People present:
Alex Osterritter, Kerry Richardson, Rachael Wild, Marie Kingston (WBA/IML); Madeleine West, Kate Dress, Barbara Spore, Carole Winter, Margaret Perkin, Ruth Clatworthy, Joan Fergusson, Chrissy Marsh (parent/family carers); Kathryn Dundas (Eight Bells for Mental Health); Jenny Mant (Dimensions); Jane Hall, Becky Lawrence (WBMencap); Cathy Black, Marie Bartholomew, Paul Andrews, Nick C, Jeremy Stockdale, Holly Dacosta, Charlotte Hill, Carl (Link-Up); Cathy Veness (Friendship Skills); Jacqui Letsome, Garry Poulson (Volunteer Centre WB); Claud Monteiro, Mark Wyatt (The Yume Project); Matthew Metcalfe, Rick Jones (WBC); Lixi Chivas (The Watermill); Rachel Cullingham, Michelle Greenfield (Creative Support); Anne Bosland-Wade (WBC-CTPLD)

Apologies:
Darren Anderson, Tsippy McAuliffe, Jacqueline Acatos, Katrina Hodges, Lesley Reilly, John Corley, Carrie Stoneman, Maggie Allison, Maria Denness, Rosa Lancaster, John Head, Adrian Barker, Anne Newland

Welcome
Everyone introduced themselves and shared news.

Updates from the last Big Meeting

Council Consultation: Alex will send out the feedback comments with the minutes.

Transition Report: Healthwatch are planning to launch this in April.
Forth Wall: Two sessions have already taken place and everything is going well. Performance on 20 April 2017.

Safeguarding Forum: Next meeting on Tuesday 25 April at 3:30pm in Broadway House. This is a public meeting and anyone can attend.

Other updates are on the agenda for today.

Eight Bells for Mental Health

Kathryn Dundas showed us a very interesting video about the group. She explained that mental health is hidden so difficult for others to understand.

Eight Bells have two drop in sessions every week on a Monday and Thursday. People attending Eight Bells make friends, receive peer support and encouragement as well as being involved in activities.

Lixi from the Watermill attends a Monday morning group and an art group runs in the afternoons. There is seated yoga and meditation on Thursdays.

The Eight Bells is user lead; they have their own AGM and vote in a management committee.

They arrange the daily cooking and cleaning rota too.

Some people just pop in for a drink and read the paper in the company of others. They can use a laptop with high speed wi-fi and a financial lady visits regularly to help with debt advice, budgets and benefits.

The users do their own fundraising by way of coffee mornings at St Nicholas church hall and also have a market stall. Funding for mental health in West Berkshire is poor although Kathryn thanked Greenham Common Trust, Richard Benyon and
Kennet School for their support. Students from Newbury College and Reading University are also involved.

They run social events such as quiz nights, visits to the zoo, visit to Salisbury, summer BBQ's.

No referral is needed to join.

The members of the Eight Bells have offered an open invitation to anyone who wishes to visit them. The best time to do this would be between 10am and 12noon on a Monday or a Thursday. There is an open day scheduled for July and Kathryn will let us know when the date is set.

Click on this link to go to the website for further details: [http://www.eightbellsnewbury.co.uk/](http://www.eightbellsnewbury.co.uk/)
You can also access the video/film Kathryn showed us from this page.

**Volunteer Centre West Berkshire**

Garry and his colleague Jacqui visited the LDPB and Garry told us all about the services and support the Volunteer Centre offer.

Garry told us how a volunteer driver can take someone to appointments and that the drivers will help someone to and from the car and also may even go into some health appointments to offer extra support.

Newbury Shopmobility is where you can borrow mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs to help you get around Newbury.

Village agents are people who know their area very well and can signpost people in need to other organisations whilst they support them and the Befriend West Berkshire scheme matches lonely people with a volunteer.
The Volunteer Centre offers a lot of opportunities for volunteering and even have a VCME programme where someone who wants to volunteer gets some extra support to do so. It may be that they only need someone to go with them the first time or they may need someone to stay with them for a few times until they have the confidence to go it alone.

