

# Learning Disability Joint Commissioning Strategy 2011-2015

# Contents

- 1) Introduction
- 2) The Vision
- 3) What is happening nationally – Valuing People Now
- 4) The Wolverhampton picture – Needs Analysis
- 5) Commissioning Intentions - What we are planning to do
  - Health
  - Employment
  - Housing
  - Choice and Control
  - Transition
  - Carers
- 6) The Pooled Budgets
- 7) Making it Happen and the role of the Partnership Board

Appendix 1 Implementation Plan

Appendix 2 Finance Plan

Appendix 3 Comprehensive need Analysis

Appendix 4 Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 5 What we have achieved since the last Strategy

Appendix 6 Outcomes of the Consultation.

## **1 Introduction**

This commissioning strategy for Learning Disability Services for Wolverhampton has been produced jointly by the City Council and the Primary Care Trust. It covers the period 2010 - 2015 and explains how "Valuing People Now - A three year strategy for people with a learning disability" (Department of Health 2009) will be implemented in Wolverhampton within the available resources.

It builds upon the themes set out in the Joint Commissioning Strategy 2005 - 2008, and develops the direction of travel set out in the national concordat "Putting People First, a shared commitment to the transformation of adult social care" (Department of Health 2007), both initiatives seek to increase the choice and control people with a learning disability and carers have in the way that their care needs are met.

"Valuing People Now: A new 3 year strategy for people with learning disabilities" (Department of Health 2009) seeks to further develop the vision set out in "Valuing People" (Department of Health 2001) by delivering improved outcomes and social inclusion. It incorporates the recommendations set out in "Healthcare for All" (Department of Health 2008) resulting from the Independent Inquiry into access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities, as well as the Joint Committee on Human Rights report "A life like any other?" (2008).

The Wolverhampton Joint Commissioning strategy reflects out local response to Valuing People Now and the continuous drive to improve the lives of adults with a learning disability and their family carers who live in the city, to promote full citizenship and greater control. It signifies a major change in the role of the City Council and the PCT, as lead commissioners for learning disability services. Commissioning local services, developing a workforce fit for purpose, and strengthening local governance structures through the Partnership Board, will all be critical to the successful implementation of the strategy.

In order for this strategy to work, it will require all organisations that support people with a learning disability to work closely together. This includes Housing, Leisure, Transport, Learning and Development agencies, Community Safety, Community Inclusion, as well as independent, voluntary and community sector providers.

The need to work across such a wide range of partner organisations is clear. It is about ensuring that people with learning disabilities have access to a range of universal services; improved social inclusion; and are able to better influence the way services develop and how they are delivered. It is about ensuring that people with learning disabilities are able to be part of vibrant communities.

## **2 What is happening nationally - Valuing People Now**

Valuing People Now; A new 3 year strategy for people with learning disabilities was launched in January 2009 and sets out the cross-government strategy for the next three years.

The vision remains the same as in Valuing People 2001; that 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 and carers are entitled to the same aspirations and life chances as other citizens. This vision sits firmly within the context but not exclusively within the following national strategies;

- The transformation of social care and the personalisation agenda set out in Putting People First.
- The Carers strategy, Carers at the heart of 21st-century families and communities.
- Aiming High for Disabled Children; transforming services for disabled children and their families.

Valuing People Now is written from a human rights based perspective, based on the fundamental principle that people with learning disabilities have the same human rights as everyone else, and sets out further steps for this to happen.

### **3 Vision**

Our vision for people with a learning disability in Wolverhampton acknowledges their right to be equal citizens of the city and comes from Valuing People Now. It supports the belief that people with a learning disability should have employment and educational opportunities and improved access to settled accommodation.

*“That people with learning disabilities are people first. In seeking to deliver personalised support, the priorities are to enable people to take control of their lives, have employment and educational opportunities, have choice over what they do during the day, have better health, and have improved access to housing. However, the top priority of all is to make sure that change happens.”*

People with a learning disability have the same aspirations, hopes and fears for themselves as any other individual. They are part of a culturally diverse city and their inclusion within our communities enriches the lives of us all. The personalisation agenda places the emphasis on self directed support, person centred planning and the opportunity to exercise real choice and control through the use of individual budgets. This will help to ensure that care needs will be met in flexible and responsive ways, which will help to realise the hopes and dreams of people with a learning disability. It also wants to make sure that people are given help and support to live as independent lives as possible, allowing people to use their own strengths and abilities.

It is important to recognise the support that families and carers give, to ensure they will also benefit from the approach laid out in this document, and their own aspirations and quality of life will also be enhanced by it.

We recognise the wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds that people with learning disabilities come from, and will provide access to services that are ethnically and culturally sensitive, and which respect individual difference.

Local partnership with people with learning disabilities and their families through the Learning Disability Partnership Board will be crucial to the implementation of the Joint Commissioning Strategy. Directors of adult social services, PCT chief executives, local authority elected members and third sector and independent sector providers will be vital to delivering this vision.

#### 4 The Wolverhampton Picture - Needs Analysis

Needs analysis supports commissioners to estimate the nature and extent of the needs of a population so that service planning and delivery can be based on informed decisions. Needs analysis helps focus effort and resources where they are needed most and aids in:-

- Estimating the current and future needs of the population
- The geographical distribution of need
- Identifies those people who are at greatest risk of needing community services
- Helps identify the gap between met and unmet need

Commissioning decisions are not based on the evidence of needs analysis alone, but within the context of other factors such as national policy and guidance, evidence regarding best practice, market analysis and risk analysis. A comprehensive review of these factors supports commissioning agencies to decide which services will best meet the needs of the local communities.

In common with most other countries, the UK has an ageing population. The proportion of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase from 16 per cent in 2006 to 22 per cent to (71 million) by 2031.

Wolverhampton is an ethnically diverse city; the proportion of people who are from BME communities is 26.6%.

Data known about people with a learning disability receiving services indicates that the ethnicity breakdown for adults with a learning disability is:

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>% Wolverhampton population</b>	<b>People with a learning disability as % of known learning disability population</b>
White	78	79
Black	4.6	10
Mixed	2.7	0.3
Asian	14.3	9.7
other	0.58	0.8

There has been a steady increase in the prevalence of people with severe learning disabilities over the past 20 years. This is likely to continue into the next decade. The number of people who have multiple and complex disabilities will also increase. Prevalence data suggests that for every 1000 people there will be about 4 people with severe learning disabilities and about 20 with mild to moderate learning disabilities.

