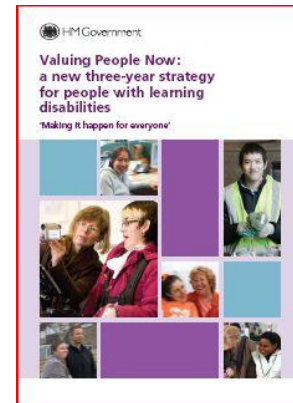


## ***Valuing People Now: A New Three-Year Strategy for people with learning disabilities: 'Making it happen for everyone'***



**Valuing People Now**, a new three year cross-government strategy for people with learning disabilities has now been published.

The strategy builds on the vision set out in the original Valuing People White Paper, published in 2001, with the key focus of this new strategy to make that vision a reality.

With this in mind, this document is about setting out what best practice looks like and identifying ways to ensure best practice become universal practice.

The strategy responds to the Joint Committee on Human Rights report *A Life Like Any Other?* which suggested that adults with learning disabilities were particularly vulnerable to breaches of their human rights.

Each chapter of the strategy looks a key theme, although the themes are in reality interconnected.

### **1. Including everyone**

- people with more complex needs;
- people from black and minority ethnic groups and newly arrived communities;
- people with autistic spectrum conditions; and
- offenders in custody and in the community.

### **2. Personalisation**

*Putting People First* a cross-sector concordat set out the vision for transforming social care through high-quality and personalised services, which for people with learning disabilities means using person centred approaches to ensure more people with learning disabilities can commission their own services to live independently.

### **3. Having a life**

*Health* – Responses to the Michael report and specialist healthcare supports for people with additional health needs

*Housing* - increasing housing options available to people with learning disabilities

*Work, education and getting a life* - Cross-government employment strategy expected Spring 2009.

*Relationships and having a family* – including the right to become parents and adequate support to sustain the family unit.

#### **4. People as citizens**

*Advocacy* - National advocacy fund to focus on supporting advocacy to achieve greater impact

*Transport* - National programmes on inclusive transport to include people with learning disabilities.

*Leisure services and social activities* – Work on how local services can be made more accessible for people with learning disabilities.

*Being safe in the community and at home* – Implementation of the Disability Hate Crime Strategy, and publication of revised *No Secrets* guidance

*Access to justice and redress* - Crown Prosecution Service developing new policy on prosecuting crimes where people with learning disabilities are victims or witnesses.

#### **5. Making it happen**

National Directors to lead the delivery programme for *Valuing People Now*, with national mechanisms to drive delivery:

- the national Forum of People with Learning Difficulties;
- the national Valuing Families Forum; and
- New national Learning Disability Programme board.

A delivery plan sits alongside the strategy.

### **Some Key Documents referenced in Valuing People Now**

*Healthcare for All*, Report of the Independent Inquiry into Access to Healthcare for People with Learning Disabilities, Sir Jonathan Michael, Department of Health (2008)  
<http://www.library.nhs.uk/LEARNINGDISABILITIES/ViewResource.aspx?resID=291301&tabID=290>

*A Life Like Any Other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities* (2008 HL Paper 40-1 HC 73-1) House of Lords, House of Commons, Joint Committee on Human Rights (2008)  
<http://www.library.nhs.uk/learningdisabilities/ViewResource.aspx?resID=300454&tabID=290>

*Putting People First: A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care*, Department of Health (2007)  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndguidance/DH\\_081118](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndguidance/DH_081118)

*Independent Living Strategy*, Office for Disability Issues (2008)  
<http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk/working/independentlivingstrategy.asp>

*Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities*, Department of Health (2008)  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/DH\\_085345](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/DH_085345)

*Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families*, HM Treasury/ Department for Education and Skills (2007)  
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/socialcare/ahdc/>

*High Quality Care for All: NHS Next Stage Review Final Report* (CM 7432), Department of Health (2008)  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/DH\\_085825](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/DH_085825)

*'Progression through Partnership': A Joint Strategy between the DfES, DH and DWP on the role of Further Education and Training in Supporting People with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities to Achieve Fulfilling Lives*, The stationery office (2007)  
<http://www.library.nhs.uk/learningdisabilities/ViewResource.aspx?resID=269387>

*Safeguarding Adults: A Consultation on the Review of the 'No Secrets' Guidance*:  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_089098](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_089098)

*The Youth Crime Action Plan* (2008) available at  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/youth-crime-action-plan/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/youth-crime-action-plan/)

*Valuing People Now: Transfer of the responsibility for the commissioning of social care for adults with a learning disability from the NHS to local government and transfer of the appropriate funding* (2008):  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH\\_087148](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_087148)

