



Valuing People Now
Easier to Read Version

Valuing People Now has been put together by the Department of Health.

All Government Departments have agreed to it and will help to make it happen.

Foreword

When we wrote *Valuing People*, it was the first time that the Government had said what it wanted to do about learning disability for thirty years. This was a very important step for government but what was also very important was that people with a learning disability thought that it said the right things.

It has been six years since we wrote *Valuing People* and I think that what we said was right. Since then a lot has happened to change people's lives but there are a lot of things that are still the same. Rob Greig's report, *The Story So Far*, told us about the things that were better and the things that still needed to happen. It has been two years since Rob wrote his report and we still need to do the things that he said we needed to do. We need to make sure that people with a learning disability get to use all the services that everyone else uses – health, housing, education and employment.

We know that so many people still think that *Valuing People* said the right things. We know that there are many people who want to work hard to make things better. That is why the Government has decided to write this paper saying what we think should happen next.

This paper (called *Valuing People Now*) says what the Government thinks should happen for the next three years. It says that *Valuing People* was right and adds some new bits of policy. It says what we think are the big priorities and how we can make those things happen.

To help us get it right, we asked some people who know a lot about learning disabilities to tell us what we should say in this paper. We hope we have said the right things but I want you to tell us what you think.

Having choice and control over your own life is a human right. Many people in the community already have choice and control and we have to make sure that all people with a learning disability do too. We will work hard with everyone to make sure that this happens.

Rt Hon Alan Johnson MP
Secretary of State for Health



Introduction

Introduction



1. Valuing People was written six years ago in 2001. Its aim was to help people with learning disabilities live good and full lives. Other Government policies (like Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People) have also helped with this. Since then, a lot has happened to improve the lives of people with a learning disability. Some people have more control over their lives, are listened to more, live in better places and do more interesting things.



2. But some people's lives are still the same as before. So Government has decided it is time to take a new look at Valuing People. We want to see what we can do to make sure that things change for the better for everyone.

3. This paper, (called Valuing People Now), says what Government wants to happen with Valuing People for the next three years. It does not change the Valuing People policy – which will keep on being Government policy about the lives of people with learning disabilities. People tell us it is still a good policy and we agree. Valuing People Now does three things:

- It adds new bits of policy where it is needed
- It says what the big priorities are for the next 3 years

- It says what should be done so that Valuing People happens for everyone.

4. In each section of *Valuing People Now* there is a box which lists some of the things that are going well at the moment, and some of the things that need to change. We then say the big actions we want to happen over the next 3 years. Finally, we say what should be different in 3 years time - when everyone has done what it says in *Valuing People Now*.



5. We want to know what you think about *Valuing People Now*. You have got three months until March 11th to tell us what you think. At the back of this paper are some questions to help you with this. We will read what you have to say and then change bits of *Valuing People Now* that need to be changed. A final paper, saying what will happen, will come out in the Spring.

6. *Valuing People* was about children and adults with a learning disability. Since then, there have been lots of other new policies about children and new things are happening. So, *Valuing People Now* is only about adults with a learning disability (including transition - when young people become adults).



The big priorities

The big priorities

7. We want Valuing People to keep on being about all parts of people's lives. But we think there are some really big priorities – things everyone should do more about. So, we want everyone to do a lot more about these four things:



People having more choice and control over their lives and services (Personalisation)



What people do in the days and evenings – including getting a paid job



People being healthy and getting a good service from the NHS



People having more choices about where they live.

There is one other really important thing to do – **make sure that Valuing People happens for everyone.** Paragraphs 38 - 47 say more about that.



