

Newsletter

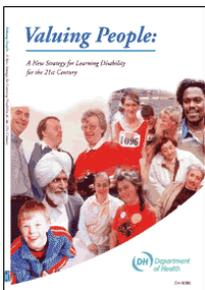
May 2007

Valuing People
Support Team

National and Regional Updates

Welcome to the latest Newsletter from the Valuing People Support Team. This issue will cover news stories about what has been happening in regions across the country, but there is one big piece of news and we start with this.

Refreshing Valuing People



The White Paper *Valuing People*, about the lives of people with a learning disability, was published in 2001. It was written to explain what the Government would do to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities.

Ivan Lewis the minister for Care Services has said that *Valuing People* needs to be refreshed.

He wants a report that will say what still needs to be done to make people's lives better. The report is going to be used to help people to keep working on what still needs to be changed to make *Valuing People* happen.



Rob Greig wrote a report called *The Story So Far* in 2005. The report was about whether things had got better for people with learning disabilities and their families since *Valuing People*. The report was written by collecting information and 3,500 people wrote in.

The Story So Far said that some things got better for people but that there was still a lot of work to be done.

Ivan Lewis, the minister for Care Services, has said that it is important that the government keeps working on making Valuing People happen.



To do this he said that Valuing People needs to be looked at again. All of the people that work to make Valuing People happen need to know more about the work that still needs to be done.

The report will be about:



- checking that the ideas in Valuing People have been used to improve people's lives
- Understanding what still needs to be changed and made better from Valuing People
 - Understanding what government work is happening in the Department of Health and other parts of Government to help people and what differences it will make
 - Helping people and government organisations who work with people with learning disabilities to work on what still needs to change.
 - setting new targets for people to work to make sure that Valuing People happens



How the report will be made



A lot of the information from The Story So Far will be used, also the Disability Rights Commission report on Health, the Little report on education and Improving Life Chances of Disabled people.

The Office of the National Director: Learning Disabilities will coordinate putting the report together with help and input from all parts of Government.

Lots of people will be asked to contribute to the report including-



The National Forum for people with Learning Disabilities

The Learning Disability Taskforce



The Valuing People support team

Lots of learning disability organisations and groups

We will send out more information once we have it, through our regional advisers.

This is a great opportunity to be sure that we all work together on the right things that really make good changes for people and families.

Green Light – Making It Happen

Green Light ‘Making it Happen’ is a new national programme to improve mental health services for people with learning disabilities. The programme builds on the Green Light Toolkit and supports local health and social care communities to develop their action plans and make the changes. The programme involves people with learning disabilities right from the start and says that their experience is really important to help services think about the changes that are needed.

The Programme is in three steps:

- Step 1 - started last year and has six places working in the programme
- Step 2 - will start in the Spring this year and will work with a further four places
- Step 3 - will produce good practice guidelines based on the experience of people with learning disabilities, family carers and services.

The six national sites in Step 1 are:

NHS Region	Programme Site	What they are doing
South West	Plymouth Primary Care Trust	Involving people with learning disabilities in planning and making sure you can get help straight away if you need it.

NHS Region	Programme Site	What they are doing
South Yorkshire	Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust	Being clear about what staff do, their roles and responsibilities and what mental health services do
East Midlands	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	Measuring what services do - this is called Benchmarking and developing joint teams
London	South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	Joint working with many partners and buying the best and the right services this is called better commissioning.
South Coastal	Sussex Partnership NHS Trust	Better joint working and training for staff
South Central	Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust	Supporting people with learning disabilities to become trainers and looking at what makes a really good mental health service for people with learning disabilities.

Each place has mental health and learning disability lead people working together. They are part of a group who are learning together this is called an Action Learning Set and they get support through the programme to help them work on their action plans.

Every place will be helping to share their learning and help others to think about how their local services can be improved. They will be supported by the Valuing People Support Team.



If you want to find out more about the Green Light Making It Happen Programme, you can go to our website at:

www.valuingpeople.gov.uk/dynamic/valuingpeople.146.jsp

You can also contact your Valuing People Support Team Regional Advisor or Ken Holland, who is leading this work on 07789 653286, or e-mail Ken on

Ken.Holland@dh.gsi.gov.uk

New Short Breaks Guide from Paradigm



Paradigm is writing a Guide about Short Breaks for the Valuing People Support Team. They have been finding out how people are getting short breaks in the UK and other countries. They have been finding out what people want from short breaks and why some short breaks work better than others.

To do this, they have been speaking to people with learning disabilities and their families, and to care and support commissioners and providers. They have been gathering their information, ideas and experiences.

