

Valuing People **NOW**



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Welcome to the first ever edition of the **Valuing People Now Newsletter!** This **newsletter** is for people with learning disabilities, family carers, learning disabilities partnership boards, self-advocacy groups and anyone who works with people with learning disabilities.

It tells you what we are doing to make **Valuing People Now** happen for everyone, everywhere. It gives you information about work that is going on in the regions and nationally. We will publish a newsletter every few months to keep you updated. We hope you enjoy it.



Anne Williams (National Director for Learning Disabilities and Scott Watkin (Co-National Director for learning Disabilities)

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Introduction to the Valuing People Now Team



The **Valuing People Now Team** are responsible for making Valuing People Now happen across the country. The team is split into two parts:



The Office of the National Director

The two National Directors lead a team of people who are responsible for all the national work strands, including health, employment, housing, family carers, workforce and advocacy. Other work done in the Office of the National Director includes publications, communications and business planning. This team works closely with the policy people in the Department of Health and other government departments.



The Regional Valuing People Now Programme Leads

The Regional Leads are based in the 9 regional Government Offices. Their job is to work with the regional Programme Boards and other people to help make Valuing People Now happen locally and regionally

Point 1

The whole team meets every few months to talk about how things are going and to share ideas and problems

Update from the Office of the National Director

Key Achievements This Year

2009 has been an exciting year so far and here are some of the highlights with photos...



Launch of Valuing People Now

Valuing People Now, the Government's new strategy for learning disabilities, was launched on 19th January 2009 in London by the Care Service Minister, Phil Hope, and Anne Williams.

The launch event was attended by many people with learning disabilities and family carers, as well as government officials.



Launch of Valuing People Now Resource Pack (March)

The resource Pack was launched on the 30th March and contains lots of important information, including:

- New guidance on **Health Action Planning** for people with learning disabilities (and a DVD)
- The Valuing People Now DVD with four stories about health, housing, employment and complex needs

Arrival of the new Co-National Director, Scott Watkin (May)



Scott joined the team on Monday 11th May and is now leading the delivery of Valuing People Now with Anne Williams, the National Director, and the Valuing People Now Team. Both Anne and Scott have spent much of their time this year travelling around the country to talk about Valuing People Now. Some of the big events include:



- ADASS Spring Seminar conference in April
- Special Olympics in July
- Learning Disability Today in July
- Regional Launches of Valuing People Now
- Speaking at many conferences and
- Visiting services

👉 Anne and Scott's future events in their diary are shown at the end of this newsletter



Other events include the **Joint Event** (2nd July 2009) bringing together members of the National Forum, the National Valuing Families Forum and the National Advisory Group for Learning Disability and Ethnicity. This event was to help the three organisations to share their work plans and to start planning how to work together.

👉 Point 2

The **Joint Event** will be held annually to ensure that we share ideas in making Valuing People Now happen for everyone, everywhere

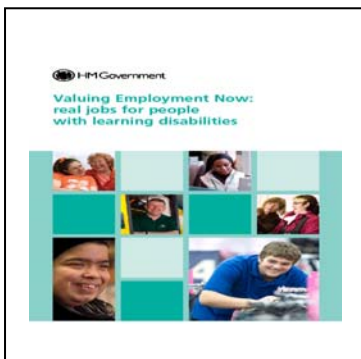
Scott has been very busy giving interviews for magazines and journals including:

- View point (Mencap)
- Learning Disability Today
- Community Care
- Our Say
- Community Connecting
- The Guardian paper and
- BBC Ouch!



Launch of Valuing Employment Now (June)

Valuing Employment Now: real jobs for people with learning disabilities was launched in London on 24th June at an event attended by over 100 people. This strategy says what the Government will do to help more people with learning disabilities into paid work.



Three ministers attended the launch and gave speeches: **Phil Hope** (Minister for Care Services), **Jonathan Shaw** (Minister for Disabled People) and **Angela Smith** Minister of State (Third Sector).



Here are some of the pictures taken at the Launch Event of Valuing Employment Now.





Others involved in the launch included the two National Directors and a self-advocate called **Richard Land**. Richard's story is in Valuing Employment Now, and it shows how a job coach can help support a person with a learning disability into paid work. Richard now works as a Train Care Assistant in Selhurst Train Depot in South London

"I have always loved trains... but I didn't think I could get a job working with trains until I found a job



A DVD was also shown at the launch. This tells the story of **Shamima Essatt** who also appears in Valuing Employment Now. Shamima now works for Leicester City Council along with 16 other people with learning disabilities! Shamima found out about the job through a local organisation called Ansaar, which supports people in the local Asian community. A supporter at Ansaar helped Shamima to apply for the job. Getting a job has given Shamima much more confidence and her family are very proud of her.