## **Local learning disability data**

Detailed needs analysis information is contained in Appendix 1. Information taken from the PANSI (Projecting adult needs and service information system) website which has based its predictions on the prevalence rates reported by Eric Emerson and Chris Hatton from the institute of health and research, Lancaster university indicates an estimated learning disability population within Wolverhampton of approximately 3500 people, we have also been able to identify that:

- The number of people between the ages of 18 to 24 will peak in 2010/11, and fall, but the intensive of peoples needs will increase
- The numbers of people within the ages of 55 to 64 will rise
- The number of people over 64 will rise in line with the rest of the population
- The proportion of people with severe level of disability is much lower than those with a moderate level of disability for Wolverhampton; the ratio is 4:1
- Prevalence for adults with learning disabilities who present a serious challenge at any one time is 24% per 100,000 total of population, which equates to 35 people aged between 18-64 in Wolverhampton in 2010

Research found a prevalence of childhood autism of 39 per 10,000, other ASD prevalence is 77 giving a total of 116 per 10,000 populations which equates to 1440 people in 2010 aged between 18-64 in Wolverhampton dropping to 1410 in 2025 across the spectrum. The Baird report found that 55 per cent of those with ASD have an IQ below 70 per cent. It is also expected that the new national Strategy for Autistic Spectrum Conditions will be recommending the development of specialist services.

The data indicates that there are two areas of demand, firstly the young people in transition who are going to have intense needs and requires very specialist services, but the numbers are small and secondly we have a population who are growing older and who are going to have moderate needs and where mainstream preventative and re-enablement services are going to be the priority, alongside supporting families to plan for the future.

## **5 Commissioning Intentions - Implementing Valuing People Now**

Outlined below are the commissioning priorities for the next five years. Once the priorities have been agreed detailed action plans will be developed on an annual basis for each area, and projects turned into costed developments.

Some actions will be cost neutral whilst others may require different levels of investment. Any new investment in services will need to be fully worked up into business cases and agreement for funding sought from the appropriate organisation. Both the PCT and the Local Authority are facing tight financial positions, therefore any investment in services will need to come from funding released either from elsewhere in the learning disability service, or elsewhere in the local health and social care system.

### **Equality and Diversity**

This strategy is written from a human rights perspective, it is therefore a requirement of all commissioned services that they are able to meet the wide range of needs of people with a learning disability, including their ethnicity,

religion, gender, age, and disability. A key priority within Valuing People Now is 'Including Everyone' with a focus on those groups that are at a higher risk of being excluded, specifically people with complex needs, autism and people with a learning disability who are also offenders.

Commissioned services will be monitored to ensure that the services they provide are inclusive with particular attention to the above areas and meet both the Valuing People Now and the Councils Equalities agenda.

## **HEALTH**

A key priority within Valuing People Now is that people with learning disabilities should get the help and support that they need to live healthy lives.

It is well documented that people with learning disabilities have poorer health than the general population and are more likely to die at a young age. People with learning disabilities have difficulties accessing universal NHS services, and their experiences are often characterised by problems that undermine personalisation, dignity and safety.

### **Current Situation**

Wolverhampton Primary Care Trust recently completed a project - Health Needs Assessment of People with Learning Disabilities in Wolverhampton 2008/9. This report was presented to the Wolverhampton Learning Disability Partnership Board and is being used to develop services that reflect the identified needs, much of which is set out below.

In March 2010 each locality within England was required to submit a health Self-Assessment to the local Strategic Health Authority. The process of completing the Self-Assessment enabled the Joint Commissioning Unit to gain a better understanding of where adults with learning disabilities are having their health needs met well, and where further work is needed to ensure that everybody has the opportunity to receive good health care. An action plan is being developed by the Health and Well-Being group to ensure that the needs identified within the above two reports are addressed, and that the key recommendations from the Strategic Health Authority are considered.

Wolverhampton is committed to improving the health of all adults with learning disabilities. In order to achieve this vision we must:-

- ✓ Ensure that people with learning disabilities can and do appropriately access mainstream NHS services. This must include the full range of healthcare services and support
- ✓ Continue to deliver high-quality specialist health services where appropriate
- ✓ Achieve the full inclusion of people with learning disabilities in all mainstream initiatives aimed at addressing health inequalities and promoting healthier lives
- ✓ Ensure that IT systems are developed to enable us to identify and monitor progress relating to key issues affecting people with learning disabilities and their access to health care

- ✓ Ensure that services are developed that appropriately meet the needs of people with complex needs and people from black and minority ethnic communities.

Wolverhampton has a Health and Well-Being Group which has developed an action plan to meet the vision set out above. Its priority actions are reflected in the Commissioning Intentions set out below. The Health and Well-Being group reports quarterly to the Wolverhampton Learning Disability Partnership Board on progress towards these and has full and positive engagement with people with learning disabilities and their family carers.

### **Universal Services**

The final report of the NHS Next Stage Review sets out the vision for the NHS, that it will 'deliver high quality care for **all** users of services in all aspects'. This relies on the full inclusion of people with learning disabilities within mainstream service delivery if health inequalities are to be reduced - and better health a reality for this vulnerable group of people.

Wolverhampton City Council, Primary Care Trust and Acute Trust are working together with people with learning disabilities and their family carers to ensure that the health needs of people with learning disabilities are met - wherever possible - through timely access to universal health services. We recognise that people with learning disabilities sometimes need extra support to help them to access these Universal Services, and so emphasis has been focussed around facilitating training for staff, helping make information more accessible and then providing additional specialist support where it is required.

We have involvement with people with learning disabilities and family carers on undergraduate and postgraduate training (across several courses) at the University of Wolverhampton. The Learning Disability Service is also involved in ongoing training with staff with the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust. This training has included support around communication needs, nutrition, understanding behaviours, pre-admission, admission and discharge assessments, and hearing the experiences of people with learning disabilities.

A further recent example of work to support mainstream staff is that two adults with learning disabilities who have been very involved in re-shaping services in Wolverhampton have set up their own business to provide training to mainstream health and social care staff about life with a learning disability and improved communication skills. Their work has been very positively evaluated thus far.

Wolverhampton Joint Commissioning Unit has also provided a response to the Healthcare for All Report, detailing how the Primary Care Trust intends to respond to the key recommendations. These actions are all reflected in the various streams of work set out below.

### **Prevention and Enablement**

Much of the work directed at meeting the health needs of people with learning disabilities begins with prevention. People with learning disabilities have a poor history of accessing services such as dentistry, screening, sexual health and general primary care. Recent projects in Wolverhampton have begun to address these. For example:-

