



all about people

News from BILD

26 August 2011

After 40 years of progress but with lots still to do, we ask:

What does it take to get things right?

BILD Annual Conference, Friday 7 October, Birmingham

It's going to be a busy day of great speakers, practical workshops and lots of useful information and good ideas. If you only go to one conference this year – this should be it.

BILD's 40th year provides an opportunity to reflect on what has happened to the lives of people with learning disabilities and family carers since 1971.

We've seen real progress in the closure of the long stay hospitals, the introduction of person centred approaches, local support for people in their own community, and a more knowledgeable and skilled workforce. The impact of self advocacy has given people much more choice and control in their lives and ensured involvement and a stronger voice. Families and relatives are now rightfully being recognised as expert care partners.

The current policy framework is clear: promoting rights, choice, inclusion and independence. The personalisation agenda and the use of individual budgets has already made a real difference to the lives of some people with learning disabilities.

However, the progress over the past 40 years has had an impact on some but not all. The current budget cuts are increasing the postcode lottery where services and support are dependent on where you live. Many individuals continue to live with older parents, some have limited links in their local communities and some are a target for hate crime. People from black and minority communities, those whose behaviour challenges services and people with profound and multiple disabilities often receive inadequate responses to their individual needs. The recent abuse at Winterbourne View has raised serious concerns about care planning, safeguarding, commissioning and regulation.

In response, BILD's Annual Conference aims to provide creative ways to move forward; "What does it take to get it right?" is a question that should be answered by everyone involved in working in partnership with people with learning disabilities and their family

carers. We all have a responsibility to work together and play our part in improving the quality of peoples' lives.

"After Panorama, the media spotlight has understandably been focussed on poor practice and the shortcoming of services", said Keith Smith, BILD chief executive. "Our conference will be an opportunity to move forward and identify how to make sure that people with learning disabilities and their family carers receive individualised support provided with respect and dignity. We expect all those attending to leave having been inspired and with a real understanding of what it takes to get it right".

Speakers at the conference include:

- Amanda Platts and Gavin Harding, Co Chair National Forum England, Steve Robertson, People First Scotland and Darren Locke, People First Wales
- Rob Greig, NDTi
- Viv Cooper, The Challenging Behaviour Foundation and Roger Banks, Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Lynn James-Jenkinson, North West Training and Development Team

With workshops on:

Strengthening our voice:

- Making our voice stronger
- Using the Mental Capacity Act: what family and friends of people with learning disabilities need to know
- Seeing families as experts: how family carers can contribute to shaping policy and services

Strengthening local services and support:

- Working with commissioners and providers to develop quality standards for supporting people with severe challenging behaviour
- Strengthening local authority commissioning
- The healthy way

Strengthening support for staff:

- Staff development challenges: resources and good practice to strengthen support for staff
- Managing person centred support for a person with an individual budget
- Developing staff to support people with complex needs

You can download the event information and booking form at: <http://bit.ly/oFSXkp>

For more information contact the BILD Events team on 01562 723010 or email learning@bild.org.uk

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For more information please contact BILD's Communications Manager, Peter Salisbury on 01562 723010 or email p.salisbury@bild.org.uk

Notes:

BILD (The British Institute of Learning Disabilities) is based in Kidderminster, Worcestershire and was founded in 1971.

BILD's vision is a society where people with learning disabilities are equal citizens and have access to the support and services they need. We work to make this happen in partnership with people with a learning disability and family carers. They are the real 'experts', knowing what support is needed, and what needs to change to improve the quality of their lives.

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