



The UK-wide campaign with people who have learning difficulties

VIA's Annual Conference 2007

Monday 26 November, London, 10am-4pm

Making a difference



Building Community Action through Café Conversations

Come along... Get together... Make something happen...

VIA's annual conference this year is all about local action. Led by **Nan Carle** (Consultant, Inclusive Communities) and **David Towell** (Centre for Inclusive Futures), we are welcoming everyone to this exciting, interactive and inclusive 'café conversation' event. Through listening, talking, learning, challenging and sharing, we will work nationally and locally to make plans for action and moving towards a fairer, more equal and more inclusive society.

This conference will provide you with the national picture both from VIA's point of view but also from others who have managed to change things for the better. Our Resource table will provide you with experts in their areas that you can call upon. On the panel we will have **Peter Beresford** and **Jackie Downer**.

So what is a Café Conversation?

Café Conversations are meant to offer a time and place for people to meet and to explore what matters most with our families, friends, colleagues and communities. They are conversations that continually change to help us move beyond what we already know into a world of new possibilities. They offer opportunities to create and deepen relationships that will support and sustain our new possibilities.

We intend to:

- ❖ Create a friendly space
- ❖ Explore questions that matter
- ❖ Encourage everyone's contribution
- ❖ Bring together different views
- ❖ Listen together and notice patterns
- ❖ Discover together
- ❖ Enjoy the discussions and the journey



VIA's Four Main Priorities



Although these are the priorities that VIA has identified, you may have other priorities that you wish to raise at the conference. You are most welcome to do so and we hope that the conversations will give you ideas about what you can do to work on those priorities locally.

1

Ensuring that the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) is implemented in a way that maintains the rights of people with learning difficulties

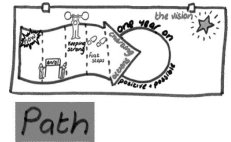
If people are not aware of their rights within this Act, how will they know that their rights are being denied? So we are asking the Department of Health to provide more funding for raising people's awareness of the Act.



2

To ensure that people with learning difficulties are really included in their local communities.

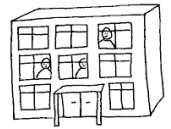
We want to ensure that people have person-centred plans that identify the support they need to be part of their local communities. We want to lobby Partnership Boards with your support. This is to make sure that they work together to make community inclusion a reality.



3

Closure of homes managed by the health services (NHS and private hospitals). They are called "campuses".

We are clearer about the numbers of people living in NHS campuses now. The Government has set aside money for new homes for these people. We want to make sure that you go away from the conference with some ideas about what you can do to make sure that people move to new homes which are suitable for them. People should be able to choose who they live with and select the staff who will support them.



4

Making Learning Disability Partnership Boards more inclusive and effective in delivering the "Valuing People" agenda.

We want to make sure that you will have tools that will support you in making sure that your Partnership Board starts including you in making decisions about how money is spent in your area.



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Building Community Action through Café Conversation

Programme

- 10.00 Gathering and Informal Conversation
Local Groups will be able to set up their posters or other information in the Market Place.
- 10.30 Welcome: Introduction to Café Conversations
The National Context and VIA's Four Priorities
- 10.45 Conversations: Round 1 – Current local initiatives
What is working locally regarding the 4 Priorities?
What are the unresolved questions?
- 11.30 **Break and Market Place**
Resource Tables will be available regarding the 4 Priorities and related issues
- 12.00 Conversations: Round 2 – How can local efforts truly make a difference in people's lives?
Resources available to inform our activities
- 12:30 Panel Discussion: Emerging Proposals and National Opportunities
Peter Beresford, Jackie Downer, Nan Carle and David Towell
- 1.15 **Lunch: Conversations with entertainment (names to be confirmed)**
- 2:00 Launch of VIA's DVD on the Mental Capacity Act
- 2.15 Conversations: Round 3 – Planning for Local Groups and the Implications for National Action
Resources available for promoting effective action
- 3.15 **Break**
- 3:30 Values into Action
Recommendations for VIA action at national level and for supporting local initiatives
- 4.00 **Close**

Price: £150 per person (statutory/large organisations)
£75 per person (voluntary sector organisations)
£50 for 5 self-advocates and 1 Support Worker (self-advocacy organisations)
£20 per person (family carers)

Booking: Please fill in the booking form on the back (or call/email us for a copy if you need to).
Please remember to tell us if you need space in the Market Place.

Thanks to the following organisations for sponsoring this event:

Making a difference

Monday 26 November 2007



Booking form

your name

your organisation

address for correspondance

do you require display space in the Market Place (please indicate how much)

email

telephone number(s)

alternative address for invoicing (if required)

which type of place do you want? Statutory organisation Voluntary Sector
 Self-advocacy group Family carers

are you part of a group? (please give group's name)

do you have any particular access or dietary requirements?

Please note: We will invoice for payment after receiving your booking. All fees must be paid in full no later than 29 October (or with booking form after this date). Fees will not be refunded if places are cancelled within for weeks of the conference but places may be swapped with other participants, as long as we are notified of the details.

Return to: Values Into Action, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, Bethnal Green, London E2 6HG.
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