The Valuing People Now Team together with Ministers in their regions will host regional launches of the Valuing Employment Now Strategy.

Point 3

Most people with learning disabilities want real jobs like everyone else. The valuing employment now strategy shows that people with learning disabilities are better off employed than staying at home

The National Learning Disability Programme Board

What is the National Learning Disability Programme Board, what does it do?

The National Programme Board was set up in 2008 to make sure that Valuing People Now happens. It is chaired by **Phil Hope** (Minister for Care Services)



and **David Behan** (Director General for Social Care in the Department of Health).



The Board meets four times a year to discuss how Valuing People Now is going and to solve any problems.

The Board is made of senior government officials from many departments (health; work and pensions; children, schools and families; business, innovation and skills; communities and local government; home office; cabinet office; office for disability issues) as well as:

- people from key organisations (Mencap; ADASS; Local Government Association;
- National Directors and others from their Office
- Family carer representatives (from the **National Valuing Families Forum**)
- Self advocates (the two Chairs of the **National Forum for People with Learning Difficulties**)



Point 4

This newsletter will keep you updated about the Programme Board and its work

Publications and Communications

Here is a list of all the main documents that the Office of the National Director has published this last year.



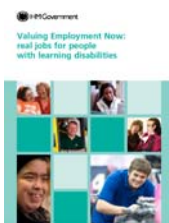
- *Valuing People Now: a new three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities (and easy read version)*
- Valuing People Now: the delivery plan (and easy read version)



- Health Action Planning and Health Facilitation for people with learning disabilities: good practice guidance (and easy read version and DVD)



- Valuing People Now Resource Pack



- Valuing Employment Now: real jobs for people with learning disabilities (and easy read version)
- Valuing Employment Now: the delivery plan

Coming later this Year!

Guidance and self-assessment template for Partnership Boards

Workforce Toolkit for Partnership Boards



Guidance on the commissioning of Easy Read Information

Guidance on the Carers Strategy for Partnership Boards

Person Centred Planning Guidance and Toolkits

Point 5

To order copies of any of the Valuing People Now publication including DVDs please contact prolog on **(0300 123 1002)** or www.orderline.dh.gov.uk

Valuing People Website

Home Page Valuing People About the Team Resource Regional Pages Help



Plans for the design of a new Valuing People Now website are finally underway. We hope to have our new website ready by the Autumn. In the meantime, work has begun to tidy up and update the existing Valuing People Website. As work is carried out, some of the existing links will not work and some pages may not open.

National Valuing People Now work strands

 HM Government

Valuing Employment Now:
real jobs for people
with learning disabilities



Valuing Employment Now

Since the launch of Valuing Employment Now, the Office has been busy finalising arrangements for the creation of the new cross-government Employment delivery team. This team will be part of the Office of the National Director and will include people seconded from other government departments, a person with a learning disability and a family carer.

A temporary Employment Advisor has been appointed, and the role of **National Valuing People Employment Lead** has now been advertised and interviews are due to take place soon.



(Linda Jordan and Nicola Gitsham -Getting a Life Programme Managers)



Getting a Life Programme and Transition

Getting a Life (GAL) is a three-year cross-government programme aimed at working out what needs to happen between the ages of 14 to 25 to ensure that young people with learning disabilities leave school or college, go into paid employment and have full lives. It is working with 10 demonstration sites around the country.

All of the demonstration sites have now identified around 30 young people aged 14 to 25 and their families have started supporting them to think about their lives and getting jobs. In each site, all of the agencies are working with the young people and their families to learn what they need to do differently to help young people with learning disabilities leave school or college, go into paid employment, and get full lives.

The Programme Managers are just in the process of recruiting two new GAL sites. This is exciting, as it will mean that they will be at least one GAL site in every region. They will also be attending the regional employment events and are working out with colleagues how to spread the learning from GAL across the regions.

Another important role of GAL is to inform the Government of what needs to change to ensure more young people move into employment.

The Programme Managers provided lots of information for Valuing Employment Now. They will now work on the materials that will come out to support the delivery of Valuing Employment Now.



