



Sexuality and learning disabilities

Date: Wednesday 6 April 2011

Venue: ORT House Conference Centre, London NW1

Key speakers

Chair: **Paul Cambridge** Senior Lecturer in Social Work, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent

Dr Michelle McCarthy Senior Lecturer in Learning Disability, Tizard Centre, University of Kent

Dr David Thompson Practitioner and Researcher

Dr Sandra Baum Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Newham Primary Care NHS Trust

Dr Natasha Alexander Senior Clinical Psychologist, Newham Primary Care NHS Trust

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Programme

10.00am Registration

10.30am Chair's welcome and introduction

Chair: **Paul Cambridge** Senior Lecturer in Social Work, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent

10.35am Capacity to consent to sex

- The Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Consent to marriage and civil partnership

Dr David Thompson Practitioner and Researcher

11.05am The provision of contraception to women with learning disabilities

Based on recent research investigating:

- what women with learning disabilities understood about their contraception
- what choices they were able to make
- attitudes and practices of the GPs who prescribed contraception.

Dr Michelle McCarthy Senior Lecturer in Learning Disability, Tizard Centre, University of Kent

11.35am Refreshments

12.00pm Parallel roundtable discussions

A Sex education work with people with learning disabilities

Dr Karen Dodd Associate Director for Specialist Therapies - Learning Disabilities and Older Peoples Mental Health Services, Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

B Forced marriages involving people with learning disabilities

Rachel Clawson Development Manager - Safeguarding Disabled Children Services, Ann Craft Trust

C Supporting people with learning disabilities who have been sexually abused

Deborah Lyttelton Therapist, RESPOND

D Sex education with people with profound and multiple learning disabilities

Angela Mallett Teacher Consultant and
David Stewart OBE Head Teacher, Oak Field School and Sports College, Nottingham

1.00pm Lunch

1.45pm Parallel roundtable discussions repeated

2.45pm Refreshments

3.00pm Pregnancy and early parenting support for women with learning disabilities

Dr Sandra Baum Consultant Clinical Psychologist and
Dr Natasha Alexander Senior Clinical Psychologist, Newham Primary Care NHS Trust

3.30pm Panel discussion

The panel of speakers will take questions from the floor followed by a general discussion

Chair: **Paul Cambridge** Senior Lecturer in Social Work, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent

4.00pm Summary of the day and conference close

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Sexuality and Learning Disabilities: a handbook

Editors: Dr Michelle McCarthy and Dr David Thompson

This handbook covers the most common sexual issues for people with learning disabilities.

A range of authors share their direct experience of working with people with learning disabilities on sexual issues. They give ideas on helping people with learning disabilities to learn about their bodies and sex. The focus is on what staff and family members can do themselves, but it also recommends when specialist help may be needed.

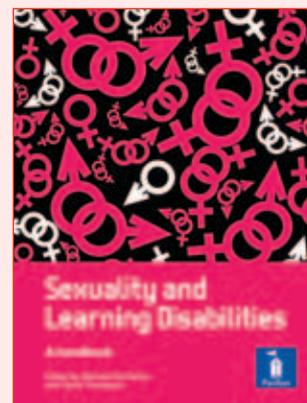
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About the conference

This conference is linked to the publication of *Sexuality and Learning Disabilities: a handbook*. As with the book, for this event the editors Dr Michelle McCarthy and Dr David Thompson have brought together people who are leading the development of practice in this area.

Aims of the conference

One of the main aims of the conference is to help delegates to stop thinking of sexuality as a 'problem' for people with learning disabilities (as has long been the case), and to offer ideas about framing it more positively. The conference aims to provide practical and realistic ideas for supporting people with learning disabilities, based on research and the long experience of the contributors. Those who attend should leave better informed about ways to help people achieve more positive and valued sexual lives.

About the convenors

Dr Michelle McCarthy is a Senior Lecturer in Learning Disability at the Tizard Centre, University of Kent. Her academic and practice based work involves all matters relating to the sexuality of people with learning disabilities, but she has a particular interest in working with women with learning disabilities on issues of sexual abuse, sexual and reproductive health. She has published widely in these fields.

Dr David Thompson has a wealth of experience working with people with learning disabilities and their carers in different settings. This includes over ten years work on sexual issues with men with learning disabilities which were the basis for a number of publications and his PhD. He also has expertise in the areas of advocacy, the Mental Capacity Act, and ageing for people with learning disabilities.

Learning Disability

Conference and exhibition

Today

The Point, Manchester, 4th March 2011

Learning Disability Today is a holding a conference and exhibition supported by the Valuing People Now team, who will participate in the conference programme, including the joint director, Anne Williams.

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- Conference and exhibition:
All conference sessions, refreshments, lunch, exhibitor guide, delegate materials, exhibition access: £100 +VAT
- Exhibition only:
Entry to the exhibition only is free of charge but you need to pre-register.

To find out what's on and to book your place visit www.learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk

Key themes

- The law
- Sex education
- Contraception and reproductive health
- Pregnancy and parenting
- Sexual abuse
- Arranged and forced marriages involving people with learning disabilities

Who should attend?

- Professionals working in services, e.g. social workers, nurses, psychologists
- Support workers for people with learning disabilities
- Community learning disability teams and students
- Relatives
- Sex education, health promotion and family planning workers

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For more information about promotional opportunities at this conference, such as exhibiting and including your promotional materials in the conference delegate packs, please contact: Graham Hoare, Customer Relations Manager, Pavilion
Tel: 01273 666703
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Sexuality and learning disabilities

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We cannot accept provisional bookings

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Venue

ORT House Conference Centre, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NE
(a map of the venue will be sent with confirmation of your booking)

Date Wednesday 6 April 2011

Conference fees

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