- ✓ More people with learning disabilities are accessing their annual health check, which addresses issues such as screening take-up.
- ✓ The increased involvement of specialist learning disability nurses to support the annual health check programme, combined with the use of Hand Held Health records, better enables staff and family carers to ensure that any needs identified can be met appropriately.
- ✓ There is a dementia screening project now in place, which screens people with Down's syndrome over the age of 30.
- ✓ There is an ongoing review of oral health services to ensure that services are more able to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities.
- ✓ Wolverhampton is actively participating in a regional bowel screening project to ensure that local adults with learning disabilities (aged 60-69) are fully included in the national bowel screening programme. The group has produced accessible information about bowel screening and are now considering how they can promote awareness of the Programme with adults with learning disabilities, family carers and paid staff. This Project has been acknowledged as an area of good practice by the Department of Health.
- ✓ Work is underway between the Cancer Screening Manager, GP practices and the specialist learning disability team, to ensure better uptake of cancer screening services for women.
- ✓ Work is underway to review the way in which we provide palliative care to people with learning disabilities, in light of the recent Mencap Report 'Living and Dying with Dignity'. This work is being facilitated by the specialist learning disability clinical staff and the community palliative care team.
- ✓ Support continues to be given to GP practices to help them to identify patients with learning disabilities to enable them to more proactively promote access to annual health checks and the range of preventative and re-enablement services available through primary care.
- ✓ A Patient Alert system is now in place in the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital Trust, to ensure that a person's learning disability is identified as early as possible in the admission process, such that support to facilitate wellness and discharge can be arranged as quickly and as sensitively as possible.
- ✓ Leaflets have been developed in accessible formats regarding access to acute and primary care services.
- ✓ A recent Supported Living Project has been set up to support adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions.
- ✓ Specialist learning disability staff are undertaking health checks as part of the national Cardiovascular screening programme to ensure full uptake where appropriate.
- ✓ Work has been commissioned through the University of Birmingham to consider the needs for local service development in the area of people with learning disabilities who have additional mental health problems and / or offending behaviour.

## **Local Commissioning Intentions**

Wolverhampton has developed a Health and Well-being Strategy to support the delivery of Valuing People Now. Stakeholders were involved in the setting of key local priorities, combined with actions required to meet them. It has more recently been informed by the Health Self Assessment and the Annual Partnership Board Report. The priorities are:-

### **To ensure that people with autistic spectrum conditions have their needs met appropriately:-**

- ✓ There will be specific specialist services for people who need them
- ✓ Everybody will know more about Autistic Spectrum Conditions
- ✓ There will be robust planning during years of Transition

### **To improve the experience of care and support in hospital settings (through the appointment of the Acute Liaison Nurse)**

- ✓ Patients who have a learning disability will be identified as early as possible
- ✓ An assessment tool that everybody understands will be implemented
- ✓ Training within the Acute Trust will be supported and developed
- ✓ The range and accessibility of information available within the hospital setting will be improved

### **To ensure that people with learning disabilities are involved in the full spectrum of work around Health Promotion**

- ✓ New and innovative ways of communicating with people with learning disabilities will be used - for example, multi-media resources
- ✓ More women will have breast and cervical screening
- ✓ There will be more physiotherapy support for people with profound and multiple disabilities
- ✓ People with a learning disability will be encouraged to undertake physical activity and to maintain a healthy diet
- ✓ People identified through the Cardiovascular Screening Programme will have additional health checks
- ✓ People will have fuller access to a range of accessible information and support regarding common mental health problems, and the services that are in place to support people

### **To better support people with complex needs, for example, people with learning disabilities and mental health difficulties**

- ✓ The Learning Disability and Mental Health Care Pathway will be reviewed, and will include clearer links with other care pathways and services (for example, mainstream mental health, dementia, forensic services and CAMHS)

- ✓ People with complex mental health needs will be more accurately identified
- ✓ People with learning disabilities will have a greater awareness of where they might go for support if they develop a mental health problem.
- ✓ Review the way in which people with learning disabilities receive support with communication, including speech and language therapy
- ✓ Work commissioned through the University of Birmingham will support the development of local services to ensure that people with additional mental health needs and/or offending behaviour have their needs met appropriately
- ✓ We will consult on a service redesign for Assessment and Treatment, where in-patient beds will be provided out of city, but more resources will be provided within Wolverhampton to facilitate more assessment and treatment to take place either at home, within mainstream mental health services or within short breaks services. (
- ✓ People with learning disabilities who also have a mental health problem and are placed out of city will be reviewed and offered Person Centred Plans, to ensure ongoing quality and also with a view to commissioning a wider range of local services
- ✓ The way in which services are reviewed and monitored will be reviewed, to ensure safety, quality and best value.

**To ensure that offenders with learning disabilities have their needs met appropriately**

- ✓ Placements purchased for offenders with learning disabilities will be reviewed
- ✓ A Joint working protocol with local prisons will be developed
- ✓ A plan to consider identifying who is at risk of offending and preventative intervention will be developed
- ✓ The work commissioned through the University of Birmingham will be used to determine how local services could be developed to enable more offenders / people with very complex mental health needs to be supported to remain in Wolverhampton

**Following the consultation the priorities identified are:**

- To improve the experience of care and support in hospital settings
- To ensure that people with learning disabilities are involved in the full spectrum of work around health promotion
- To better support people with complex needs, for example people with learning disabilities and mental health difficulties, people with Autistic spectrum conditions, people with complex physical health problems.

**Key issues raised were:**

- The poor levels of support for people with a learning disability and their carers in hospital
- Non specialist staff ability to communicate with people with a learning disability and the training they receive

## **HOUSING**

*“All people with learning disabilities and their families have the opportunity to make an informed choice about where, and who, they live with”. (Valuing People Now: A new three year strategy for people with learning disabilities).*

It is now widely acknowledged that most people are able to live in a supported tenancy with the appropriate support. The aim of the strategy is to ensure that people with a learning disability are able to live as independently as possible and that they are supported to maximise their independence. One of the key priorities for Valuing People Now is to develop the housing options that are available for people with learning disabilities. The new three year strategy expands on the 2001 strategy and identifies housing as an important issue and one of the big priorities for 2009 - 2012. Many people with learning disabilities do not choose where they live or with whom. More than half live with their families, and most of the remainder live in residential care. Although these options may suit many people, many others are denied the opportunities and choices that are theirs by right. There should be an emphasis on alternative and more proactive ways of providing the housing that people want, and the support they need to live in it.

### **Current Situation**

Wolverhampton is one of the most densely populated areas in England and has a population of 236,000 residents. There are a total of 97,122 households with residents with an average household size of 2.4. There are 58,761 owner occupied properties and 3855 vacant household spaces. (Census 2001).

The below table looks at the comparisons of people with learning disabilities and the general population -

People with Learning Disabilities	General Population
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 50 - 55% live in family home</li><li>• 30% live in residential care</li><li>• 15% rent their own home</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 70% Own their home</li><li>• 29% rent their own home</li></ul>

In comparison there are vast differences between the housing mix of the general population and people with learning disabilities. The number of people with learning disabilities that own a home is very minimal in comparison to the general population. The percentage of people with learning disabilities who rent their own home is half of the general population.

### **Universal Services**

Wolverhampton works closely with housing providers to promote the use of assured tenancies with service users wherever possible. Assured tenancies allow the tenant to remain in the property unless the landlord can prove to the court that he or she has grounds for possession. Assured tenancies provide individuals with more long term security as the landlord cannot automatically regain possession after 6 months.

Choice Based Lettings aims to improve the choices for people applying for Council and Housing Association housing. Choice Based Lettings is different

to a standard housing register and waiting list because properties are advertised and people bid for them rather than waiting for the council to offer a property. Wolverhampton is working closely with housing providers to initiate these options in the city for people with learning disabilities.

Learning disability commissioners work closely with the council's corporate housing team to ensure that strategies reflect the need of people who are within services and people who will be entering services.

