

Valuing People Yorkshire & Humber

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Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the Yorkshire and Humber Newsletter.

Since the publication of Valuing People Now it has been a busy time, with the establishment of the Regional Programme Board and looking at how we can support the region to achieve the priorities for 2009/10.

One of the highlights of the year so far for me has been the completion of the Performance and Self Assessment Framework for health. This could not have been achieved without the commitment and hard work of the Partnership Boards and the health sub groups and others that contributed. The messages that are coming out tell us, as a region, we are beginning to making health care better for individuals. This hard work and effect have not gone un-noticed at a national level. The National Director Anne Williams is impressed by what we have achieved and is going to talk to David Nicholson about identifying Yorkshire and Humber as an area of good practice.

Another highlight is the day we had in July, with Partnership Boards, looking at where they are up to know and what they think makes a good effective Partnership Board. From this day lots of things will begin to happen.

I could continue to tell you about other things that are happening but would fill the newsletter, so will tell you more next time!

To make this newsletter as useful as possible we would like contributions from yourselves about what is happening and want you want to share with others – so let us know what you are up to.



Jenny Anderton
Regional Programme Lead
Yorkshire and Humber
Valuing People Now

 HM Government

Valuing People Now:
a new three-year strategy
for people with learning
disabilities

'Making it happen for everyone'



Changing Places Event 24th June 2009

Getting truly accessible loos in your area

Although we talk about the values of inclusion, some people still cannot access their town or city because of a lack of truly accessible toilets. The Changing Places campaign has been trying to change this, but there are still very few Changing Places toilets in the UK. However, some areas have led the way in making this happen, some of these are in Yorkshire and Humber.

The Yorkshire and Humber Valuing People Team asked Bradford People First and Inclusion North to hold an event about Changing Places as part of learning disability week (the theme of this being Changing Places).



Changing Places

The aim of the event was to

- Help understand what exactly a Changing Places toilet should be like
- Hear about good news stories from our area
- Help Partnership Boards work out how to make Changing Places happen in their area.

The event was well attended with teams from different Partnership Board areas from our region. The event was held at Keighley Leisure Centre which is a well used community venue with a fantastic Changing Places facility.

For information about the Changing Places campaign you can go on their website at www.changing-places.org.

To get notes from the day please send an email to Kirsty@yh-valuingpeople.co.uk

Bridge to Vision Project (York)



AROUND 80 per cent of people with a learning disability have some form of visual impairment, but this sight loss - often significant - is usually undetected.

The Bridge to Vision Project (York) is working to increase the identification of sight loss through tailored, accessible eye care. We offer an open referral system.

The project was established in September 2008 and has received 87 referrals to date. During this pilot phase evaluation evidence is showing high impact results for both people who use our service and their parents and carers.

If you would like more information, or referral information please do not hesitate to contact Karen, the Project Assessment Worker who is based within The Wilberforce Trust at 49 North Moor Road, Huntington, York YO32 9QN and can be contacted there Monday to Thursday on 01904 760037.



Greenlight workshop sessions

Valuing People have organised some sessions on The Greenlight for Mental Health Toolkit in the Yorkshire and Humber area. Inclusion North worked with Debra Moore to run these sessions.



What is the Greenlight tool kit?

Greenlight is a toolkit that helps make mental health support services better for people with learning disabilities. It paints a picture of what good mental health services should look like and gives a way to help us think about how we are doing and how we can be better.

What has happened so far?

The first session worked through the toolkit and what progress areas have made across Yorkshire and Humber to make things better in line with this.

It also gave people the opportunity to share good practice and look at detailed pieces of work.

The first was the joint commissioning review for complex health needs. This can be downloaded from the internet at:

www.cqc.org.uk/publications.cfm?fde_id=10858

The second was the Bradley Review of people with mental health needs or learning disabilities in the criminal justice system.

This can be found at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_098694

The third topic was about how to work together with local mental health services.

Barbara Taylor and Gary Green from the Humber Mental Health Teaching Trust talked about the great work they have been doing in their area.

If you would like the notes from these sessions or details of the 3rd session please contact Pip Franklin on pip@inclusionnorth.org

The 2009 Self Assessment Exercise and Healthy Ambitions for People with Learning Disabilities

Yorkshire and the Humber Region did the first national pilot of the learning disability 'health' self assessment in 2008. Following its success all the regions in England have adopted the self assessment – and we were commended in *Healthcare for All* and in *Valuing People Now* for our work.

