

**Following up 'Healthcare for All': a briefing note
from the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities and the Valuing People
Support Team**

Introduction

'Healthcare for All' (the report of the independent Michael Inquiry into access to health care for people with learning disabilities) was launched on 29 July 2008. The summary is attached. This Inquiry followed two previous reports highlighting the health inequalities and poor access to health care experienced by people with learning disabilities – the Disability Rights Commission Formal Investigation that reported in 2006¹ and Mencap's 'Death by Indifference' report in 2007². In launching the Inquiry's report, Sir Jonathan Michael emphasised his concern that people with learning disabilities were effectively invisible to the mainstream NHS. He urged each NHS body to act now to ensure that 'reasonable adjustments' are offered throughout the services they commission or provide.

This briefing note provides some links to resources that those concerned about the health of people with learning disabilities may find useful as they encourage local NHS bodies to embark on this action.

NHS Next Stage Review: 'High Quality Care for All'

Lord Darzi's report³ did not single out specific groups in the population, but set out improvements that could be expected by all users of the NHS. The accompanying strategy for primary and community care⁴ does refer to improvements required to ensure that people with learning disabilities experience improved care. This was followed by announcement of a Directed Enhanced Service to offer health checks to people with learning disabilities who are known to local services⁵.

Each Strategic Health Authority (SHA) led work in its area to set out a local 'vision' for delivery of the principles in 'High Quality Care for All'. These documents are very variable in the extent to which they address the health inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities:

- 1 does not mention learning disability at all (South East Coast)
- 5 make very brief mention (South Central, Yorkshire & the Humber, North East, North West, plus the original Darzi report for London); one of these (North East) is now setting up a separate workstream on learning disability
- 2 (East of England, West Midlands) make limited reference to a few aspects of health care for people with learning disabilities; East of England is now setting out an improvement plan

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<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/disability/pages/formalinvestigations.aspx>

2 <http://www.mencap.org.uk/document.asp?id=284>

3 http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/DH_085825

4

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085937

5 <http://www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/primary-893.cfm>

- 2 supported separate workstreams on learning disability (East Midlands and South West). Of these:
 - South West's workstream report does a thorough job of covering primary, acute and specialist care. The overall vision document does include references to people with learning disabilities under the mental health and children's sections in addition to the separate learning disability section
 - East Midlands' workstream report⁶ does a very thorough job of covering primary, acute and specialist care and in addition a number of references are included in other sections. This is backed up by separate workstreams in some PCTs. Other SHAs should be encouraged to follow this example as part of their response to the Michael Inquiry.

What you can do:

- Contact your SHA lead (see attached list) and discuss how the health of people with learning disabilities can be addressed through the Darzi workstreams.

Disability Discrimination Act 2005

The Act requires each PCT, NHS Trust and Foundation Trust to draw up a Disability Equality Scheme that sets out how they will promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. The guidance⁷ makes it clear that this should be sensitive to the differing needs of different groups of disabled people and that such groups should be involved in drawing up the Scheme. At the start of 2008 only a quarter of PCTs and Trusts had a Disability Equality Scheme mentioning learning disability, and only one PCT and one Trust had actually involved people with learning disabilities in drawing up their Scheme. A guide to the NHS specifically on meeting the Disability Equality Duty in respect of people with learning disabilities is due out shortly.

What you can do:

- Ask your local learning disability partnership board if they have checked whether local PCTs and Health Trusts have covered the needs of people with learning disabilities within their Disability Equality schemes.
- Support a group of people with learning disabilities to look at your PCT's and Health Trusts' Disability Equality Schemes and suggest how they could include learning disabilities.
- Use the new Disability Equality Duty guide when it comes out to gain support from your PCT for local action.