### **Prevention and Enablement**

Wolverhampton has developed and implemented a number of re-enablement and preventative services locally. Service design incorporates the principles of services that encourage and promote the re-enablement of people.

The Supporting People programme was launched in April 2003 to fund housing related support for vulnerable people. The programme gives vulnerable people the opportunity for greater living independence and life choices. Services promote independence by providing practical, low level housing related support to help people develop their skills in keeping their home clean and safe, paying their rent, getting along with their neighbours, as well as helping them access more specialist services as necessary.

Supporting People is now called Housing Support and Social Inclusion and forms part of the Joint Commissioning Unit in Wolverhampton, this allows services to be commissioned more effectively in partnership with learning disability commissioners.

- ✓ There have been a number of successful schemes which have been commissioned with Heantun Housing and Voyage which have provided people with the support they need to maintain their tenancies. Wolverhampton's Joint Commissioning Unit works closely with a number of housing providers to continuously support vulnerable people to obtain and maintain their own tenancies, as well as housing and tenancy preparation.
- ✓ Transition services have been working towards identifying the number and the type of need of people coming through services 5 years in advance. This has allowed the service to plan more effectively for people who are entering adult services to ensure that the right services are provided that support the individual more effectively. It has also allowed commissioners to identify any service gaps and ensure that services are commissioned to meet these needs.
- ✓ Tenancy Preparation courses have been commissioned via one of the local Housing Associations, these courses prepare people for their role as a tenant and the responsibilities this brings with it. It has been particularly effective when supporting people to move out of residential care into supported living.

### **Local Commissioning Intentions and activities**

The housing sub group of the Partnership Board has developed a range of services over the last five years; the challenge now is to take the housing agenda forward to embrace the Personalisation agenda and to manage resources available. The group has identified five key areas of work these are:

## **Manage and develop the housing market to achieve Best Value**

- ✓ Understand the current purchasing trends in residential care and the associated costs of services
- ✓ Benchmark current placement costs against activity in neighbouring authorities
- ✓ Develop more realistic placement fees for residential care and supported living
- ✓ Re-negotiate high cost placements using the Care Funding Calculator to provide a guide price
- ✓ Improve the skill set within the Integrated Community team both in the short and medium term to facilitate more cost effective micro-commissioning
- ✓ Work with providers so that they are able to respond to the Putting People First Agenda
- ✓ Work with registered social landlords to increase the availability of supported living options

## **Appropriate allocation of resources to meet local needs**

- ✓ Map existing allocation of resources across the range of housing and support options available to people
- ✓ Complete housing needs analysis
- ✓ Develop business cases for new services which include new funding streams or the use of individual budgets
- ✓ Improve awareness by people with a learning disability, family carers, and Community Teams of the range of housing options available and their funding streams, e.g. Independent Living Fund

## **Develop the range of housing options available to people with a learning disability.**

- ✓ Develop an accreditation process / framework for supported living services to promote market development and ensure quality services are provided
- ✓ Improve access to housing by making better use of the Choice Based Lettings system
- ✓ Increase the number of people accessing Shared Ownership Schemes
- ✓ Review all local residential care homes to ensure that they are meeting peoples needs and that best value is being achieved
- ✓ Develop extra care housing options / supported accommodation / supported lodgings / supported group homes

## **Increase the housing options available to young people in transition**

- ✓ Identify the number of people and type of accommodation and support needs they have coming in to services over the next 5 years

- ✓ Identify the people who are in out of area college facilities and consider local housing solutions for them for when the education has finished

**Following the consultation the priorities identified are:**

- Develop an accreditation process / framework for supported living services to promote market development and ensure quality services are provided
- Improve awareness by people with a learning disability, family carers, and Community Teams of the range of housing options available and their funding streams
- Work with registered social landlords to increase the availability of supported living options

**Key issues raised were:**

- Respondents like living with family and other people
- More information is needed on what is available

## **EMPLOYMENT**

*“Valuing Employment Now* is based on the Government’s belief that all people with learning disabilities, like all other people, can and should have the chance to work. To deny people that opportunity is a waste of talent for the Individuals, employers, society and the wider economy”.

Valuing Employment Now was published on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009; this is a cross - government strategy which is designed to support more people with moderate and severe learning disabilities to get jobs.

The employment rate for adults with a moderate or severe learning disability is currently around 10%. The government want this to rise to match the employment rates for disabled adults, which is currently at 48%. The aims are also to make these jobs ‘real’ employment of at least 16 hours per week.

Wolverhampton Learning Disability Employment Services acknowledges that there is a need for change, and that new priorities for employment cannot be met from within existing models. This needs to be supported by all key stakeholders, along with a commitment to develop alternatives.

The primary objective is to increase the number of people in paid sustainable employment with a range of different employers.

### **Current Situation**

The Wolverhampton Local Area Agreement aims to reduce worklessness by helping people into work, sustaining them in work opportunities and encouraging the start-up of businesses. In addition there is a local need to help to reduce numbers claiming Incapacity Benefit and reduce unemployment rates.

As part of the day service modernisation programme all day service users with a learning disability now have individual LEES plans, (Leisure, Education and Employment Plans) As part of the development of these plans 57 people

currently in day services have identified the desire to learn more about and work towards having a job.

The council currently has 37 clients on its Workstep programme. Nearly half of these are 'retained' clients, i.e. unlikely to progress into unsupported employment. 5 clients work for external organisations and the remainder are employed by the council, 14 of whom work at Old Tree Nursery and a further 10 individuals who are employed within individual posts within Adults and Community.

In February 2009 an audit of current day service employment activity was commissioned, and completed by an external organisation. The report identified that the current employment related opportunities present a number of issues that make moving forward difficult. Some of these relate to the existing structure - some relate to the possible development of a social enterprise model. In terms of the existing structure there are a number of factors to take into consideration:

- There is a large amount of confusion as to what constitutes employment, what work is and what valued occupation is. At present employment services include services that have elements of all these - often taking place within the same environment. Service users are engaged in activities that are labelled as employment but in fact are sometimes only leisure activities with none of the elements that make up true employment. This is not to minimise the importance of such activities to the service user but it needs to be explicit what the activity actually is and why the person is engaging in it.
- There appear to be very few clear aims or outcomes for what is being achieved by many of the service users who engage in activities at present.
- There is duplication of activities across the different centres e.g. woodworking and garden work take place at Albert Road, and Stowheath. Such duplication means that there is a lack of cohesion between the various centres and the others involved in employment e.g. Employment Team.
- Old Tree Nursery appears to be the only site that is currently offering true employment opportunities to people, however the site is considerably under-utilised in terms of its potential.

In April 2009 Cabinet agreed to develop a single employment service for adults with disabilities to be based at Albert Road.

This proposal, although being developed as part of the savings programme, forms part of the strategic development of services for both the learning disability services and the Long Term Impairment Service and supports the development of 'Sentier'. This service will include employment preparation and work-like services which will prepare people for the world of work. It will also enable the Employment Team to become part of the overall service.