Choice and control (personalisation)

8. Personalisation means making sure more people have control over how they want to live and what they want to do

 Good news	 Things still to change
<p>Person centred planning is working well for some people whose lives are getting better</p>	<p>Lots of people do not have a person centred plan. Not every organisation is doing person centred planning properly</p>
<p>A lot more people are getting and using direct payments</p>	<p>Not enough people have direct payments. Sometimes the right support is not there to help people with them.</p>
<p>The In Control Project showed us new ways of giving people control over the money spent on their services</p>	
<p>'Individual Budgets' are a new way for people to get control over their services. These are being tested out in 13 places in England.</p>	<p>Learn from Individual Budgets that so more people get more control over their services</p>



9. The Next Steps on personalisation are:

- There will be more work to help people get their own person centred plan. This will include new advice and training on how to do it.
- The Government will carry on with plans for individual budgets. Individual Budgets give people choice and control over how money is spent on their services, including to help with things like housing or getting a job.



- Helping more people to have direct payments will be part of this work.

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10. Three years from now, this should be different:

- People will have much more choice and control over their services
- Many more people will be using Individual Budgets and Direct Payments
- Most people will have their own person centred plan
- Lots of schools will be using person centred planning to help people to get ready for life after school.



What people do during the day (and evenings)

11. Valuing People wanted people to have good lives, doing the things they want to do. It said people should have the chance to get a job and go to college.

 Good news	 Things still to change
<p>A few more people have been getting paid work</p>	<p>Many people are still in day centres and cannot get a paid job</p>
<p>The government has plans to improve college courses</p>	<p>Some people have had their courses cut or study courses that are not interesting</p>
<p>Some old day centres have changed a lot</p>	<p>Some days centre changes have just meant big centres getting smaller with people still doing the same things in them</p>



12. The Next Steps on what people do during the day and evening are:



- Help to make sure people using day centres get person centred plans. These plans will be used to decide what will replace the old day centres. Some day centres may close, but only because people are doing other things that they want to do.



- Making the number one priority helping people get a paid job
- A new government project called 'Getting a Life'. This will help people who work in job centres, colleges and social services to work together better so that people with learning disabilities can get what they want and need.

- Government will look at and change the way that job centres help people with learning disabilities to get a job



- Government has a plan called 'Progression Through Partnership' to help improve what colleges provide for people with learning disabilities
- Councils need to help make sure that local groups and organisations are good at involving people with learning disabilities.

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jobs

13. Three years from now, this should be different:

- More people will be in paid, real jobs
- Government will be employing more people with a learning disability in paid jobs
- More people will be doing the college courses they want and this will help them get real



- People will be spending more time doing things they choose during the day, rather than going to day centres.



Better health

14. Being healthy is important for everyone. Valuing People said how the NHS had to get better at including people with learning disabilities in everything it did.

 Good news	 Things still to change
<p>The government has promised that people with learning disabilities should get regular health checks</p>	<p>We have still got to make this happen for everyone</p>
<p>There are some good examples of the health service getting better. For example, accessible information and learning disability nurses helping primary care to do their job better.</p>	<p>There have been many cases of the NHS failing people with learning disabilities. For example reports on abuse in Cornwall, the Disability Rights Commission report on primary care and Mencap's report 'Death by Indifference'.</p>
<p>The NHS has closed down a lot of its out of date services</p>	<p>Specialist health services (like community teams) are sometimes not as good as they should be.</p>



15. The Next steps in helping people to be healthy are:

- The NHS has to take action to meet the law about human rights and disability discrimination. A human rights project will help them to do this.
- Primary Care Trusts will be helped to know how to arrange health checks and make GP services work better for people with learning disabilities
- There will be new advice about how to do health action planning
- The Government has set up an inquiry after the Mencap report to look at how the NHS (in particular hospitals) can do things better. Action will follow. Hospitals should start improving things now rather than wait.
- There will be new advice about specialist health services like community teams.
- New policy on mental health will help make things better for people with learning disabilities who have a mental health problem.
- There is to be a new body to check on the quality of health and social care services (The Care Quality Commission). The Government will make sure it includes learning disability services when planning how it will do this.
- The NHS rules about what it should do (called the Operating Framework) will include new things about learning disabilities.

