way.
- A group ran during COVID, and we talked about wearing masks and



losing loved ones. The visual images helped people understand the situation and their own emotions.



- We are looking for organisations who may be able to host/provide a venue. We would love a library as the setting may be better for people with additional needs. We train the volunteers and then we just evaluate the sessions after a few months and check everything is running smoothly.

### Dementia Strategy Update:



- Presentation attached to these minutes that was presented to all Valuing People Groups.

### Direct Payments Update:



- **Presentation attached to these minutes that was presented to all valuing people groups.**
- Yasmin informed the group that over the last few months they have spoken to lots of people.
- A short survey has been put out, and this has now come to an end of this phase last week.



- There is a consistent message on the feedback about direct payments. There was a lot of negative feedback, one comment being that the process is very complicated.
- Another comment was that people felt that the amount of money they have given them a lack of choice when direct payments is meant to be about more choice.
- There were hard hitting messages around the county council, and communication being inconsistent.



Some of the messages that were received means that they are not going to wait until the strategy is launched and will act accordingly. Final version of consultation in October.