*Helping people achieve their full potential: Improving Specialist Disability Employment Services consultation – Summary of Responses*, Department for Work and Pensions (2008) <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/resourcecentre/des-consultation.asp>

Green Paper *No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility*, Department for Work and Pensions (2008); <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/noonewrittenoff/>

White Paper *Raising expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future*, Department for Work and Pensions (December 2008)  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/raisingexpectations/>

*Safeguarding Adults: A Consultation on the Review of the 'No Secrets' Guidance*:  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_089098](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_089098)

*Services for People with Learning Disability and Challenging Behaviour or Mental Health Needs* (Mansell report, revised edition), department of health (2007):  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/dh\\_080129](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/dh_080129)

*Commissioning Specialist Adult Learning Disability Health Services: Good Practice Guidance:*  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/dh\\_079987](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/dh_079987)

*People from minority ethnic backgrounds living in rural areas*, ghazala Mir, Centre for research in primary Care, university of leeds:  
[www.valuingpeople.gov.uk/echo/filedownload.jsp?action=dFile&key=459](http://www.valuingpeople.gov.uk/echo/filedownload.jsp?action=dFile&key=459)

*Better Services for People with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder: A Note Clarifying Current Government Policy and Describing Good Practice:*  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/dh\\_065242](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/dh_065242)

*Better Communication: An Action Plan to improve services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs.* department for Children, Schools and Families, dCSF – 01062 (2008)  
[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/slcnaaction/downloads/Better\\_Communication\\_Final.pdf](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/slcnaaction/downloads/Better_Communication_Final.pdf)

*Positive Practice Positive Outcomes: A Handbook for Professionals in the Criminal Justice System working with Offenders with Learning Disabilities*, Care Services Improvement partnership (2007):  
[www.kc.csip.org.uk/viewresource.php?action=viewdocument&doc=98519&grp=1](http://www.kc.csip.org.uk/viewresource.php?action=viewdocument&doc=98519&grp=1)

Partners in policy Making<sup>TM</sup> website: [www.partnersinpolicymaking.co.uk/index.php](http://www.partnersinpolicymaking.co.uk/index.php)

*Evaluation of the Individual Budgets Pilot Programme: Final Report* (2008):  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/dh\\_089505](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/publications/publicationspolicyandguidance/dh_089505)

*A life like no other: a national audit of specialist inpatient healthcare services for people with learning difficulties in England*, healthcare Commission (2007)  
[http://2007ratings.healthcarecommission.org.uk/db/documents/LD\\_audit\\_report.pdf](http://2007ratings.healthcarecommission.org.uk/db/documents/LD_audit_report.pdf)

Mersey Care pilot materials and other resources on human rights:  
[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/equalityandhumanrights/humanrights/dh\\_088783](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/equalityandhumanrights/humanrights/dh_088783)

*A consultation on the CPS Policy on prosecuting criminal cases involving people with mental health problems and/or learning disabilities as victims and witnesses*, Crown prosecution service, 2008 [www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/mhld\\_index.html](http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/mhld_index.html)

## **Valuing People Now in the news**

**The Learning Disability Coalition**, a coalition of 10 organisations welcomed the publication of Valuing People Now, particularly the recognition that better information is needed about the numbers and needs of people with a learning disability, but raised concerns about the delivery of the strategy within current funding.

[http://www.learningdisabilitycoalition.org.uk/news/news\\_20.asp](http://www.learningdisabilitycoalition.org.uk/news/news_20.asp)

**BILD, the British Institute of Learning Disabilities** broadly welcomed *Valuing People Now's* emphasis on a human rights approach, involvement of family carers, and the embracing of the personalisation agenda.

[http://www.bild.org.uk/vpn/vpn\\_bildresponse\\_pressrelease.pdf](http://www.bild.org.uk/vpn/vpn_bildresponse_pressrelease.pdf)

**Mencap** welcomed the publication of the strategy which sets out a vision that puts people with a learning disability at the centre of their care, drawing all departments of Government into the challenges associated with improving services for people with a learning disability.

However, Mencap expressed serious reservations about the ability of local authorities, hard pressed and with financial restrictions to deliver that vision

<http://www.mencap.org.uk/news.asp?id=9341&detail=2>

**Community care** reports the serious concerns expressed by charities and voluntary organisations about the lack of funding to deliver the changes set out in valuing people now

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2009/01/19/110465/valuing-people-now-unrealistic-due-to-lack-of-new-funding.html>

**The Guardian** draws attention to the call for appropriate levels of funding, based on better quality information to deliver Valuing People Now

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2009/jan/19/learning-disability-nhs>

John Northfield  
Learning Disability Specialist Library  
January 2009

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/learningdisabilities/>