⁶ <http://valuingpeople.gov.uk/dynamic/valuingpeople118.jsp> (scroll down to find the item)

⁷ <http://www.dotheduty.org/>

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/RightsAndObligations/DisabilityRights/DG_10038105

Primary care, health facilitation and health checks

The recently announced Directed Enhanced Service (DES) for health checks is noted above. This should be set within the context of wider action to improve access to primary care. Primary Care Contracting published a Primary Care Service Framework on managing the health of people with learning disabilities⁸ and this is accompanied by a suite of materials on introducing health checks. This will be helpful to PCTs embarking on the DES⁹. Each region has a Primary Care Contracting contact, whose job is to help PCTs with their commissioning of primary care. (Primary Care Contracting is a subscription based service to PCTs; further information is available on their website¹⁰).

Updated guidance is due out shortly on health action planning and health facilitation.

Lots more useful resources can be found in the Health section of the Valuing People website¹¹.

What you can do:

- Offer support to your PCT and practices with implementing the Directed Enhanced Service.
- Talk to your PCT to ensure that the specification for the community learning disability team includes wider support for health action planning and health facilitation, using the new guidance when it comes out.

Regional self assessment and performance framework

A national project is under way to develop a consistent approach across all regions to achieving more equitable and better health outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

This approach is currently being gradually introduced in each SHA and is 'tailored' to take advantage of existing arrangements where they are working well. It seeks to re-focus people on achieving the 'Valuing People' objectives around health, and also to address the key issues around equality and safety emerging from recent critical reports.

It aims to develop a working environment in each region that will:

- allow people with learning disabilities and their supporters to directly inform and influence both the commissioning and delivery of healthcare
- deliver specific health outcomes that address the known health inequalities faced by people with learning disabilities
- generate both qualitative and quantitative information about people's health.

The system proposes:

- adoption in each SHA of four specific strategic objectives (to be common across all areas). These are
 1. completing resettlement and campus re-provision
 2. addressing health inequalities
 3. making sure people are safe
 4. continuing to achieve 'Valuing People' objectives

⁸ www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk/204.php (scroll down to find the learning disability framework)

⁹ Examples of training materials on introducing health checks can also be found at <http://valuingpeople.gov.uk/dynamic/valuingpeople144.jsp>

¹⁰ www.primarycarecontracting.nhs.uk

¹¹ <http://valuingpeople.gov.uk/dynamic/valuingpeople118.jsp>

- linked to the above, a performance framework offering key activities under each objective, along with corresponding outcomes and measures – this to form the basis of an annual self assessment process, similar to that in mental health (Autumn Assessment). The objective is that every local PCT/Learning Disability Partnership Board will have completed their first baseline self assessment in 2009
- development of a Health in Practice Network in each region, bringing together representatives from each Partnership Board, commissioners, providers, etc.
- renewed focus and further development of Partnership Board health sub-groups
- bringing together a regional Learning Disability Health Strategic Overview Group made up of senior decision-makers from all stakeholder organisations – with this group meeting two to three times per year to frame the work ahead at organisational level and ensure Board level scrutiny and corresponding accountability in organisations for the work ahead.

The framework has been piloted in Yorkshire and the Humber region; other regions are at various stages in beginning to implement the framework or considering its use.

For further information, contact Jackie Sochocka: jackie.schocka@talktalk.net She is working with the Valuing People Support Team and SHAs to support the development of structures in each region to implement this approach.

What you can do:

- Ask your Valuing People Support Team Regional Advisor what stage your region is at regarding implementing or considering using this approach (for contact details visit www.valuingpeople.gov.uk).
- Explore within your local PCT, Health Trusts and partnership boards how you can get involved and contribute to the development of the self assessment and performance framework.

Networks and other useful resources

In most regions there are learning disability health networks supported by the Valuing People Support Team:

Purpose

- To provide an opportunity for key stakeholders in healthcare to come together and to network across the region.
- To provide a forum where good practice, developments and experiences can be shared.
- To provide up to date information and guidance from the Valuing People Support Team from a national and regional perspective.
- To support the development of ‘Action for Health’ frameworks in each Learning Disability Partnership Board area.
- To provide support across each region to achieve the health actions within ‘Valuing People’, the forthcoming ‘Valuing People Now’, and associated reports/inquiries, such as ‘Healthcare for All’ report (Michael Inquiry), Healthcare Commission inquiries and reports, Mencap’s ‘Death by Indifference’, DRC ‘Equal treatment – closing the gap’ and promoting equalities reports.