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16. Three years from now, this should be different:

- PCTs will have good information about the health needs of people with learning disabilities and be making sure there are good health services that work for people with learning disabilities
 - Most people will have a health facilitator, health action plan and regular health checks.
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- PCTs will be planning health services for people with learning disabilities through local Partnership Boards



Better housing to live in

17. Valuing People said that people should have more choice and control over where they lived and that the old long stay hospitals should close down.

 Good news	 Things still to change
<p>More people are living in their own home than before</p>	<p>Most people with learning disabilities still do not have their own home and live with their families or in residential care</p>
<p>Almost all the long stay hospitals have closed down</p>	<p>About 2500 people are still living in NHS campuses</p>
<p>The supporting people policy has helped a lot of people to live in their own home</p>	<p>Some other government housing policies are not working well for people with learning disabilities</p>

18. The Next Steps with housing are:



- The Department for Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government (who are responsible for housing) will work on a joint plan for housing. This will make sure people with learning disabilities get a fair deal from government housing plans

- Local authority care managers should have a big priority of increasing the numbers of people who live in their own homes or have proper tenancies in rented housing



- There will be more money to help people move out of NHS campuses into ordinary housing and support
- Organisations that provide support to people should make sure they are helping people to live full lives-like getting a job, going to college and having a social life.

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19. Three years from now, this should be different:

- More people will be owning their own home or living in rented accommodation with proper tenancy agreements
- Councils will know about the housing needs of people with learning disabilities and be including this in their housing plans



- People's rights as tenants will be respected by landlords
- No-one will be living with the NHS as their 'landlord'.



Some other important things



Advocacy and rights

20. Valuing People said there should be 'Nothing About Us Without Us'. Other laws like the Disability Discrimination Act have given people with learning disabilities a clear set of legal rights.

 Good news	 Things still to change
<p>More money has been spent on advocacy and there are more advocacy organisations</p>	<p>Many advocacy organisations struggle for money and are not always good at showing funders why they should get money</p>
<p>The government's 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People' policy promised there would be a user led organisation in every local area by 2010</p>	<p>A lot of work is needed to make sure this happens and that people with learning disabilities are fully included</p>
<p>The law on people's rights is getting stronger. The Disability Equality Duty means that organisations like the NHS, local authorities, job centres and colleges have to do more about people with learning disabilities</p>	<p>A lot of people do not know about or understand the Disability Equality Duty. Some organisations are not doing what the law says they should do</p>



21. The Next Steps with advocacy and rights are:

- Local authorities, the NHS, colleges and other organisations are all encouraged to keep on spending more money on advocacy groups

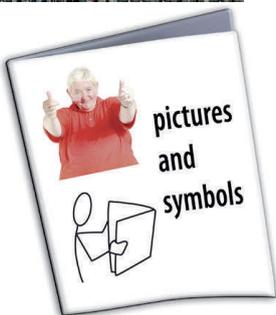


- The learning disability advocacy fund will fund a new advocacy development programme. This will include leadership training for self advocates - with the National Forum helping to plan it. This will be instead of the fund giving money to help start up new advocacy groups.

- Organisations can apply for money to try out how to set up a user led organisation



- Parliament has a Committee on Human Rights. This is looking at the rights of adults with learning disabilities. When it writes its report, government will take action in response to what it says



- Organisations should make their information more accessible. They have to do this because of the Disability Discrimination Act
- All partnership boards should have a big discussion about the Disability Equality Duty and how they will use it to improve services in their local area.

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22. Three years from now, this should be different:

- More money will be spent on advocacy
 - Every local authority area will have a User led organisation that involves people with learning disabilities
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- There are more active self-advocates at regional and national levels.



