

**“Implementing the Valuing People Now Strategy:
Transforming the Lives of People with Learning Disabilities”**

The House Magazine, written for and by Parliamentarians is to hold one of its regular *Westminster Briefings* which aims to provide a forum for practitioners, local policy makers and civil servants to debate key issues with leading figures from within Westminster, Whitehall and Local Government.

Date: Thursday, 26th March 2009

Time: 10.40am – 2.00pm

Venue: London, Westminster

“All people with learning disabilities must be supported to live, full, independent lives as equal citizens across all aspects of life. This strategy will help make that a reality and I urge the NHS, local authorities and public services to take this opportunity to make real progress to transform people’s lives”.

Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Health, January 2009

“Valuing People Now is a very welcome report with great significance for people with a learning disability. It is a vision that puts people with a learning disability at the centre of their care – and offers clear solutions for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and for carers”.

Mark Goldring, Chief Executive, Mencap, January 2009

After a comprehensive consultation the Government recently published a new cross-departmental strategy, **“Valuing People Now – A Three Year Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities”**. This publication sets out a new vision for improving services for people with learning disabilities across health, housing, employment and community care services. The fundamental elements of the plan include:

- Improving training, commissioning of services and strengthening local structures
- Ensuring people with learning disabilities get the healthcare and support they need
- Supporting more people with learning disabilities into paid work
- Ensuring people with learning disabilities have the choice to have relationships and be parents
- Giving people with learning disabilities more opportunities to study and enjoy social activities

Delegates at this *Westminster Briefing* will have the opportunity to consider the aims outlined in the *Valuing People Now* strategy, examine their implications, and discuss what more can and should be done to transform the lives of people with learning disabilities. As well as discussing this plan, participants will have the opportunity to engage with the panel on a number of important issues including:

- What are the implications for the range, quality, & choice of support & care services that are available?
- What are the barriers to implementation of this plan?
- Have adequate funds and resources been allocated?
- How can best practise be better disseminated amongst frontline workers?
- What are the implications for families and carers?
- How can effective partnerships be formed? How will the new delivery structures, such as the National Learning Disability programme board, work in practice?

Delegates will be drawn from a wide range of stakeholders. These will include councillors and officers from local authorities; central government departments & public bodies; housing associations and RSLs; national, regional and local health services; employment and trade bodies; learning disabled specialists and professionals; learning disabled NGOs and charities; and any stakeholder with an interest in the *Valuing People Now* strategy and its implications for all people with learning disabilities.

All Westminster Briefings take place within close proximity of the Palace of Westminster; a light breakfast will be served upon arrival with a networking lunch to follow proceedings.

For further details please contact james.macdaid@westminster-briefing.com or on 0207 096 2917.