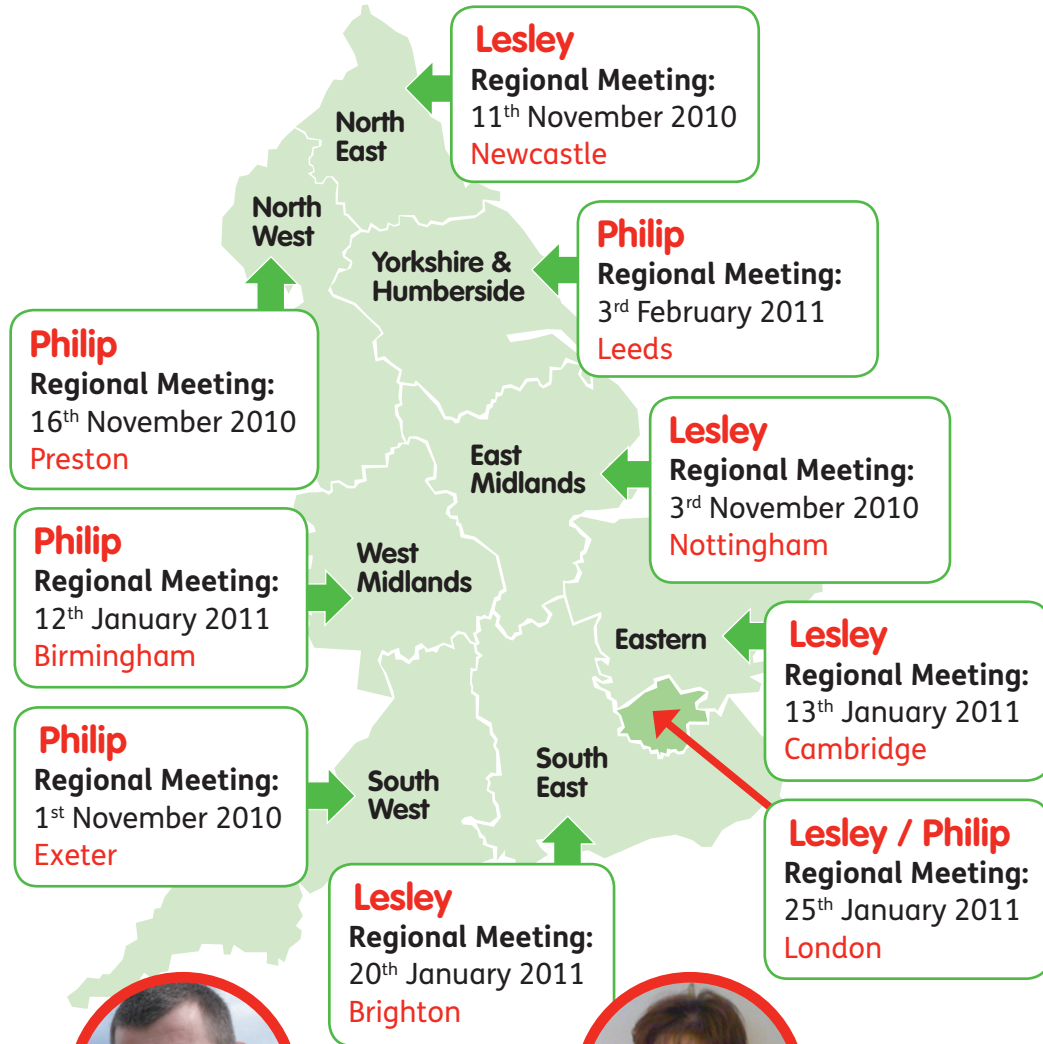


giving us
a voice

Your Region

Project Workers and
Regional Meeting Dates



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giving us
a voice



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Meeting the needs of people with learning disabilities from BME communities

Valuing People Now, the Government's three-year plan for better services for people with learning disabilities, says that commissioners and providers of services are failing to meet the needs of people from BME communities.

Statistics show that the number of their children and young people from BME communities who have special educational needs and more profound disabilities is increasing, with more families than ever before needing services.

Yet families tell us that services frequently fail to meet their needs.

Despite Government legislation to promote equality and end race discrimination, few statutory services can demonstrate a serious commitment to meeting the needs of people with learning disabilities from BME communities.

But it is difficult to provide culturally competent services if there is no effective dialogue with those communities. Statutory services can struggle to engage with this frequently "hard to reach" group and, where there is engagement, families may have unrealistic expectations or may themselves struggle to understand the realities of delivering services in today's economic climate.

Giving us a voice

ARC, BILD and **Mencap** are bringing people together for constructive dialogue in 9 Regional Summit Meetings around England.

This 18-month project, funded by the **Department For Communities and Local Government** under its **Tackling Race Inequalities Fund**, will give you the opportunity to talk and learn from people with learning disabilities and family carers from BME communities.

We will also launch a national **Charter for Inclusion** and invite you to sign up to it as part of your ongoing commitment to delivering quality services.

The benefits of getting involved

- You will have the opportunity to meet local people from BME communities, to learn about their specific cultures, to hear about the problems that they have and find out what they need from your services
- Your strategic plan for future services will be based on first-hand knowledge
- You will be able to demonstrate a commitment to equality
- You will have a good platform for developing your race equality impact assessment
- You will meet families from BME communities who could be involved in your Learning Disability Partnership Board
- You will have the opportunity to explain the problems and realities of delivering services today

Demonstrate your commitment to service equality

Details of how to contact our project staff and enrol for your Regional Summit Meeting are overleaf.