Partnership with families

23. Valuing People said that families are important partners in change.

 <p>Good news</p>	 <p>Things still to change</p>
<p>Families are involved in a lot of the good things that have been happening around Valuing People</p>	<p>Many families still tell us that they are not listened to and are kept out of important things</p>
<p>The government is doing lots of new things for carers, including a helpline, more short-term care and training.</p>	<p>Many family carers say that life is difficult for them and more help is needed.</p>



24. The Next Steps for partnership with families are:

- Government is setting up a national Group called a 'Standing Commission on Carers' so that the voice of carers is heard
- The Prime Minister's strategy for carers is being re-written. This will include more support for short term care

- Support for family leadership will be part of the Valuing People delivery programme



- At a local level, there needs to be more work to help older family carers. Family carers need good, clear information, to have their own carer assessments and access to short term breaks. People with learning disabilities who are carers themselves also need more support.



25. Three years from now, this should be different:

- More people will be listening to family carers
- Family carers will be getting more support and help to have their own life and be healthy
- More family carers will be getting good short term breaks and help in emergencies
- Family carers will know more about their rights





Including everyone

26. Valuing People applies to all people with learning disabilities – including people with the most complex needs. People from minority ethnic communities have to be fully included as well.

 Good news	 Things still to change
<p>Some people with complex needs are getting to do really good things with their lives</p>	<p>Many people with complex needs are being left behind as services change and improve</p>
<p>Some partnership boards are getting much better at planning good services for people from ethnic minority communities</p>	<p>Some services are not doing what they should be doing to meet the race relations laws.</p>
<p>The government has written advice about good services for people who are autistic</p>	<p>A lot of services are still not using this advice on how to do things better</p>
<p>Advice has been written for the prisons and police about better services for people with learning disabilities who break the law</p>	<p>Many people who break the law still get no support linked to their learning disability</p>



27. The Next Steps in including everyone are:

- Local planning to change services should start with people with the most complex support needs. They must not be missed out.



- All services should do what the law says about race discrimination. They should develop good services for people from black and minority ethnic communities

- Services should make use of the government's advice note on people with autism
- Help will be provided for the prisons and police to work better with people with learning disabilities

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28. Three years from now, this should be different:

- People with complex needs will not be 'left behind' in out of date services
- Local services will have good information on people from minority ethnic communities. Services will be better
 - People with autism and a learning disability will be getting better services
- Staff working for the police or in prisons will know more about working with people with learning disabilities



People as local citizens

29. Valuing People is about people living in their local communities. Extra action is sometimes needed to make sure people with learning disabilities can do the same things that non-disabled people do every day of their lives.

 <p>Good news</p>	 <p>Things still to change</p>
<p>More people are out and about in their local community doing what they want to do</p>	<p>There is a real problem with hate crime against people with a learning disability. The original Valuing People said nothing about this</p>
<p>Changes to the Disability Discrimination Act mean that public transport has to do more for people with learning disabilities. Because of this, some parts of public transport are getting better</p>	<p>More needs to be done to improve transport for people. Access for people with learning disabilities can mean things like good information, travelling with a supporter and not worrying about hate crime.</p>
<p>Because more people are living in local communities, they are having more relationships with more people. This includes having boyfriends, girlfriends, sex and getting married.</p>	<p>People still have less friends than non-disabled people. Sometimes staff who work for services do not help people to have close personal relationships.</p>

Good news	Things still to change
<p>More people with learning disabilities are becoming parents. The government has written advice telling services how to work together for people who are parents.</p>	<p>Too many parents with a learning disability have their children taken away from them because they have not been given the support they need.</p>



30. The Next Steps in helping people as local citizens are:



- Action against hate crime is a new bit of the Valuing People policy. Government Departments will work together to write advice on how to stop hate crime. This will include helping the police work better with people with learning disabilities.



- The Department for Transport will check that action on transport works well for people with learning disabilities. Partnership Boards should get involved in writing local transport plans.



- Relationships should always be thought about when helping people to plan their own lives
- The Government advice on support to parents with a learning disability and their children should be used more by both adult and children's services

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31. Three years from now, this should be different:

- There is action to stop hate crime and people feel they can report it when it happens
- Local transport plans include what people with learning disabilities need. People find it easier to use public transport
- People have more relationships with a range of other people – both with and without a learning disability
- More parents with a learning disability and their children are getting the right support so less children are taken into care.





