

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE – 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2007**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES**

**VALUING PEOPLE NOW**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To brief Health and Social Care Select Committee on 'Valuing People Now', which was published by the Department of Health in December 2007.
2. 'Valuing People Now - From Progress to Transformation' is a cross-government consultation which sets the agenda across a range of issues, including health and well-being, housing, employment, education and community inclusion.
3. It builds on the vision set out in Valuing People (2001) which was the first white paper on learning disability for thirty years - a vision based on the four main principles of rights, independence, choice and inclusion.
4. The document is a consultation paper and responses are invited by 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008. A further document will be published in summer 2008.

**BACKGROUND**

5. The lives of many people with a learning disability have improved as a result of the White Paper Valuing People, but for some people little has changed and delivery has been patchy across the country.
6. Valuing People Now sets out the next steps in the delivery of Valuing People priorities for the period 2008 - 2011. The aim is to support people with learning disabilities to live an ordinary life in the community alongside their fellow citizens in accordance with human rights legislation and the Disability Discrimination Act.

7. Valuing People aims to ensure that people get real choice and control over the services and support they need and that mainstream public services become more inclusive of people with learning disabilities.
8. Valuing People Now does not cover children with a learning disability because other policies (including Aiming High for Disabled Children) are already taking new action forward for children.
9. Valuing People Now identifies **four big priorities** that Government wishes local agencies to concentrate on. These priorities are explained below with details of action already taken in Dudley.
10. **Personalisation** – so that people having real choice and control over their lives and service. Action will include continuing with plans for individual budgets and a renewed focus on person centred planning. This approach is consistent with another Government protocol, also published in December, 'Putting People First', which sets out plans for transformation of Adult Social Care for all client groups. The key elements of this transformation for service users will be access to advocacy for people needing services; greater emphasis on self-assessment; personal budgets for long-term conditions which may include NHS resources

Action in Dudley:

11. Dudley Council is already an In Control pilot site. We have appointed a project manager, who has identified fifteen families who wish to receive an individual budget. This project is likely to expand and to be extended to other client groups. We will also have to increase the number of people who have person-centred plans. We have focused on people having communication passports which is a first stage of a full person centred planning and approximately 20% of people known to DACHS have a communication passport in place.
12. **What people do during the day** (and evenings and weekends) - helping people to be properly included in their communities, with a particular focus on paid work. Action will include:
  - moving away from the concept of day services modernisation
  - using outcomes from person-centred plans to design new opportunities and supports for people, with paid work at the centre
  - a cross government Getting a Life programme to bring together funding and assessment systems for young people going through transition, with the aim of more people getting a job or further education;

- a five-year 'Progression Through Partnership' programme to help make further education better meet the needs of learners with learning disabilities;

Action in Dudley:

13. The Cabinet has recently approved a five-year plan for Day Services, which includes replacement of the Lower Gornal Centre, a review of community based opportunities, appointment of Reviewing Officers to ensure people are receiving the support they need, and travel training.
14. These proposals prioritise people with high support needs, in line with Valuing People Now. We will still need centres, where people with high levels of personal care needs can be supported effectively. We will however have to ensure that services are not segregated in any way and that we invest only in integrated facilities.
15. In addition, a job coach has recently been appointed to help people with a learning disability into paid work, including work with the Council. We have agreed an LAA target to increase the number of people in work and is seeking funding from a number of external sources to further expand this area of work.
16. **Better health** - ensuring that the NHS provides full and equal access to good quality health care. Several recent reports have raised concerns about how people with learning disabilities access health care. Actions to address this will include:
  - initiatives to ensure the NHS meets its legal obligations in relation to human rights and disability discrimination;
  - a new primary care service framework to support PCTs in commissioning comprehensive health checks and better primary care access for people with learning disabilities;
  - local action by PCTs and NHS trusts to ensure that acute healthcare is properly meeting the needs of people with learning disabilities;
  - the Department of Health responding to the independent inquiry into the health care of people with learning disabilities, chaired by Sir Jonathan Michael, when it reports to the Secretary of State later this year;
  - local action plans to improve bed-based learning disability services following the Healthcare Commissions audit of NHS and private sector services;
  - clear statements in the NHS operating framework about delivery in relation to learning disability.

