



# Steering Group meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007



## People who were there



Martin	Luton
Teresa	Bedford
David (S)	Bedford
Ian	Bedford
Ronald	Bedford
David (F)	Biggleswade
Douglas	Biggleswade
Chris	Biggleswade
Robin	Biggleswade
Peter	Leighton Buzzard
Steve	Supporter
Annie	Supporter



Lorraine	Our Social Work Student
----------	-------------------------



Bev Auburn	Adult Community Learning
------------	--------------------------



Gary Johnson	Welfare Rights
--------------	----------------

Lynne Leonowicz	Adult Community Learning (sorry – no photo yet)
--------------------	--



## News about what we have done



### **Telling people about the Right Track**

Ian did an information session at Huddleston Way and asked people questions about Direct Payments.

We have been asked to tell people at Downside and Townsend about Right Track and the Direct Payments project.

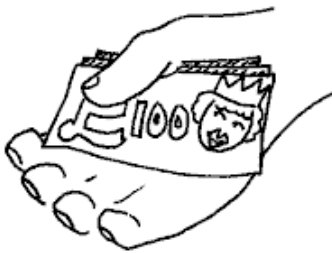
We made a list of who could do a lunch time session at all the other centres



### **Direct Payments work**

We have a question sheet to find out what people need to know and how they want this information.

We will book the computer room at Flitwick Library to get website ideas



### **Drop in sessions**

We will keep meeting at 229 and Luton. We have found a good place in Leighton Buzzard but are waiting to hear if we can do drop-ins there



### **Alcohol Awareness Training**

Martin, Ronald and Lorraine talked about the training they did and how this would help them support other people



## Money



The Finance Group met this morning and told everyone what they agreed:

- They are applying for other money
- Nicole's Mum might be able to fund a camera and display boards
- We need to start work on the website as soon as possible
- Annie's contract ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. The group will give her a 6 or 7 month contract for 5 hours a week after that until we know what funding we have.  
Annie will be self-employed as this will be cheaper for the Right Track

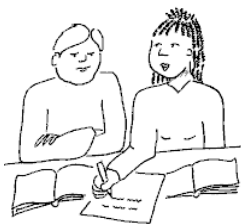


## Training and Skills



Lynne and Bev arranged dates for 'taster' sessions for different training.

These will be in Biggleswade, Bedford and Houghton Regis so no-one has to travel far.



Lorraine will support people in the training and to travel there.

We will send everyone a letter with all the information about dates, times and where to meet.



## Welfare Rights



Gary Johnson works for Bedfordshire Welfare Rights at County Hall. There are Rights Officers across Bedfordshire – their phone numbers are on the leaflets Gary gave us.

They are independent and can give **confidential** advice about benefits.

There are lots of different benefits so things can get very confusing

*Gary said 'If in doubt – get advice!'*

Annie will type up what Gary said for the drop-in folders

The rules for working and benefits are complicated. You must tell the different people who pay all your different benefits if anything changes in your life



## Dates

### Next Steering Group Meeting

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

**1.00pm – 3.30pm**

Advocacy Alliance offices. Mill Street. Bedford

Please ring by Tuesday 6th March to say if you can come or not