Transition to adulthood

32. Transition (when young people move into adult services) is a difficult time for most people. Young people should be helped to get a job, a college place, somewhere to live and friends - just like everyone else.



Good news

The person centred transition project has helped lots of young people to plan for their own lives. Most local authorities have joined in this work.



Things still to change

Only a few young people are involved in each local area. Many more young people need their own person centred plans.



33. The Next Steps on transition to Adulthood are:

- The government is spending £19 million on transition support. Some of it will be spent on person centred working
- The person centred transitions project will continue



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34. Three years from now, this should be different:

- Every young person in transition will have a person centred plan
- This plan will be used to plan their services
 - Young people will get a job or go to college when they leave school
 - More young people will get an individual budget or direct payment





The staff that support people (workforce)

35. The staff that support people are really important. As services change to help people live better lives, staff have to change as well and do things differently.

 Good news	 Things still to change
<p>The Learning Disability Awards Framework has been studied by 38,000 staff</p>	<p>This is less staff than we had hoped. More staff need to get the qualification.</p>
<p>Some training groups have worked together</p>	<p>Poor staff training was one of the reasons people were abused in services in Cornwall</p>
<p>In some places employers have joined up to improve Learning Disability services</p>	<p>All staff in mainstream services (like shop workers, the police and bus drivers) need to know more about people with learning disabilities</p>



36. The Next Steps with the workforce are:

- The Department of Health will be taking a good look at how to improve training for learning disability staff

- The Government has plans to improve staff training in social care.
- Skills for Care are the organisation who look after social care training. They have taken over the Learning Disability Qualification. They will make sure more staff study for it.



- Skills for Care are also planning training for new types of jobs. These are the jobs people will want done when they have individual budgets - like personal assistants.

- Staff employed by providers should get training on important things like advocacy, working with families and how to do person centred planning properly.



37. Three years from now, this should be different:

- More staff will have passed the Learning Disability Qualification
- People working in lots of jobs, like the police or shops, will have learnt about working with people with learning disabilities
- Staff who work for the NHS will have learnt about providing good healthcare to people with learning disabilities





**The major priority -
making it happen**



The major priority - making it happen

38. The most important thing is that we make Valuing People happen for all people with a learning disability in all of England.



Local and National Leadership and Support

39. Good leadership is important if Valuing People Now is going to happen.



Good news



Things still to change

Really good things have happened in a lot of places

Some Partnership Boards are really good and help make things happen

The learning disability development fund (Learning Disability Development Fund) has paid for some important changes

In some places, not much has changed

Some Partnership Boards do not really make a difference

In some places, Primary Care Trusts do not spend the Learning Disability Development Fund on learning disability services



40. The Next Steps in having the right leadership and support are:

- Partnerships Boards will continue. Every Board should look at how they do things and learn from Partnership Boards that are doing the best. Government will look at how to give them more powers – like making other people talk to Partnership Boards on important issues.



- The Learning Disability Development Fund will continue. It will be given to local authorities rather than the NHS.

- Government will continue to fund the National Forum of People with Learning Disabilities and the Learning Disability Task Force for another three years

Care Services Improvement Partnership **CSIP**

Valuing People
Support Team

- The Valuing People Support Team will change. Part of it will help local people do things differently. Part of it will work on the big national priorities from Valuing People Now - jobs, health, housing and personalisation.