Alongside these developments the service is adopting the Valuing People definitions of 'Employment', 'Work' and 'Valued Occupation'.

- a) Employment relates to work where the rate for the job is paid.
- a) Work can be carried out in a number of ways, always in a voluntary capacity, and can include training for work, and work preparation.

- b) Valued Occupation is activities designed to provide occupation, increase participation in the community, make friends and expand life skills. Day centre activities, attending advocacy groups, and use of community facilities with support are examples.

### **Universal services**

Specialist services need to further develop their partnership arrangements and involvement in the broader employment agenda, including links to Job Centre plus and Wolverhampton's Economic Partnership.

Wolverhampton Economic Partnership has a number of objectives which aim to increase the City's competitiveness and wealth. The Partnership's employment, skills and enterprise plan outlines activities that include:

- increasing skills levels and employment opportunities for residents of the City reducing worklessness by lowering benefit claimant rates and encouraging return to work for claimants
- increasing business sustainability and competitiveness
- maximising business start up and entrepreneur activity
- reducing business crime

Greater links with the Economic Partnership will raise awareness of the needs of the people with a mild learning disability, and ensure that they have access to new initiatives.

### **Prevention and Enablement**

Evidence from research shows that access to work or employment activities increase peoples self esteem reduces social isolation and prevents the need for more intense social care services at a later date.

The development of the Sentier training academy will be the front line service promoting enablement services linked to employment. It will provide employment related training and work experience. People using the service will develop employment profiles which will evolve as their skills develop and will form the basis of the Curriculum Vitaes.

People will move along an employment pathway which will enable them to become employment ready or it will identify where people are unlikely to enter paid employment but where work related services will be the mainstay of their day time activities.

Work with young people in transition and the special school which focuses on employment will be critical in preventing people with learning disabilities entering day care services.

In addition a programme of benefits awareness training needs to be developed to inform people of their entitlement to benefits and to evidence that they will not be financially disadvantaged by entering employment.

### **Local Commissioning priorities**

The work being undertaken by the Employment sub group of the Partnership Board is focused on delivering the outcomes set out in Valuing Employment Now, and activities agreed to deliver the over arching objective to increase the number of people in paid employment in sustainable jobs. Key Stakeholders have been involved in setting local priorities.

### **To develop increased marketing of employment options**

- ✓ Market Remploy products
- ✓ To engage with carers to increase awareness
- ✓ To undertake a range of promotional and information sharing events on an ongoing activities to highlight the benefits of being employed
- ✓ To market the benefits of employing disabled people with local employers

### **Engage with employers**

- ✓ To manage the move from Workstep to Work Choice
- ✓ To develop links with the Chamber of Commerce to engage with a greater pool of employers
- ✓ To engage with the graduate work programme
- ✓ Increase employer awareness of the skills of disabled people to increase the number of employers employing disabled people
- ✓ To develop services to support 'job retention' including job carving and mentoring

### **To develop partnership arrangements with external organisations**

- ✓ To develop better links with the Economic Partnership to ensure adults with a learning disability are included in the Wolverhampton Employment agenda
- ✓ Increase the number of people with a learning disabilities who are self employed via links with Access to Business
- ✓ To have a partnership agreement with Adults Education linked to work based learning
- ✓ To develop closer working links with the special schools as part of the transition planning to direct young people in employment options rather than day services
- ✓ To forge links with other areas to learn from their developments

### **To develop internal services**

- ✓ To develop the range of work activities and skills development options available at 'Sentier' which will increase the number of people in employment
- ✓ To integrate the learning disability and long term impairment employment services
- ✓ To embed the Employment Care pathway in all activity, and to monitor peoples progress along the pathway
- ✓ To increase the number of people moving into 'employment' and 'work' services from day services, as a result of proactive marketing of the service and the increase in work related skills development options in preference to other day service activities
- ✓ To develop the Sentier service into a User Led Organisation and social enterprise

### **To extend the range of social enterprises in the city**

- ✓ Sentier to be developed into a social enterprise
- ✓ To develop a range of trading arms linked to the Sentier
- ✓ Old Tree Nursery to be developed in to a social enterprise

**Following the consultation the priorities identified are:**

- Make sure there is enough support for people to get a job
- Talk to local businesses about employing someone with a learning disability
- Talk to people who go to day services and their family carers.

**Key issues raised were:**

- Work is generally wanted, with payment of proper wages
- Good support should be available to work entrants
- There should be opportunities to try work out first

## **FAMILY CARERS**

Family carers offer a lifetime of involvement, support and advocacy for people with learning disabilities. They must be recognised and valued as key partners in the delivery of Valuing People Now, and this local Strategy.

Nationally, we know that:-

- Families from minority ethnic communities are at greater risk of isolation
- Many adults with learning disabilities are living with family carers over the age of 70
- People with learning disabilities who are also carers are often invisible to services
- Family carers are often not seen as valued partners by health service staff, leading to serious consequences for their family member
- Many carers remain unaware of their right to a carers' assessment

As a result of the above, many carers undertake their caring responsibilities with very little support. The lack of recognition and respect of professionals in particular lessens the likelihood that other family members will appreciate the impact and the importance of the caring role.

### **Current Situation**

In June 2008 the Department of Health published the National Carer Strategy "Carers at the Heart of 21<sup>st</sup> century families and communities, a caring system on your side. A life of your own". At the time of print, Wolverhampton City Council and Primary Care Trust are consulting on a three-year local strategy developed in partnership with local family carers to deliver this national vision.

The National Carer Strategy Outcomes are:-

- ✓ Carers will be respected as expert care partners and will have access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role
- ✓ Carers will be able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role
- ✓ Carers will be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role
- ✓ Carers will be supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity

- ✓ Children and young people will be protected from inappropriate caring and have the support they need to learn, develop and thrive, to enjoy positive childhoods and to achieve against all the Every Child Matters Outcomes

Family carers of people with learning disabilities in Wolverhampton continue to be represented on the Wolverhampton Learning Disability Partnership Board, where their involvement is considered key to raising the needs and experiences of carers, in addition to bringing the carer voice into strategic decision-making.

There are a range of specialist support services specifically to support carers of people with learning disabilities in Wolverhampton. These include a variety of short break opportunities (both overnight, day-time, evenings and weekends).

Family carers are invited to join all sub-groups of the Partnership Board and to take an active role in the development of new services. This includes service specification writing and tendering, interviewing, involvement in other groups set up to improve the delivery of services (for example, the Accessible Information Group) Family carers are also encouraged and supported to be involved in regional events.