Membership

- Specialist and mainstream health care providers
- Service commissioners
- Strategic Health Facilitators

- Partnership Board health leads
- PCT leads for learning disabilities
- Family carers
- Regional Valuing People Advisor
- Self advocates
- Health workforce leads
- Other invited guests according to agenda items.

A list of contact details for each region (as at 7.10.08) is attached.

What you can do:

- Find out about and get involved in networks within your region.

Learning disability leads have been identified in each SHA – a list (as at 7.10.08) is attached.

There are a number of relevant electronic networks. Useful ones to start with are:

- UK Health and Learning Disability Network www.ldhealthnetwork.org.uk and associated networks managed by Janet Cobb www.jan-net.co.uk
- Access to Acute (A2A) www.nnldn.org.uk/a2a/
- Mental health network steven.hardy@kcl.ac.uk
- Health facilitation network mark.bradley@oxleas.nhs.uk

Alison Giraud-Saunders
Helen Mycock
Janet Cobb
22.10.08

Regional Learning Disability Health Networks supported by the Valuing People Support Team

Contact details for networks in each region

East Midlands

Facilitator: Helen Mycock helen.mycock@eastmidlands.csip.nhs.uk

Telephone – 01623 812933

To join the network contact: Carol Peacock

Carol.peacock@eastmidlands.csip.nhs.uk

Network meets 4 x annually – in Derby.

Yorkshire & the Humber

Facilitator: Tracey Goodhall

To join the network contact : Karen Roberts

Karen.roberts@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 07776 488546

Network meets 4 x annually in Barnsley

North West

Facilitators: Janet Cobb & Catherine Webster

To join the network contact: janet.cobb@nwttdt.com or Catherine.webster@nwttdt.com

Telephone: 07980 754448

North East

Facilitator: Tracey Wrench

To join the network contact : Tracey.wrench@rdash.nhs.uk or bev.duncan@csip.org.uk

South West

Facilitator : Sue Turner

To join the network contact : vpst_sw@csip.org.uk or telephone 01278 432002

London

Facilitator : Janet Cobb

To join the network contact : Janet@jan-net.co.uk or telephone 07980 754448

A series of themed events arranged through to March 2009

South East

Facilitator : Phil Boulter – phil.boulter@sabp.nhs.uk

To join the network contact : Frances.booker@sabp.nhs.uk

Telephone 01883 383530

Meets 4 x annually

Eastern

A specific regional health network is not currently provided but there is an opportunity for health commissioners to join the regional health and social care network (for commissioners and providers)

Facilitator: leo.bishop@csip.org.uk

To join the network contact: lizzy.boyd@csip.org.uk telephone 01206 287505

Meets monthly

West Midlands

A specific regional health network is not currently provided but there is an opportunity for health commissioners to join the Commissioners network (health and social care)

Facilitators: Rachel.heywood@csip.org.uk or chris.sholl@csip.org.uk

To join the network contact: Jackie.robinson@csip.org.uk

Regional SHA Learning Disability Leads – contact details (updated Oct 2008)

East Midlands SHA – Dave Marsden
dave.marsden@eastmidlands.nhs.uk

South West SHA – Geoff Baines
Geoff.Baines@southwest.nhs.uk

West Midlands SHA – Lawrence Moulin
Lawrence.moulin@westmidlands.nhs.uk

East of England SHA – Pol Toner
Pol.toner@eoe.nhs.uk

South East Coastal – Jo Poynter
Jo@vpst.co.uk

Yorkshire & Humber – Heather Raistrick
Heather.raistrick@yorksandhumber.nhs.uk

North Eastern SHA – Rebecca Eadie
Rebecca.eadie@newcastle-pct.nhs.uk

London SHA – Beric Livingstone
Beric.livingstone@london.nhs.uk

South Central SHA – Julie Kerry
Julie.kerry@southcentral.nhs.uk

North West SHA – Ann Wood
Ann.wood@northwest.nhs.uk