The Volunteer Centre also promotes and encourages partnership working and often has special events.

For further information click below to go to the website:  
[http://www.volunteerwestberks.org.uk/index.htm](http://www.volunteerwestberks.org.uk/index.htm)

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<tr>
<th>LDDF Project Updates</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Parent &amp; Carers:</strong></td>
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<td>A speaker from Irwin Mitchell Solicitors has already been confirmed for Monday 3 April (7-9pm) and Monday 8 May (10:30-12:30pm). This will be to discuss:</td>
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<td>• Power of attorney</td>
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<td>For more information contact Becky on 01635 41464 or e-mail on <a href="mailto:Rebecca.lawrence@wbmencap.org">Rebecca.lawrence@wbmencap.org</a></td>
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<td><strong>Cinema Club:</strong> Next showing is this Saturday, 10:30am at the Mencap Centre, Enborne Gate. The film is Enchanted. No charge to watch the film but there is a charge for drinks and snacks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>For more information contact Phil King on <a href="mailto:phil.king@wbmenca.org">phil.king@wbmenca.org</a></td>
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Prevention Drop In: 21 people have been supported, although not necessarily at the drop in time 11-1pm every Monday.

Some of the issues include, housing, benefits, finances and supporting people read and respond to letters.

My Wishes – My Will: A practice session will run in May with the IML members. The next session will be at Broadway House in June, Padworth in July and venue to be confirmed for August. Maggie has had a lot of interest from people wishing to attend a session. Legal advice will not be given at these sessions but adults with learning disabilities and their carers will be signposted if they wish this.

Newbury Book Club: One of the members had enjoyed the film Wuthering Heights so much they wanted the group to learn more about the book during February. Earlier this month they looked at autobiographies, biographies and memoirs.

Purley Park Book Club: The book club followed the theme that Purley Park had in February even though there were not many books on kites. They did make some and as the weather was windy they tested these out and thankfully the kites all flew well. In March they are reading Charlotte’s Web and focussing on one of the main themes of the book, which is friendship.

Opening Eyes: The next two sessions will be at WBMencap Link-Up as it would be beneficial if the groups were small. Kerry is in the process of arranging other sessions to care homes.
LDDF New Projects for 2017-2018

Due to the cut in funding in running the LDPB and the funding available for the LDDF projects, the Core group recommended that the criteria and the timings for the next round be amended.

Whilst new and innovative projects are still to be encouraged, it was felt that a smaller cash injection to existing projects supporting adults with learning disabilities would make a bigger impact. The application, therefore, is open to both existing and new projects.

It was also recommended that the funding round will take place during April 2017. The Core group will meet and discuss/approve the bids at their meeting on 9 May and these will be put forward for final approval to the LDPB Big Open Meeting on 23 May. Funding should be received by successful applicants by end of June.

Alex will be sending out the application criteria and application forms this week. There is £6,000 in total.

Any Other Business:

Matthew Metcalfe brought up to date travel guides for people to pick up;

Alex told everyone that there are two places left on the Fit for Life course;

Cathy told us about Mencap’s Spring Fayre which is on this Saturday, 10am-12:30pm at the Christadelphian Hall, Lower Way, in Thatcham.
Topics for the Next Big Open Meetings:

LDDF 2016-2017 updates;
LDDF 2017-2018 New Funding;
Healthwatch Champions;
Youth Forum Update – Lesley Reilly
Shared Lives – Paul Flack (Sept 2017)

If anyone has any ideas they would like to have discussed/presented at the Big Meetings, then please contact Alex: ldpb@webcas.org.uk or phone her on 01635 760534

Next Big Meeting – 9 May 2017

Please arrive between 9:30am and 9:50am so you can have some nibbles and a drink before we start.