

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE – 26th MARCH 2009.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES

VALUING PEOPLE NOW

1. To brief Health and Social Care Select Committee on 'Valuing People Now', which was published by the Department of Health in January 2009. *N.B The Committee should be advised that an 'easy read' version of the 'Valuing People Now' document referred to in this report was circulated to Members via email and made available in the Members library prior to this meeting. This may also be viewed on the Council's Committee Management information system.*
2. 'Valuing People Now: A New Three-Year Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities' is a cross-government strategy for services for people with a learning disability, 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.

BACKGROUND

4. 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.
5. Valuing People Now sets out the next steps in the delivery of Valuing People priorities for the period 2009 - 2012. 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.

6. Valuing People did not address the needs of all people with a learning disability. Valuing People Now places a focus on including all groups of people with a learning disability, and identifies the need to take specific actions to include people with complex needs¹, people from black and minority ethnic groups, people on the autistic spectrum and offenders.
7. Valuing People Now 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. The strategy sits within the context of the transformation agenda for adult social care, set out in *Putting People First*.¹ There are strong links with other national strategies and initiatives such as, *Aiming High for Disabled Children*,² the Carers' Strategy,³ the consultation on *No Secrets*,⁴ Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) and the forthcoming Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy, and Dementia Strategy.
9. Valuing People Now includes a Delivery Plan which sets out the governance structure and the actions, with timescales and responsibilities, that will be taken to support the implementation of *Valuing People Now*, nationally, regionally and locally.

Valuing People Now identifies six priorities for 2009-2010:

- to raise awareness of *Valuing People Now* across national and local government, private and voluntary sectors, and within wider society
 - to have an effective Learning Disability Partnership Board operating in every Local Authority area
 - to secure access to, and improvements in, healthcare, with Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) responsible for, and leading, this work
 - to increase the range of housing options for people with learning disabilities and their families, including closure of NHS campuses
 - to ensure that the Personalisation agenda is embedded within all local authority services and developments for people with learning disabilities and their family carers, and is underpinned by person centred planning
 - to increase employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities
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In addition, Valuing People Now sets out key policy objectives for 2009–12

10. All people with learning disabilities and their families will:

- benefit from *Valuing People Now*;
- have greater choice and control over their lives and have support to develop person centred plans;
- get the healthcare they need and the support they need to live healthy lives;
- have an informed choice about where, and with whom, they live;
- have a fulfilling life of their own, beyond services, that includes opportunities to study, work and enjoy leisure and social activities;
- be supported into paid work, including those with more complex needs;
- have the choice to have relationships, become parents and continue to be parents, and will be supported to do so;
- be treated as equal citizens in society and supported to enact their rights and fulfil their responsibilities;
- have the opportunity to speak up and be heard about what they want from their lives – the big decisions and the everyday choices. If they need support to do this, they should be able to get it;
- be able to use public transport safely and easily and feel confident about doing so; and
- be able to lead their lives in safe environments and feel confident that their right to live in safety is upheld by the criminal justice system.

For services:

11. Leadership, delivery and partnership structures are put in place that will make sure the outcomes set out in *Valuing People Now* are delivered.

12. Effective commissioning in a way that best supports the right outcomes for people with learning disabilities and their families is ensured.

13. The workforce across services are given the appropriate support and training to equip them with the values, skills and knowledge to deliver the *Valuing People Now* priorities for all people with learning disabilities.

14. Learning disabilities will have a clear position in the new performance frameworks for the NHS and local authorities, and there will be a comprehensive range of data sets and reporting mechanisms.

Learning Disability Joint Review

15. During autumn 2008, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the Health Care Commission and the Mental Health Act Commission jointly carried out a series of reviews in nine Councils, to assess how the Councils with their local Primary Care Trusts commission services for people with learning disabilities and complex needs. Dudley was one of the Councils selected to take part in a Review

16. The inspection programme included: an in-depth examination of five cases; a public meeting; focus groups with carers, providers, advocacy groups and Council and PCT staff and interviews with managers from the Council and PCT.

17. The expert by experience carried out mystery shopping of local services to find out whether these services were accessible to people with complex needs.

18. *The Joint Review identified many strengths with Dudley services for people with a learning disability and complex needs:*

19. The Council and the PCT were working well together both strategically and operationally.

20. The Council were reviewing the Learning Disability Strategy and developing a commissioning strategy to improve services for people with complex needs.

