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To: Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee – 15 July 2009

Subject: **VALUING PEOPLE NOW**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report:

1. Provides Adult Social Services Policy Overview Committee (ASSPOC) with a brief outline of Valuing People Now
 2. Sketches out the initial targets for Kent Adult Social Services and Kent County Council.
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Introduction

1. (1) This report is to inform ASSPOC of Valuing People Now: a new three year strategy for people with learning disabilities, the accompanying delivery plan, the key priorities for 2009-10 and the key priorities for local authorities across 2009 – 2012.

Context

2. (1) In March 2001 the Government White Paper “Valuing People – A new strategy for learning disability for the 21st Century” was launched. This was a landmark paper for people with learning disabilities in England and set out ambitious target for local authority to achieve.

(2) “Valuing People” was based around four key principles: Rights, Independence, Choice and Inclusion.

(3) In December 2007 the Government opened “Valuing People Now: from progress to Transformation - a consultation on the next 3 years of learning disability policy”. The consultation period extended from December 2007 to March 2008, this was then further extended into the summer to allow full consultation with people with learning disabilities.

(4) This led to the publication of “Valuing People Now: a three year strategy for people with learning disabilities. Making it happen for everyone” in January 2009. As there was general consensus that although Valuing People had created change, there remained a feeling that not enough had happened for enough people so the White Paper has an accompanying document “Valuing People Now: The Delivery Plan”.

Policy Context

3. (1) Valuing People Now sits within the context of the transformation agenda for adult social care as so relates to the following

- Putting People First
- Aiming High for Disabled Children
- The Carers' Strategy
- No Secrets
- Six Lives: the provision of public services to people with learning disabilities (Ombudsman Report)
- Dementia Strategy
- Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy
- Valuing People

(2) At a local level

- Self Directed Support
- Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board and District Partnership Groups
- Active Lives
- Towards 2010
- Transition Protocols
- Better Days for people with learning disabilities in Kent
- Housing Strategy for People with Learning disabilities
- Supporting Independence Programme

Key Elements of Valuing People Now

4. (1) The vision of Valuing People Now is:

All people with a learning disability are people first with the right to lead their lives like any others, with the same opportunities and responsibilities, and to be treated with the same dignity and respect. They and their families are entitled to the same aspirations and life chances as other citizens.

(2) Valuing People Now is written based on a human rights approach with a re-affirmation of the four guiding principles set out in *Valuing People*: Rights, Independent Living, Control and Inclusion

(3) The strategy and delivery plan overall is aimed at ensuring people with learning disability (no matter how complex their need) are able to access all mainstream services, with appropriate support, just as any other citizens. This is the responsibility of all parts of the Local Authority and its partners, these partners should work to and through a local Partnership Board.

(4) Valuing People Now looks at making it happen for everyone. This means paying particular attention to those with the most complex disabilities, individuals whose behaviour challenges services, those from ethnic minority communities, people on the autistic spectrum and people with learning disabilities who offend.

(5) A summary of Valuing People Now is attached as appendix 1. Further copies of documents can be accessed at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/SocialCare/Deliveringadultsocialcare/Learningdisabilities/DH_079430

Key Priorities

5. (1) In Valuing People Now in 2009-10 the key priorities are:

- to raise awareness of *Valuing People Now* across national and local government, private and voluntary sectors, and within wider society
- to have an effective Learning Disability Partnership Board operating in every Local Authority area
- to secure access to, and improvements in, healthcare, with strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) responsible for, and leading, this work
- to increase the range of housing options for people with learning disabilities and their families, including closure of NHS campuses
- to ensure that the Personalisation agenda is embedded within all local authority services and developments for people with learning disabilities and their family carers, and is underpinned by person centred planning
- to increase employment opportunities

(2) The priorities for local authorities are attached as Appendix 2

Conclusion

7. (1) Valuing people now provides a clear guide in both strategy and delivery for the development and support of specialist services for people with learning disabilities. It also sets out how important it is to ensure that mainstream services acknowledge the rights of people with learning disabilities and learn how to enable people no matter how complex their needs to access services as any other citizen.

Recommendations

8. (1) Members of the Policy Overview Committee are asked to NOTE and COMMENT on the contents of the report.

Dee Watson
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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of Valuing People Now

Appendix 2 – Key Valuing People priorities for local authorities 2009 - 2012

Background documents: None