

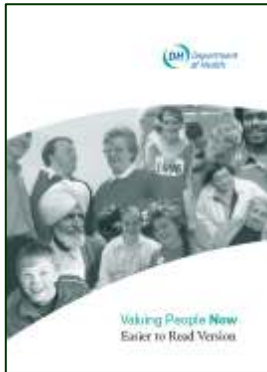


Welcome and introductions

Ray Wilk welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the new members, Susan Hanley and Paul Broughton and asked people to introduce themselves.

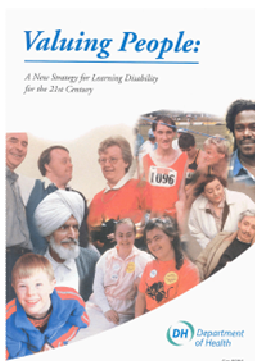
Valuing People Now

Ray Wilk explained that Partnership Boards have been asked to look at the new draft document called *Valuing People Now* and send in a questionnaire, to Valuing People, by 28th March. The purpose of the meeting was to look at two of the main priorities in the document and discuss whether they have got it right or has anything been missed out. Because there was so much to discuss, it was agreed a further meeting would be held in February to look at the other things in the document. The Board also agreed to review its response at the meeting on 11th March, and then look at how to make it happen in Leeds.



Valuing People Overview

Janet Wright reminded people that *Valuing People* was written six years ago and its aim was to help people with learning disabilities live good and full lives. Since then, a lot of good things have happened to improve the quality of people's lives. However, for some people, not a lot has changed. Therefore, the Government decided to refresh the original document to see what they can do to make sure that things change for the better for everyone. Janet showed the Board a powerpoint presentation, made by Valuing People, which gave the background to the document and describes what it hopes to achieve in the next 3 years. (powerpoint



presentation available from Louise Mills at Joint Commissioning Service).

Choice and Control (Government call this Personalisation)

Scott Cunningham explained that Personalisation means having rights and control over your own life and gave examples of what it would mean for people. He also said it is important to have the right people to support service users helping them to make their own choices. Service users and carers must be at the centre of the decision making process and being in control.

Board members split into groups to discuss the document in more detail before the lunch break.

What people do during the day (and evenings)

Ivan Barnett talked about the next steps for day opportunities and described what the new vision could be like. After the presentation, people worked in groups to look at it in more detail.

The two groups then gave a summary of what they thought about the two priorities:

- Personalisation is the most important priority and if we get this bit right, all the other things will be better
- People who want work must be supported
- Organisations need to be ready (such as job centres and service providers)
- There must be more emphasis on community development

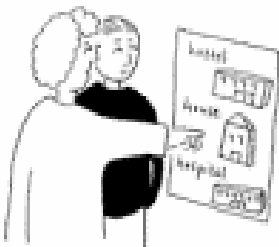


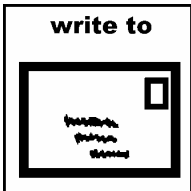
- Information must be clear as a lot of people do not understand Direct Payments and Individualised Budgets
- People are concerned that they will be forced into situations (which could be a result of misunderstanding and the use of big words/terminology)
- Individualised Budgets will be good because people with learning disabilities will have the contracts
- The benefits system is a worry because people may be worse off and it appears to discriminate against people with learning disabilities
- There appears to be a lack of joined up thinking
- Person Centred Plans are not mandatory and some people may need support plans instead
- There is too much emphasis on money
- It is important to support and maintain friendships
- If we don't have local and national leadership and the community don't integrate, it will all fall apart

Throughout the meeting, flip charts with details of the other important things in the document were displayed around the room and people were invited to add comments. As the meeting ran out of time, it was agreed this information would be looked at later.

Next Steps

Ray Wilk asked Sue Lindsey to make sure the Learning Disability Reference Group had the opportunity to meet and discuss *Valuing People Now*. He also asked all the other





reference group leaders to make sure the partners on the Board talked to their reference group.

If anyone had any further comments on the document, they were invited to send these to Louise Mills at the Joint Commissioning Service. The final version of the Partnership Boards response would be written up in March.

Ivan Barnett added he and Beverly Brown will be meeting with service users at the day centres to discuss the document and will make sure they return a questionnaire.

Next meetings

- February meeting (date to be arranged) to look at *Valuing People Now*
- 11th March. Review Partnership Board response.
- 8th April. Open Partnership Board meeting.

The Board were thanked for all their hard work.