#### Action in Dudley:

17. Following the Health Care Commission reports on services in Cornwall and Sutton-Merton, an audit of NHS services in Dudley was carried out. The audit identified some areas for improvement, but was generally very satisfactory. The Council and the PCT have developed plans for the re-provision of the Mere Road 'campus'.

18. **Access to housing** - housing that people want and need with a particular emphasis on home ownership and tenancies. Action will include:

- a joint Department for Communities and Local Government and Department of Health programme to promote the inclusion of people with learning disabilities in mainstream housing initiatives;
- an increased focus on access to home ownership and housing with assured tenancies;
- funding to support the closure of NHS campuses;

#### Action in Dudley:

19. We continue to move people from residential care to supported housing – six during 2007 (excluding Ridge Hill clients). Grange House will close during 2008. King's Road has already converted to supported living. All the clients who left Ridge Hill have assured tenancies. We have begun discussions about shared ownership. A key target will be to increase the number moving from independent sector residential care into supported housing.

### **Other development areas identified in Valuing People Now**

20. Advocacy and rights

- a new learning disability advocacy development programme – including leadership development;
- the development of user-led organisations in each locality, being fully inclusive of people with learning disabilities, as recommended in Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People;

21. Partnership with families

- more practical support to carers; including the creation of an expert carers' programme, a national information service/helpline for carers, and support for short term home-based care; in Dudley we are currently supporting the development of a Carers Forum specifically for the parent/carers of people with learning disability and are in the process of appointing a carers support worker

## 22. Including everyone

- People with complex needs have often not benefited from the original White Paper. Valuing People Now states that local planning must focus primarily on this group, with the principle of developing additional services and supports, rather than separate ones. For example, we should be introducing individual budgets first for people with complex needs.
- full compliance with race relations legislation leading to proper information that helps develop culturally appropriate services for all people with learning disabilities; in Dudley this work is being progressed by EAST team, specialist social worker and support workers who are also working closely with the Valuing People national development team.

## 23. People as Local Citizens

- local and national action to stop hate crime against people with learning disabilities.
- the Department for Transport working with the Valuing People delivery programme to ensure transport initiatives are inclusive of people with learning disabilities. Local learning disability partnerships getting involved with the development of local transport plans.

## **Valuing People Now contains a fifth and major Priority - Making sure that change happens and the policy is delivered**

24. The biggest challenge facing Valuing People is to make sure that the whole policy is delivered so that all people with learning disabilities including those with the most complex needs benefit from the changes.

- local Learning Disability partnerships will continue, with an expectation that they review Partnership Board meetings to reflect best practice across the country. Government will explore how to increase the statutory requirement on public bodies to consult and work with partnership boards, and how to strengthen the links between the Partnership Board and the Local Strategic Partnership; Partnership Boards should report annually to the LSP and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- the Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) will continue, but will be paid directly to local authorities not via the PCT as in previous years.
- two new cross government performance indicators on employment and settled accommodation for people with a learning disability.

### Better commissioning

25. PCT funding for learning disability care services and the associated commissioning responsibility will transfer to local government. The Council and the PCT will be required to agree an appropriate amount for transfer, which will then be allocated by Government from 2009-10.
26. action to ensure that the only reason a person with a learning disability is an inpatient in an NHS or private sector hospital bed is because they are receiving an active programme of assessment or treatment prior to moving back home to their local community;

### **FINANCE**

27. LDDF will continue but at this stage it is not thought that there will be any additional resources from Government for implementation of Valuing People Now.

### **LAW**

28. The Council has powers and duties to support persons with a learning disability under its welfare function contained in a number of statutes including the National Assistance Act 1948, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, the Community Care Act 1990 and the Mental Health Acts and may do anything incidental to conducive to or which facilitates the discharge of its functions under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **EQUALITY IMPACT**

29. The Councils Equal Opportunities' Policy addresses our commitment to ensuring that all Dudley Citizens have access to services and opportunities that allow them to play as full a role as possible in our Local Community. By developing services for People with Learning Disabilities in the way recommended in Valuing People Now, we are ensuring that our services support them to experience the same ordinary life opportunities that many of us take for granted

### **RECOMMENDATION**

30. Select Committee is asked to note and comment on this report as part of the formal consultation process which concludes on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'L'.

**Linda Sanders**  
**Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services**

Contact Officer: Richard Carter  
Telephone: 01384 815804  
Email: [Richard.carter@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.carter@dudley.gov.uk)