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Factsheet – partnership boards

Summary

- Partnership Boards are key to implementing the Government's proposals for adults with a learning disability
- They were up and running by October 2001
- They have representation from people with learning disabilities and their carers
- Their first task was to revisit and re-submit Learning Disability Joint Investment Plans

General Introduction

Valuing People, the learning disability White Paper for England states that Partnership Boards are to be the vehicle for inter-agency planning to implement local proposals.

Numbers

Learning Disability Partnership Boards were to be established in every local authority area in England by October 2001.

The Issues

What are Partnership Boards?

Learning Disability Partnership Boards operate within the Local Strategic Partnership framework. They bring together public, private, community and voluntary sector organisations to provide effective local co-ordination of strategic planning and development. They are not statutory bodies, and they do not have a specific budget to work with.

What will they do?

They have a responsibility for overseeing inter-agency planning and ensuring a strategic approach to service commissioning that provides a

genuine choice to adults with learning disabilities in their local area. They also look at where people are being denied local services because there is a lack of appropriate local alternatives.

Partnership Boards are responsible for:

- developing local actions plans to supplement Join Investment Plans (JIP). The first of these were submitted to the regional offices of the Department of Health by the end of January 2002.
- ensuring local arrangements are in place to ensure a smooth transition for children moving from children's to adult services.
- agreeing a local framework for the development of Person Centred Planning by April 2002.
- agreeing a framework for the introduction of Health Action Plans, and identifying Health Facilitators for people with a learning disability. (You can read the DoH guidance on Health Action Plans [here](#))
- reviewing the role of specialist learning disability health services
- reviewing the role and function of community learning disability teams
- agreeing and implementing alternative housing care and support plans for people still living in long stay hospital accommodation to facilitate moves to more appropriate accommodation
- agreeing a timetable for extending extending person centred planning approaches to people living in residential campuses and NHS retained beds
- drawing up plans for modernising day services
- ensuring that services are available to support parents with a learning disability
- developing local employment strategies with local targets for employment of people with a learning disability
- ensuring local services are culturally competent and can meet the cultural needs of everybody in their communities
- developing a workforce and training plan
- developing competent services locally for people with challenging behaviour and/or autism
- ensuring co-ordination between learning disability services and older people's services
- demonstrating the use of Health Act Flexibilities to enhance partnership working
- ensuring plans are in place for good provision of information, advice and advocacy services.

How will Partnership Boards be set up?

The Chief Executive of the Local Council is responsible for ensuring that the Partnership Board is in place. Membership should include representatives from:

Social services,
Health, including Primary Care Trusts,
Education,
Housing,
Community development,
Leisure,
Independent providers
Employment.

Partnership Boards must include representation of people with a learning disability, as well as family members of people with a learning disability.

One year on, the challenges of including people with learning disabilities are explored by David Towell in his paper "Partnership Boards and user engagement: What do you think of the show so far?", which appeared on the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities policy forum website.

Key Government Papers

Department of Health Valuing People
Department of Health (2001) Draft Good Practice on Partnership Working

References

Cameron A, (2001); The Art of Partnership, a Practical Guide, BILD publications

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