21. The Council and PCT had sound financial systems in place, including a joint resource allocation panel.

22. The Council and PCT had developed a strategy and formed a new team to support people who have autism.

23. There were effective links between Learning Disability Services and Housing and the Council had successfully supported people to move into supported living schemes.

24. The Council and PCT are developing self-directed support and ten people with a learning disability, including two with complex needs, are involved in a personal budget pilot.

25. Advocacy services are good. People from the black and minority ethnic community were appropriately supported.
26. The Learning Disability Partnership Board was well-managed and produced good quality work; it had clear plans and targets for the future.
27. Staff from both organisations were committed and dedicated to making improvements for people with complex needs.

28. The Joint Review identified the following principal areas for development:

29. Day Services require further modernisation and more people with complex needs should be able to access opportunities in the community.
30. The Council should continue to promote the use of direct payments with people with complex needs and their carers.
31. More people with learning disability should have a person-centred plan; further work is needed to ensure that both person-centred plans and communication passports are used to their full potential. More carers should have a carers' assessment.
32. The Special Needs Register should be used more systematically to identify key trends and gaps in services for people with a learning disability.
33. The Council and PCT should improve communication with the Specialised Commissioning Team (West Midlands) which is responsible for placing people with a learning disability who require secure accommodation.
34. Health Action Plans for people with a learning disability should be reviewed regularly and kept up-to-date. The PCT should enhance the capacity of the Health Facilitation Team
35. Public information on services for people with complex needs and safeguarding should be made more accessible, to fully explain what services are available.

36. The Council and the PCT could make better use of information from individual reviews to inform the commissioning of services.
37. The Council and PCT should improve the analysis of information from safeguarding referrals and investigations.
38. The recommendations of the Joint Review are being addressed through a comprehensive Action Plan, much of which will have been implemented by the end of March. A copy of the Action Plan is attached at Appendix C.
39. The major area for improvement relates to Day Services; a further report on the modernisation of Day Services will be brought to Cabinet in June 2009.
40. CSCI is making a DVD about the programme of reviews in the nine Councils; Dudley has been asked to take part as an example of good practice.

Learning Disability Strategy

41. On 18th March 2009 Cabinet approved a new joint Learning Disability Service and Commissioning Strategy. sets out a vision and direction for the development of Learning Disability Services over the period 2009 – 2012.
42. The Strategy has been developed in consultation with users, carers and the agencies which are represented on the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The Strategy will be produced in an accessible format.
43. Dudley has made considerable progress with the implementation of the 2005 Strategy for Learning Disability Services in Dudley. It is now time for a new strategy , which reflects the priorities in Valuing People Now. The new strategy includes a small number of tasks from the 2005 strategy which are still in progress.
44. The Strategy includes the draft commissioning strategy published in October 2008 and the action plan which was agreed following the Joint Review of Learning Disability Services, which was reported to Cabinet in February 2009. The Strategy has been discussed with stakeholders at a seminar on Valuing People Now at the end of February 2009.

The main priorities in the Strategy are as follows:

45. More people with learning disability have a personal budget or a direct payment.
46. More people with learning disability live in supported housing in the community.
47. More people with learning disability are in paid employment in line with the Local Area Agreement target.
48. People with learning disabilities are cared for well when they have to go into hospital.
49. Health Action Plans are regularly reviewed and kept up-to-date.
50. The three residents at Mere Road (a NHS facility in Stourbridge) are able to move to their new homes by March 2010.
51. More people with complex needs go to activities in the community and facilities are improved for those who use a day centre.
52. People with a learning disability know how to keep safe and how to report abuse and hate crime and how to make a complaint about services.
53. People with a learning disability are more involved in planning and checking on services.
54. The Strategy will be implemented through the work of the sub-groups of the Learning Disability Partnership Boards, with robust performance management against each of the key areas

FINANCE

55. In 2009-2010 the Council will receive Learning Disability Development Fund of £265,000 from the Department of Health. This grant is used to develop new services in line with Valuing People Now.
56. The Council's budget for 2009-2010 includes is additional resources of £50,000 to develop Valuing People Now priorities.

LAW

57. 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

58. 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

59. Select Committee is asked to note and comment on this report.

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