### **Universal Services**

Family carers of people with learning disabilities are encouraged and supported to benefit from all mainstream initiatives aimed at supporting carers. Some examples of local universal support services are set out below, all of which have been accessed by carers of people with learning disabilities:

- ✓ A Carer Support Centre, with drop-in support
- ✓ There are 12 support groups across the City
- ✓ Carers Emergency Card Scheme
- ✓ Self-assessment facility for non complex equipment
- ✓ A range of telecare and telehealth solutions are available through assessment
- ✓ Support has been specifically commissioned for carers from black and minority ethnic communities
- ✓ Support to take a personalised break through the provision of a grant
- ✓ A Carers' Newsletter is produced quarterly
- ✓ A range of workers employed through the Carers Centre, including welfare rights advisors and support workers
- ✓ Training in many areas requested by carers is delivered
- ✓ Expert Patient Programme, facilitated by the PCT aims to give people the confidence to manage their condition better and improve their quality of life
- ✓ To ensure that the views of carers are collected and reflected in service development and delivery
- ✓ Support workers to facilitate service-specific task groups, aimed at putting forward carers' views on service development

- ✓ A Carer Forum which facilitates speakers to give information which impacts on the caring role
- ✓ Current work to determine whether a Carers Parliament would be a more effective way of gaining the experiences and views of family care

A cross-City universal carers group is being set up to develop an implementation Plan following the consultation on the local Carers Strategy

### **Prevention and Enablement**

All of the services listed above are aimed at supporting carers in ways of their choosing to be able to continue in their caring role for as long as they wish, and as long as it is in their interests and in the interests of the person they care for.

Putting People First (personalisation) promotes integrated services, with carers at the centre, being well informed, listened to, and being able to contribute as valued partners. The negative emotional impact of caring can be reduced when the carer is satisfied with the support the person they care for is receiving. Carer and service user satisfaction are closely linked and should not be seen as isolated from each other.

It is more likely that services provided to the service user will be supportive to the carer if, through personalisation, they are worked out with the individual in the whole family context.

In taking on a long-term caring role, carers of people with a learning disability often make considerable sacrifices of their own interests and opportunities. This can have a long-term negative impact on their emotional and psychological well-being. The carer may only appreciate this impact with the help of carers' support services, and through such support they can be enabled to take up opportunities to relax, learn, train or work, with consequential benefits for their emotional and psychological health.

### **Local Commissioning Intentions and activities**

Wolverhampton Joint Commissioning Unit is currently consulting on the draft Carer's Strategy, and future commissioning activity will depend on - and reflect - the outcomes of this consultation.

The National Valuing Families Forum has agreed the following priorities for 2009:-

- ✓ Building and sustaining the capacity of mainstream carers organisations to meet the needs of family carers of people with learning disabilities
- ✓ Supporting people with learning disabilities who are carers
- ✓ Supporting families from black and minority ethnic communities
- ✓ Supporting older family carers
- ✓ The National Valuing Families Forum (which Wolverhampton family carers feed into) will agree a programme of work to deliver against these priorities, which Wolverhampton will use as guidance to deliver local solutions

In addition to responding to the commissioning objectives which arise from the local Carers Strategy Consultation and the National Valuing Families Forum, Wolverhampton Joint Commissioning Unit have developed these further commissioning intentions:-

- ✓ A universal Carers home based service delivering planned and emergency short breaks is currently being commissioned. Its development has included involvement from family carers and a contract is expected to be issued in October 2009
- ✓ To offer further training to family carers in completing hand held records
- ✓ To continue to develop the range and increase the number of short breaks opportunities available
- ✓ To consider the recommendations put forward in “Living and Dying with Dignity” regarding end of life care for people with learning disabilities
- ✓ To externally commission a Carer Forum to represent the views of family carers on the Learning Disability Partnership Board in a more structured and independent way.

**Following the consultation the priorities identified are:**

- To continue to develop the range and increase the number of short breaks opportunities available
- Supporting older family carers
- Support carers to plan for the future to ensure that the person they care for can have a smooth transition when the need arises.

**Key issues raised were:**

- More short breaks are needed
- Increased choice is needed e.g. holidays away

## **TRANSITION**

Every Child Matters has been the Government’s overarching agenda for change in children’s policy since 2005. Aiming High for Disabled Children (2007) is the transformation programme for disabled children’s services. The aim is for all disabled children to be viewed as a priority, this is also reflected in the NHS operating framework and the Children’s Plan.

A key area identified as requiring change is the need for improved transition for young disabled people. This reflects the national finding that both young disabled people and their families feel dissatisfied with the process of transition, and often feel excluded and marginalised in the decision-making process.

Young people in transition need to be supported and facilitated to achieve the same outcomes as other young people, such as having access to education, employment, good health, good friends and a good social life.

### **Current Situation**

Wolverhampton has developed a Transition sub-group, established as part of the Wolverhampton Aiming High for Disabled Children Partnership Board. This group has the responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the Transition Strategy for the City. The Transition Strategy has an action plan, and is divided into 5 key areas:

- ✓ Operational processes
- ✓ Training streams
- ✓ Transition pathways
- ✓ Information
- ✓ Commissioning

The Sub-Group also delivers an action plan for the City linked to the National Transition Support Programme.

Wolverhampton has dedicated health, social care and education professionals leading the process of Transition with young people, based both within the Disabled Children and Young People's Team, and within the specialist Adult Community Learning Disability Team. There is also a multi-disciplinary 'handover' group which meets bi-monthly and which includes representatives from Children's Services, Adults' Services, Education and Connexions. This group meets to fully understand the needs of young people coming close to transition, recognise emerging trends, and feed commissioning requirements to the Joint Commissioning Unit. It works across the disciplines of learning disability, physical and sensory disability and mental health. Regular support meetings for professionals supporting people through transition are held, which also gather information about trends and conduct regular needs analysis exercises, but has also recently begun to forecast expenditure.

Dedicated time is given to the Special Schools in Wolverhampton from the Specialist Community Learning Disability Team alongside the Disabled Children and Young People's Team to help young people to explore their choices.

The Schools meet with professionals on a regular basis to enable evidence and data to be collected regarding young people reaching adulthood, therefore allowing services to coordinate and implement needs-led, personalised support. It also has a link into commissioning to support service development and delivery.

A report was recently produced by the Community Learning Disability team, in conjunction with the Joint Commissioning Unit, to forecast future trends and areas of need. This report is now being used to plan future commissioning.

Wolverhampton employs person-centred approaches through work with schools and with health and social care staff. When young people reach 18, they also now have access to an externally facilitated Person-Centred Plan (PCP), a recently commissioned service. It is hoped that by making effective use of this service young people will have their expectations and aspirations around their adult lives raised, with choice and control being at the heart of Person Centred Planning. A PCP Suite is currently being developed as part of the City's Transition work, to support young people make plans before they leave school.

## **Universal Services**

The Transition sub group exists to meet the needs of all young people moving between Children's Services and Adult Services, regardless of their type of disability.

It is the aim of all work with young people in transition to identify universal services to support them wherever possible, with specialist services being reserved for those people who specifically need them. Recent examples would include supporting young people to create flexible and personalised support packages, using direct payments as a vehicle for facilitating choice and control.

Transition workers link closely with the Looked after Children's Services, to better co-ordinate care leavers' needs through transition. Again, this is a joined up approach which is implemented across service areas.