The guide will tell people about new and different ways for people to have short breaks, so that others can learn and more people will get the sort of short breaks they want.

We are aiming to send the Guide to the Learning Disability Partnership Boards in the Spring.

We will send it out through the regions and directly to partnership boards once it is finished, and put on our website.

New Keeping Safe information for Partnership Boards



The University of Hull is also doing some work for us. This is for partnership boards to help them be sure what they need to think about and do to help keep people safe.

We know that everyone is thinking about this a lot because of what has happened in Cornwall and Sutton and Merton. Lots of people and organisations who know about abuse and things going wrong have helped write this guide.

Learning Disability Beacons

There has been lots of work to look at what is working well to improve things for people and families though a programme called Beacons run by an organisation called IDeA which helps local authorities make services better. With help from the Foundation for people with learning disabilities they have put lots of good ideas on their web site at <http://www.idea.gov.uk/learningdisabilities>. You can also join a discussion group there.



NHS Campuses



As you know, the Government have now decided that NHS Campuses must close by 2010. If you want to more about campuses we have written about them in easy read – you can find this on our website at:

www.valuingpeople.gov.uk/dynamic/valuingpeople127.jsp

In the next few weeks we are sending information to Partnership Boards, local authorities and NHS Trusts about where campuses are and how many people live in them. We want Partnership Boards to help us, so this is to let you know. For more information contact Sue Carmichael on...

Mansell Report

Professor Jim Mansell is updating a report he wrote in 1992 about people who are labelled challenging. You can find the original report on our website . Here is the link:

www.valuingpeople.gov.uk/dynamic/valuingpeople147.jsp

The new report will be with us soon and we will let you know as soon as it is complete.



Total Communication Network, South West

In the South West of England, there is a Total Communication Network which was set up to help people share good ideas about ways to say things simply. The Total Communication Network and the Regional Forum worked together to run an Easy Information competition. The Regional Forum voted that information about health was the subject for the competition. All the winners were decided by people with learning disabilities.

Valuing People SUPPORT TEAM *Newsletter*

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Roger Berry

A prize giving ceremony was held in December 2006. The prizes were given out by a politician called Roger Berry who is the MP for Kingswood in South Gloucestershire.

A group of people from Somerset won the first prize of £200, a pack of Photosymbols2, a trophy and certificate. The people are from two places called Work Power and the Engine Room. They made a DVD together about why it is important to make sure food is kept clean.

This is a picture of the team at the award ceremony in Taunton.



There were two other winning entries - one was a book with lots of pictures about having a CT scan (body scan) and the other was a CD and book designed to help people explain where their body hurts.

The Valuing People Support Team will be helping to run the competition again this year and the people at the Regional Forum will decide what subject to choose next time.

A copy of the winning DVD called Germ Academy costs £10 plus postage and packing and is available from DXLee@somerset.gov.uk

Award for Nottingham City – ‘Changing Places’



Nottingham City Council have won an award from Community Care for their ‘changing places’ scheme. Nottingham City centre has the only changing places toilet in the East Midlands, and the £5,000 award will be put towards a further changing places toilet in Nottingham Arena.



Regional Employment Conference, East Midlands



This took place on 19th March 2007 at Pride Park Stadium Derby. Guest speakers were Rob Greig, Nicola Smith and Bill Love. It was attended by 140 people and was very successful. Workshops were held to share good practice from across the region. The region has set some key targets to support increased employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities in the region.

Welcome to Mita Shah

Mita Shah is our new business coordinator. Mita sorts out the money for us and also is making the website and newsletter work better for us. So let her know if you have any ideas.

You can contact her at mita.shah@dh.gsi.gov.uk or telephone her on 07917 594 017.

Farewell for Jim Thomas, VPST Workforce Expert Advisor

Jim Thomas has been the Expert Advisor for the Valuing People Support Team for the past 2 years. He has done a great job for us, and in April he moved on to a new job.

Jim says:

“Being one of the team’s expert advisors for the last two years has been really good. Helping everyone build their understanding of workforce development issues has been an important part of what I have had to do. The changes to the learning disability awards framework and the development of national and regional groups have been three of the many things I've been involved in. Above all helping lots of people see how getting the workforce development stuff right is so important has been brilliant. Thanks everyone I've had a chance to meet and best wishes for the future.”

The VPST team would also like to thank Jim for all his hard work. We wish him all the best in his new job with Skills for Care looking at new kinds of workers and look forward to continue working with him. We will be advertising for a new workforce person to help us soon. Good luck Jim!

The next newsletter will be in Carer’s week, which starts on 11th June, and as last year, it will be full of information about and for families.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of the Valuing People Support Team newsletter.

Sue and Debra