They have also enabled young people and families to be part of the Ofsted review of the Special Educational Needs framework and are working closely with the Transition Support Programme.

Update on Advocacy



A big part of the work around advocacy is being taken forward by Inclusion North. They have created two co-worker posts (one for a person with a learning disability) to manage this work. The co-workers will work with the National Forum, regional Valuing People leads and others to help strengthen advocacy across the country.



A new Advocacy steering group has been set up to oversee all the Valuing People Now advocacy work. Members of the group include Inclusion North, the National Forum, National Valuing Families Forum, National Advisory Group on Learning Disability and Ethnicity (NAGLDE) and Office of the National Director. The steering group will be chaired jointly by Scott Watkin and the National Valuing People Advocacy Lead (once in post). The role of **National Valuing People Advocacy Lead** post was advertised and interviews are due to take place soon.



New Hate Crime Action Plan

The Home Office have developed a new **Hate Crime Action Plan** that covers disability, including learning disability. This action plan has been developed by a cross government group including the Department of Health and the Office of the National Director.

The Action Plan was launched on 14th September 2009 and will be sent out to all partnership boards, advocacy and family carer groups

Reaching out to Black and Minority Ethnic Communities

The Office of the National Director has been working closely with the **National Advisory Group on Learning Disability and Ethnicity (NAGLDE)** to explore how they can be more involved in making Valuing People Now work for people from black and minority ethnic and newly arrived communities. There are plans to strengthen the role of NAGLDE and to build up the regional ethnicity networks. New work will be commissioned around ethnicity and a **National Valuing People Ethnicity Lead** will now be appointed.



Families Work (Feature)

The National Valuing Families Forum (NVFF) brings family carers together from the nine regions to find out what is important to families and to make sure that the voice of families is heard at a national level.



Cally Ward and Viv Cooper lead this work and they link with a range of people and organisations to make sure that family carers get the information and support that they need and that services and professionals are equipped to work better with family carers. One example, they are working with the Princess Royal Trust for Carers (PRTC) and Crossroads to make sure that Partnership Boards know about the Carers Strategy and what they need to do to make it work locally for family carers of people with learning disabilities.



The NVFF will produce a regular newsletter, which will include who families can contact in their local regions to get more information.

If you want to find out more about the Family Carer work, please contact Audrey Muchapondwa on 0207 972 3929 or email her at Audrey.muchapondwa@dh.gsi.gov.uk



Housing

The National Director, Anne Williams, has been working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government and other colleagues in the Department of Health to develop a programme of work around Housing. A temporary Housing Advisor is in post and there are plans for a Housing Toolkit to be launched later this year.

The role of **National Valuing People Housing Lead** has now been advertised and interviews are due to take place soon.

Health



Sue Carmichael and Jo Poynter work within the Office of the National Director on all health issues. Sue focuses on mainstream health issues and the other half of her role is the lead for people with most complex needs. Jo Poynter leads on specialist health issues in mental health and offender health. The Department of Health has a Valuing People Now Health Care Steering Group.



Ben Dyson, Head of Primary Care, chairs this group. They are there to make sure that all work that needs to happen to improve health Care for people with learning disabilities is being done across country. The work of this group focuses on the recommendation from the two big reports i.e. Six Lives from the Ombudsmen and Sir Michael's report.

The NHS campus closer is moving forward. The third stage of giving money for buildings is now finished. Everyone has plans to move by the end of 2010.



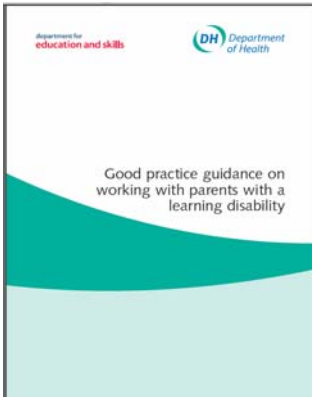
Workforce Issues

Lesley Barcham is the team's workforce advisor she has been working with Skills for Care who are developing new learning disability focused qualifications.

A new workforce toolkit has been developed for Partnership Boards to support them in thinking through the local workforce implications for delivering Valuing People Now.

Introductory training materials on human rights have been developed these will be downloadable from the Valuing People Now Team website www.valuingpeople.gov.uk.

Finally, a series of pod casts that tell the stories of people with an individual budget will soon be available from the website. People will talk about the workforce implications of self-directed support and the lessons they have learnt.



Other Work Strands...