The Accessible Information Group has worked with a variety of organisations which make up the Learning Disability Partnership Board to ensure that we develop consistent and user-friendly ways of communicating with people with learning disabilities. The Accessible Information Group recently purchased Photo Symbols, as a method of communication available to all agencies involved in the Partnership Board. This has been supplemented with a range of local photographs, to ensure that when people are being asked about choices, they can see clear and accurate visual representations relating to what they are being asked about. This group is also currently facilitating the making of a DVD about how to make information accessible - and this will be available across all service areas and disseminated to a variety of local organisations and employers.

The Transition Sub-Group is currently in the process of identifying a young person who can speak up for all disabled young people within the sub-group. It is also establishing a Health Forum, for practitioners across service areas to discuss and plan how to address the emerging health needs of young people in transition.

## **Prevention and Enablement**

The emphasis of work around Transition is directed at promoting choice and control, and facilitating access to employment, education and ordinary housing. Staff employed to work with young people work very closely with the Learning and Skills Council, facilitating choices for young people both within specialist and mainstream education provision. They work in a similar way with organisations that promote employment, considering the range of opportunities available for young people - from volunteering to paid work - with the aim of supporting young adults with learning disabilities to lead purposeful and meaningful lives within their own communities. All requests for housing now go through a central point of referral and discussion within a multi-disciplinary environment and chaired by a local Housing Association.

This ensures consistency of approach and enables decisions based on need and availability to be made in a timely and consistent manner. The expectation within Wolverhampton is that young adults requiring accommodation will be supported to identify appropriate supported living opportunities, reserving residential care only for those people who have very specialist needs.

There has been concern raised at a National level about meeting the health care needs of young people moving through Transition. Young people are encouraged to access the Hand Held health records, develop Health Action Plans and take part in the annual health checks offered through the Locally Enhanced Service.

It is important to ensure that young people moving through Transition are able to keep themselves safe, and a current stream of work is considering the safeguarding implications when young people for whom there have been child protection concerns reach adulthood. It has been proposed that a protocol for working with this particularly vulnerable group be developed, again to be applied across all service areas.

### **Local Commissioning Intentions and activities**

Wolverhampton Joint Commissioning Unit has developed the following commissioning intentions to support the process of Transition for young people:

- ✓ To support the development of a Transition Protocol to ensure a more timely and seamless transition between Children's and Adult Services
- ✓ To ensure that the value base of 'Nothing about us without us' forms the basis of all transition support – such that through good transition plans, young people are at the centre all decision-making
- ✓ To fully adopt and provide training to enable staff to implement the Transition Pathway
- ✓ To consult meaningfully with young people about what works and doesn't work currently in Transition, and what services and support young people would priorities for future development
- ✓ To continue to ensure that information provided about transition is high quality and accessible, and meets the guidelines set out by Valuing People Now
- ✓ To further develop a variety of short break opportunities through the implementation of the Carers' Strategy
- ✓ Young people in Transition will be encouraged to develop flexible, personalised approaches and use Direct Payments wherever possible. This must include empowering young disabled people to use public resources flexibly to get the outcomes they want, including (as this is high on the agenda of young people) access to employment opportunities alongside other non-segregated services (leisure, housing, health)
- ✓ To ensure, through joined up work with Children's Services, Education and Health, that transition plans and Year 9 reviews where appropriate will contain a section on health needs and the development of a health action plan
- ✓ To ensure that, wherever possible, Transition Plans and Year 9 Reviews include information about future accommodation choices for young people
- ✓ Develop a clear de-commissioning strategy that shows how money will be drawn down from traditional services and re-invested in wider

opportunities, to ensure that the outcomes of personalisation can be met for young people in transition.

**Following the consultation the priorities identified are:**

- To ensure that through good transition plans, young people are at the centre all decision-making
- To ensure that through joined up work between Children's Services, Education and Health, that young people are offered Health Action Plans before they leave school
- To ensure that young people are supported to use mainstream and universal services, and that young people will be supported to think creatively and flexibly about how their specific needs are met as adults.

**Key issues raised were:**

- The importance of Health Action Plans
- More choice

## **CHOICE AND CONTROL**

People with learning disabilities have had very little choice and control over their own lives and the services that they receive. This has meant that people with learning disabilities have had little involvement in decision making and how services are delivered. Valuing People paved the way to ensure that people with a learning disability had more choice and control over their lives. It outlined that services for people with learning disabilities should work in a more person centred way to promote people's rights, support their independence, respect their choice and support their inclusion in their own community. Valuing People Now expands on the 2001 White Paper and further develops the work which was initiated by Valuing People.

### **Current Situation**

Wolverhampton has been working with a range of stakeholders to ensure that the values and priorities that were identified in Valuing People and Valuing People Now are delivered locally in Wolverhampton and that change happens for the people of Wolverhampton.

As a result of consultation, the Partnership Board Wolverhampton used part of the Learning Disability Development Fund in 2009 to commission MacIntyre to develop a Person Centred Planning Service for people with a learning disability. The service is required to review the improved outcomes achieved by people as a result of their Person Centred Plans this information will be used by commissioners to plan services in a more individualised way.

Wolverhampton has a number of independent self advocate groups that work alongside services to support people to actively self advocate around issues or concerns which they may have.

Mencap are commissioned to deliver an issues based advocacy service for people with a learning disability which has proved very successful. In addition to this Mencap are commissioned to deliver an empowerment service which support people to bring forward any key issues or concerns that they have around services, and to support the work of the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Wolverhampton has commissioned Changing Our Lives to develop a people parliament in Wolverhampton. This will train people with a learning disability to become MP's and they will bring forward key issues and concerns that local people with a learning disability have to the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

The Putting People First programme is working towards a more inclusive structure of service delivery which will be citizen focused rather than service focused. One of the priorities for the Putting People First programme is developing personal budgets that will give those people who are eligible for social care services more choice and control over how their care plan is developed and the way they achieve the outcomes they identify for.

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### **Universal Services**

Valuing People Now is written from a human right perspective:

*'I don't know much about the convention on human rights of people with disabilities but I do feel strongly that everyone with a disability should have equal rights to those who don't have disabilities.'*

(Evidence from person with learning disabilities to the Joint Committee on Human Rights)

This strategy therefore promotes the right of people with a learning disability to have access to all universal services such as leisure, transport education and recreation services in the city.

In the last year people with a learning disability have increasingly accessed services such as Telecare.

Learning Disability services have invested in a number of accessible information tools that support the service to produce information that allows information to be presented in a format that people can understand and make an informed decision.

### **Prevention and Enablement**

The Putting People First (PPF) programme has initiated a number of work programmes that look at developing preventative and re-enablement services. It uses a whole systems approach and identifies the customer's journey through services and how this can be improved to obtain more meaningful outcomes for the individual. The PPF programme is developing better information and signposting services for people, developing a resource allocation system that will support the development of personal budgets, the development of user led organisations and improved communication with stake holders and customers to improve service delivery.

The Joint Commissioning Unit uses an outcome focused approach to service development and delivery ensuring that all contracts associated with commissioned services provide meaningful outcomes for the person.

