

VALUING PEOPLE NOW IMPLEMENTATION

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of 'Valuing People Now - A Three Year Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities' which is the Government's vision to improve services for people with a learning disability. This report goes on to detail how Wirral will implement this vision in partnership with people with a learning disability their carers and families and a wide variety of other key stakeholders. A new Learning Disability strategy for Wirral will be reported to Cabinet and NHS Wirral Board in September 2009.

1 National Context

- 1.1 Valuing People Now - A Three Year Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities' (January 19th 2009) is a new vision for improving services for people with learning disabilities across health, housing, employment and community care services. It follows a comprehensive consultation involving more than 10,000 people.
- 1.2 Valuing People Now is the strategy for delivering the vision set out in Valuing People (2001); that all people with a learning disability are people first with the right to lead their lives like any others, with the same opportunities and responsibilities, and to be treated with the same dignity and respect. They and their families and carers are entitled to the same aspirations and life chances as other citizens.
- 1.3 The guidance is clear in setting out that it is the Director of Adult Social Services lead responsibility for commissioning the provision of social care services for people with learning disabilities in partnership with all key stakeholders.

2 Local Delivery

- 2.1 The Valuing People Now Delivery Plan was launched in the North West region on 9th March 2009 and this was attended on behalf of Wirral by the NHS Wirral Director of Strategic Partnerships and Chair of Wirral's Learning Disability Partnership Board, the Chair of Health and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny, Principal Manager Department of Adult Social Services with a lead for Learning Disabilities, Valuing People Co-ordinator. Chair of the Enabling Fulfilling Lives Group and a carer.

- 2.2 Wirral's Learning Disability Partnership Board Wirral will work with the Regional Learning Disability Board which in turn reports to the National Board which has ministerial oversight.
- 2.3 In Wirral this vision will be translated into a local Learning Disability strategy which will be reported to Cabinet and NHS Wirral Board in September 2009. Work has already started on this and an operational plan which re-shapes the Department of Adult Social Services Learning Disability services has just completed its consultation phase and will begin implementation over the summer.
- 2.4 This strategy will be delivered through a partnership between people with a learning disability, their carers and families and Local Authority (including Children's and Leisure services as well as Department of Adult Social Services), Health (both NHS Wirral and the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership to cover mainstream and specialist health care), Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector, Housing providers, employers, and further education. The strategy identifies targeted areas of work to make improvements in the delivery of services and opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.
- A review of existing Partnership Board arrangements
 - Improvements in performance management and the ability to report outcomes for people who use services and their families
 - Targeted improvements in the transitions process
 - Streamlined funding arrangements
 - Improvements in the information available and range of supported accommodation available to adults with learning disabilities
 - A major drive to accelerate opportunities for adults with learning disabilities in paid work
 - A whole scale reform of the way people who use services can contribute to assessment, support planning and the delivery of their care through personalisation
 - Targeted programmes to improve the health of adults with learning disabilities
- 2.5 In Wirral The Learning Disability Partnership Board will deliver the strategy At present the Board is a large group of people with Learning Disabilities and their carers. The Board have identified a number of issues that require attention and it has been recognised that there has been a limited infrastructure in place to deliver the improvements and changes effectively. Therefore attention is being given to ensuring the Board is appropriately resourced to deliver the strategy.
- 2.6 The Board is currently jointly chaired by NHS Wirral Director of Strategic Partnerships and a person with a Learning Disability. In addition there will be a number of sub groups brought together under the following headings set out in the Valuing People Now strategy;
- Personalisation – starting with the individual and their family

- Having a life – better health, home ownership, work, education, leisure, relationships and parenting
- People as citizens – advocacy, transport and access to leisure and recreational activities, to justice and the right to feel safe

2.7 Work is being undertaken with consultation groups such as the Enabling Fulfilling Lives Group, Carers Committee and Transitions Strategy Group to elect members who will represent people with Learning Disabilities and their carers onto the Board. These groups will develop the agenda for the Partnership Board, led by the work of the sub groups.

2.8 Work is also being undertaken through the Social Services Transformational Change Board to identify key decision makers who will be on the Board. Commissioning issues identified by the Partnership Board will be delivered through the Joint Commissioning Group which is already in existence.

3 Financial Implications

3.1 The implications of the Valuing People Now strategy are that existing budgets will need to be more integrated across agencies as partnership working is developed but there are no calls on additional expenditure at this stage.

4 Staffing Implications

4.1 The involvement of people with Learning Disabilities and family carers in workforce planning and training will be an outcome of the Partnership Board which will be integrated into the Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy.

5 Equal Opportunities Implications

5.1 Throughout the strategy, there is an underpinning theme of promoting equal opportunities for people with learning disabilities including accessing information, transport, criminal justice, housing, jobs, having a family etc. An equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the development of the strategy.

6 Community Safety Implications

6.1 The Strategy is explicit in developing more links with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to raise the profile of disability hate crime and its effects because as people with learning disabilities start to access community facilities, they increasingly become the target of hate crime.

7 Local Agenda 21 Implications

None

8 Planning Implications

None

9 Anti Poverty Implications

- 9.1 People with learning disabilities are often the most excluded from both employment and the access to education that can lift them out of poverty. Raising the profile of people with Learning Disabilities in strategies designed to increase access to education and employment will be central to tackling inequalities for people with Learning Disabilities.

10 Social Inclusion Implications

- 10.1 Social Inclusion is a strong theme throughout this strategy. Threads include the implementation of the Mansell Report (which would enable people with complex needs to be included in developments), developing an autism strategy, improving offender health services and developing services for people recently arrived or from minority ethnic communities.

11 Local Member Support Implications

People with learning disabilities live in all wards of the borough.

12 Health Implications

The strategy reinforces the NHS's duty to provide mainstream and specialist health care for people with Learning Disabilities.

13 Background Papers

Valuing People Now: a new three year strategy for people with learning disabilities Department of Health (2009)

Valuing People Now: The Delivery Plan Department of Health (2009).

14 Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes and agrees to;

- (1) The changes to and strengthening of the Wirral Learning Disabilities Partnership Board as a decision making body representing a true partnership of people with Learning Disabilities and decision makers across key partners.
- (2) Regular reporting from the Learning Disability Partnership Board to the Transformational Change Board and the Health and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Board so that members can play an active role in implementing Valuing People Now.

- (3) The development of a Strategy in partnership with people with Learning Disabilities to be reported to Cabinet and NHS Wirral Board in September 2009.

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