- A Government group, chaired by the Minister, will keep an eye on how *Valuing People Now* is going

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41. Three years from now, this should be different:

- Learning Disability Partnerships will be listened to by everyone
- The Learning Disability Development Fund (LDDF) will be being used everywhere for

Valuing People Now priorities



- Lots will have happened on all the big priority areas in Valuing People Now



Better commissioning (Planning and Buying services)

42. The organisations that commission (plan and buy) learning disability services need to do some things differently.

 Good news	 Things still to change
<p>Some commissioners are planning and buying better services</p>	<p>The Healthcare Commission reports on Cornwall and Merton and Sutton said that commissioners were not doing their jobs properly. Services bought by the NHS were a big problem.</p>
<p>More money is being spent on learning disability services than ever before. Government has just announced more money for the next three years</p>	<p>There are more people with learning disabilities needing services than ever before. Most local authorities say they do not have enough money to deal with the extra people</p>
<p>Some people have been helped to come back home from services a long way away from home</p>	<p>There are still a lot of people who are sent to live away from their local area. This is usually because local services are not good enough to support them.</p>



43. The Next Steps are:

- Nearly a half of money for learning disability 'social care' comes from the NHS. This is the money that used to be spent on the old long stay hospitals. The rest comes from local authorities.

Government has decided that the NHS should stop planning and buying social care services. The money for this should go to local authorities instead so they have all the money to do the job well. This would also help the NHS think more about their real job - helping people be healthy. This will probably happen in 2009.



- Government will do work to check how many more people with learning disabilities there are and how much money is needed for their services.

- There will be more work to stop people being sent to live away from their local area. (Called 'Local Services for Local People'). A report called the Mansell report has been re-written. This is about providing good local support for people who really challenge services.



- No-one should be in an NHS or private hospital bed unless they are unwell. This means that some NHS or private hospital services will have to change and many people move to ordinary housing with the support they need.

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44. Three years from now, this should be different:

- Local authorities will be in charge of planning and buying all social care services
- Where there are more people needing services, more money will be being spent on services
- Less people will be sent to live away from their local area.





Getting better at checking how we are doing

45. If *Valuing People Now* is to make a difference, we need to be able to check if things are changing. We also need to be able to spot bad services and make them change.

 <p>Good news</p>	 <p>Things still to change</p>
<p>The Healthcare Commission and Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) have done some good work to put right poor services.</p>	<p>The ways of checking on whether services are good (called the performance framework) missed the bad things in Cornwall and some other places.</p>
<p>Some of the information we collect is helpful. For example it tells us how many people are getting direct payments.</p>	<p>Some of the information we collect is not a lot of use. For example it does not tell us about important things like people having real jobs or a house of their own.</p>
<p>Ministers promised after the Cornwall report to improve the way that services are checked and improved.</p>	<p>This work has not been done yet.</p>



46. The Next Steps in getting better at how we check things are:

- New information will be collected by government to tell us whether people have a real job and a house of their own.



- The NHS and social care performance (checking) process will be looked at. This is to improve how we monitor learning disability services

- Local authorities, and the NHS have to write something called a joint strategic needs assessment. This is about what everyone in their local area needs and wants. It has to

include good information about people with learning disabilities. If it does not, it does not meet the disability discrimination law.

- Partnership boards should decide on the big things they want to see change. They should check whether this happens and make a public report on what they find.



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47. Three years from now, this should be different:

- We will have good information about the lives of people with learning disabilities

- The NHS will be reporting on the health of people with learning disabilities
- We will know how many people have paid work and their own home



- Partnership Boards will be have good information about how things are going with Valuing People Now every year.



The Consultation Process

Other people may ask to see what you have said in response to our consultation. They are entitled to do this under the Freedom of Information Act. If you want your response to be private between you and us, you need to tell us why. We explain how to do this in the long Valuing People Now document. You can find this at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/Learningdisabilities/index.htm>

You may want to ask someone to help explain it to you.

If you would like more copies of this document in easier read or long read – please contact:

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This document was produced using photosymbols.

www.photosymbols.com

Care Services Improvement Partnership 

Valuing People
Support Team

We help to improve services and achieve better outcomes for children and families, adults and older people including those with mental health problems, physical or learning disabilities or people in the criminal justice system. We work with and are funded by