## **Local Commissioning Intentions and activities**

### **Putting People First**

- ✓ Improve information and better signposting to services
- ✓ Improve intelligence data through better needs analysis and commissioning intentions
- ✓ Revised citizens journey, new operational design and sustainable financial model
- ✓ Develop a resource allocation system to implement personal budgets
- ✓ Develop the range of user led organisations
- ✓ Develop more re-enablement and enablement services

### **Personalised services**

- ✓ Revise the partnership board to ensure accountability and ensure Valuing People Now is successfully implemented
- ✓ Increase the number of people who have person centred plans
- ✓ Increase the range of housing options available to people with a learning disability
- ✓ Ensure that information is produced in accessible formats

### **Advocacy**

- ✓ Develop the range of advocacy services available with Wolverhampton
- ✓ Support the development of self advocacy groups
- ✓ Support the development of a people's parliament in Wolverhampton

**Following the consultation the priorities identified are:**

- *Make sure people with learning disabilities can use all of the services provided*
- *Make sure people with learning disabilities can understand all of the services provided*
- *Help everyone understand that people with a learning disability have rights*

The carers responded with alternative priorities as follows:

- Help everyone understand that people with a learning disability have rights
- Make sure people with learning disabilities can use all of the services provided
- Helping people with learning disabilities to be as independent as possible

Key issues raised were

- that there should be good support for people wanting to be independent.

## 6 The Pooled budgets

The Learning Disability Service has operated a Pooled Budget between the Local Authority and PCT since 2003 under a Section 31 Partnership Agreement.

The Annual Agreement (Schedule 13 of the Partnership Agreement) represents the opportunity for Wolverhampton City Council and Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust to jointly set out the key objectives for each financial year for those service areas covered by the Partnership Agreement. The Joint Governance Group acting on behalf of each partner organisation exercises the authority to approve these key objectives and work streams in order to enhance and maintain the effective operation of the Partnership Agreement.

Changes to the Pooled Budget based on inflation, change of demographic needs and financial pressures are agreed annually under Schedule 4 Annual Contributions to the Pooled Fund, by the Joint Governance Group, by April of that year, following the implementation of the Local Authority and PCT business planning processes.

The agreed budget for 2010/11 is set out below; the annual budget is transferred to the Head of Learning Disability Services on 1<sup>st</sup> April every year under a Service Level Agreement.

The headline budget is:

<b>Service Level Agreement</b>	<b>Approved Budget £000</b>
WCC Care Purchasing SLA	6,927,990
WCC Internal Services SLA	4,860,660
<b>WCC Total</b>	<b>11,788,650</b>
WCPCT Care Purchasing SLA	9,797,119

WCPCT Internal Services SLA (Pond Lane)	1,310,045
<b>WCPCT Total</b>	<b>11,107,164</b>
<hr/>	
<b>LEARNING DISABILITIES SERVICES TOTAL</b>	<b>22,895,814</b>

## Transfer of Commissioning Responsibility

Valuing People Now; From Progress to Transformation (2007) proposed the transfer of responsibility for commissioning and funding for learning disability services from Primary Care Trusts to local Government from April 2009, based on the spend in 2007/8. This proposal forms part of the wider transformation of adults social care set out in 'Putting People First'.

These proposals are outlined in detail in the Department of Health guidance issued on August 2008, titled "**Valuing People Now; Transfer of Responsibility for the Commissioning of Social Care for Adults with a Learning Disability from NHS to Local Government and Transfer of Appropriate Funding.**"

This change will enable the PCT to focus on its primary responsibility, which is to meet the health needs of individuals with a learning disability. Responsibility for specialist learning disability healthcare, continuing health care and forensic services will remain with PCT.

For the final two years of this Spending Review period, 2009/10 and 2010/11, the transfer of specialist social care funding for people with learning disabilities has been made locally from the PCT to the Local authority.

From 2011 onwards the transfer will be made direct to the Local Authority, the amount will be based on a national funding formula and the returns made to the Department of Health during the transition period.

In Wolverhampton the returns to Department of Health for the year 2009/10 identified that the PCT contribution to £10,842,840 towards the cost of social care, this figure excludes funding for continuing health care service but does include the funding for the Specialist Teams at Pond Lane as they are currently seconded to the Local Authority.

This transfer will not affect the status of the Pooled Budget but the respective percentage that each partner contributes will change.

This process has negative financial implications, as residents in current the PCT grant funded residential homes are able to claim increased benefits which will not be available to them now the formal transfer of financial responsibility is complete.

## Current Learning Disability Grants

The Learning Disability Development Fund has increased marginally year on year, it is not a mainstream funding source the allocation for 2010/11 was £253,000. However from 2011/12 this money forms part of the council's mainline budget and the service will need to present a business case to access the funds

## Initial funding proposals

Needs analysis supporting the increased numbers of people coming into the services has been used to support for a bid for financial growth.

This includes:

- The increased number of young people in transition 2011/12
- The full year effect of young people in transition for 2010/11
- Services to respond to the changing needs of the current learning disability population
- Services to support people leaving Secure Care
- Changes to the criteria for people being able to access the Independent Living Fund.

Additional net pressures during 2011/12 are predicted to be £2,425m.

A number of mitigating actions have been identified to resolve this pressure. Once the availability of financial growth has been agreed corporately any commissioning activity required will be subject to bids for funding from the Contingency Reserve.

Support services for carers will be identified as part of the Carer Strategy and funded from the Carers Grant.

### **Impact of Putting People First**

The financial plan will need to remain flexible in order to adjust to changing financial allocations through Individual budgets, and the implementation of a resource Allocation System, financial savings programmes and financial cost pressures.

## **10 Making it happen – the role of the Partnership Board**

The Implementation of the Strategy will be overseen in the short term by the Joint Governance Group and subsequently by the Health and Wellbeing Board via the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Quarterly reports will be submitted to the Joint Governance Group on the performance and financial position of the service and the strategy implementation.

In addition, each Partnership Board sub group will present a report to the Partnership Board on a quarterly basis on the progress against each of the Commissioning Intentions. The Joint Commissioning Unit will submit an Annual report to the Learning Disability Partnership Board which will outline the year's achievements and the priorities for the following year. This report will also be submitted to the PCT Board and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board.

In order to support this work a Quality Framework will be developed, outlining a dashboard of quality standards linked to the Council and the PCT performance standards. This will be developed with the Performance and Quality Unit within the Adults and Community Directorate to ensure consistence across the organisation.

## **11 Human Resources**

The aim is to develop a workforce that is highly skilled, trained and well motivated to meet the changing needs of people with a learning disability. Consequently, any changes to services provided by the Council or the PCT will be managed in accordance with agreed Council and PCT procedures for the management of change and within the Partnership Agreement (Section 31 Health Act 1994). The process would also include on-going discussions with unions.

The aim is also to support the development of a broader workforce across the city that can respond to the Putting People First Agenda, and the anticipated increase in people having Personal Assistants and using their individual budgets to purchase more creative forms of care and support.