Parents with a Learning Disability

In 2007, the Department of Health and the Department for Children Schools and Families (was DfES) published *Good Practice Guidance for Supporting Parents with a Learning Disability*.

New guidance for people who commission support for parents with a learning disability is being finalised and will be published early next year.

The original guidance is now going to be reprinted and both sets of guidance will be sent out across the country. Copies of the original guidance in 2007 can be ordered through Prolog



Regional Valuing People Now Work



Each of the 9 regions now has a regional learning disability programme board. The role of the regional boards will be to support local partnership boards to deliver and monitor the progress around Valuing People Now.

Each Board will develop a Regional Delivery Plan by November 2009 setting out a summary of regional and local actions and produce an annual report for the National Programme Board.

For more information about your regional board and other regional work, you can contact your **Regional Valuing People Programme Lead** overleaf:



Jenny Anderton
Yorkshire and Humber
 Quarry House,8/E/40,
 Quarry Hill
 Leeds,
 LS2 7UE

TEL: 07776 161 592,
 Email: jenny.anderton:dh.gsi.gov.uk



Dave Spencer
North West
 North West Joint Improvement
 Partnership, Room 454
 Gateway House Piccadilly South,
 Manchester, M60 7LP

TEL: 0161 351 4930,
 Email:
 Dave.Spencer@northwestjip.nhs.uk



Debbie Robinson
London
 Wellington House, 133-155
 Waterloo Road
 London, SE1 8UG

TEL: 0207 972 4446,
 Email:
 debbie.robinson@dh.gsi.gov.uk



Paul Davies
North East
 Chevyside, Yetholm Place,
 Newbiggin Hall
 Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE5 4EB

TEL: 0191 214 6267,
 Email: paultdavies@mac.com



Sue Turner
South West Region
 Regional Public Health Group,
 Government Office of the South
 West, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay,
 Bristol, BS1 6EH

TEL: 0117 900 1764
 Email: sue.turner@dh.gsi.gov.uk



Helen Mycock
East Midlands
 Department of Health,
 Government Office East Midlands
 Stanely Place, Talbot Street,
 Nottingham, NG1 5GG

TEL: 078 272 54391
 Email:
 helen.mycock@dh.gsi.gov.uk



Chris Sholl
West Midlands Region
 Department of Health, Government
 Office for the West Midlands, 5 St
 Philips Place, Birmingham, B3 2PW

TEL: 07917 041036
 Email: chris.sholl@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Interim Lead, Pol Toner
Eastern Region
 NHS East of England
 Victoria House, Capital Park,
 Fulbourn, Cambridge CB215XB

TEL: 01223 597 538
 Email: Pol.Toner@eoe.nhs.uk



Jean Collins
South East Region
 Department of Health
 Wellington House, 133-155
 Waterloo Road
 London, SE1 8UG

TEL: 0207 972 4012
 Email:
 Jean.collins@dh@gsi.gov.uk



Jo Poynter
South East Region
 Department of Health
 Wellington House, 133-155
 Waterloo Road
 London, SE1 8UG

TEL: 0207 972 4012
 Email:
 Jo.poynter@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Future Events in Anne and Scott's Diary



Coming Soon!
25th November 2009
Learning Disability Today

Come and join us at the Learning Disability Today Exhibition in London.

For more details about obtaining your ticket then contact LD Today team on

0844 880 5061

8th October 2009

Launch of the Valuing Employment Now Strategy (Eastern Region)

Anne Williams and Scott Watkin will be hosting the Launch of the Employment Strategy

For more details, contact the Eastern Region Team:
01206 287543

22nd -23rd October 2009

ADASS: National Children and Adult Services Conference in Harrogate.

Anne Williams will be speaking and Scott Watkin will be chairing sessions.

For more details contact:
020 8770 4011

18th November 2009

Launch of the Valuing Employment Now Strategy (South East Region)

Scott Watkin will be hosting the Launch of the Employment Strategy.

For more details, contact the South East Valuing People Now Team on:
0207 972 4036

26th November 2009

Launch of Valuing Employment Strategy (South West Region)

Anne Williams will be hosting the launch of the Employment Strategy

For more details contact the South West Valuing People Now Team: **0117 900 1764**

26th November 2009

Association for supported Living Conference in Manchester

Scott Watkin will be attending this event

For more details, contact Georgina Breen:
0208 246 5211

2nd December 2009

National Forum for people with learning difficulties.

Scott Watkin will be attending this event

For more details then contact Geoff Hodgson:
01273 299 830