

Ref: MS(CS)144

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Dear Colleague,

Learning Disability Partnership Boards

I am very pleased to be the Minister for Care Services and responsible for ensuring that people with learning disabilities are treated as people first with the same rights and opportunities as everyone.

Thank you for all the work you have done since Valuing People Now was published in January 2009 to ensure that the strategy happens locally for everyone, everywhere.

I am particularly pleased that every Partnership Board in England has completed an annual report with most signed off by individuals with learning disabilities and family carers or are about to be so.

I know it has not been easy to bring together all the information. However, knowing your local position is essential if you are to make informed future plans and manage your budgets effectively. I want you to continue to focus on getting the best-personalised services for individuals and their families and on delivering the key priorities of improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities in health, housing and in employment.

I will be looking at the national analysis of all your reports and where we need to offer specific support to help make quicker progress. I hope you will continue to show leadership to drive forward change at a local level.

I look forward to working with you



PAUL BURSTOW