

Press release

West Midlands LDAF evaluation project

BILD were commissioned by Skills for Care West Midlands to carry out research into the delivery, management, assessment and support provided in order to make recommendations about future implementation of the new LDQ (Learning Disability Qualifications) awards.

The final report presents the findings from a review of the use of the original Learning Disability Awards Framework (LDAF) and National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) qualifications carried out in the West Midlands region between April and August 2007.

Findings from the research include:

- Ensuring there is sufficient time for learning, assessing and mentoring is essential
- Completing LDAF has highlighted the learning disability knowledge required and the skills needed to work within the sector
- Involving individuals with a learning disability and family carers in training delivery added great value
- Better links to other mandatory training, for example NVQs and Common Induction Standards, would reduce duplication and increase achievement rates.

Recommendations included:

- Ensuring that people with learning disabilities are equipped to take part in the delivery of Learning Disability Qualifications
- A qualification structure is developed to identify which qualifications are required by whom, to help with funding, training management and career progression for workers
- There is more efficient communication between funders and providers of both training and services to identify the actual costs and benefits to the service of Learning Disability Qualifications

The project has enabled BILD to obtain detailed information about how the LDAF qualifications have been used in the region and how they are currently supporting achievement of NVQs. Examples of good practice have been identified and recommendations for future working put forward.

From this research the learning disability sector will have a better understanding of how services can use qualification programmes to improve the quality of support provided for people with a learning disability and family carers.

The introduction of LDQ means that this piece of research is very timely and can inform future delivery and implementation

Published summary is available from enquirieswm@skillsforcare.org.uk

Full report is available at

<http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/view.asp?id=181> and
<http://www.bild.org.uk/05policyandresearch.htm>