Another really welcome development this year is that the Strategic Health Authority has decided to include a chapter specifically about the health of people with learning disabilities, in their 10 Year Plan for the Region's health – *Healthy Ambitions*. This chapter is being completed at the moment, using much of the information gathered from this year's self assessment.

All the local areas in Yorkshire and the Humber completed their second annual health self assessment earlier this year, and this has allowed us to compare progress made since last year. Following meetings with all areas, individual letters were sent out in August from the Strategic Health Authority to each area, thanking people for all their work. As last year, a Report about progress across the Region was also sent out along with a record of all the good practice and innovative work going on in each local area. Copies of the regional reports from last year and this year can be found on the Yorkshire and Humber Valuing People website.

All areas worked hard to complete this second self assessment exercise and this year's process in most areas seems to have involved more people with learning disabilities and family carers. Inclusion North were again available to assist areas with Getting Ready meetings and to help facilitate Big Health Check Up days. It was clear that there is this year increasing focus on Partnership Boards driving or framing the work – but that in the coming year, even more needs to be done to further develop Boards' central involvement in health issues.

The collection of good information about people's health and about their access to health care was identified last year as a priority for work, and this has certainly been well addressed over the past 12 months. There is now evidence of more systematic approaches to collecting data, in particular in primary care. The work on Top Target 2 this year has laid a strong foundation for this Region to effectively determine and address the health inequalities that people may face.

Whilst recognising that there are some very positive examples of innovative work happening in secondary care settings to improve the experience people with learning disabilities and family carers have in general hospitals, there is still a marked need for greater engagement by some of the Region's acute hospitals with the learning disabilities *Inequalities*, *Safeguarding* and *Dignity in Care* agendas.

With reference to the objectives in Top Target 4, it was highlighted last year that better information based on more person-centred planning was needed, to inform local commissioning for people with complex learning disabilities, along with the further development of new service 'models' of care locally. In a good number of areas, gaps in information are being addressed and investment has been made to develop local specialist strategies (e.g. through project management or development of posts).

Progress has been made in 'across-system' approaches to planning services for people with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC), but less progress than hoped was made on planning for people with a learning disability who are ageing. Progress has varied on improving people's access to mainstream mental health services. Local specialist services are being developed and enhanced in a number of areas to respond better to the needs of those who challenge services, and some areas note that such developments have led to a reduction in hospital admissions, as well as meaning that people can remain and be supported at home.

Nevertheless, the majority of local areas across the region still need to prioritise work in this area in the coming year, and it is hoped that the Healthy Ambitions Programme will support and frame that work.

Having a work programme linked to 'Healthy Ambitions for people with learning disabilities' will bring even more focus on improving health care for people. In the coming months we will see the launch of the Healthy Ambitions Chapter, as well as having in December our now annual event where we get together to 'showcase' and celebrate the really good, innovative work that people right across our Region are doing. In the meantime, work is going on to streamline the self assessment process and improve it in readiness for our Year 3 exercise.

Jackie Sochocka
September 2009

Regional Programme Board



The Regional Programme Board met for the first time in June this year.

The Chair of the board is Moria Wilson who represents the Directors of Adult services in the region.

The first meeting of the board looked at how they were going to work together and how we make sure that the board is not just another talking shop but will get things done.

The minutes from this first meeting can be found on the website

<http://www.yhip.org.uk/social-care/social-care/valuing-people/regional-programme-board>

Big Partnership Board Day

9th July

Valuing People held this day for Partnership Boards to come together to think about what Valuing People Now said the Partnership Board should do.

Attendees had to:



- Think about the role of partnership boards and who should be on them.
- Talk about how the local Partnership boards will work with the regional and national programme boards.
- Talk about what support partnership boards need and what they should do next.

The notes from this meeting if you want to know more can be found on our website.

On this day we also talked about the Partnership Board Guidance that is due out in September and how this will help Partnership Boards write their annual plan for the Regional Programme Board.

Yorkshire &
Humber
Valuing People

Contact the team

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[www.yhip.org.uk/
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or go to www.yhip.org.uk
and click on 'Social Care' –
you will find the 'Valuing
People' tab on the left
hand side

Family Carers meet Anne Williams - 23rd July



Anne Williams came to the Yorkshire and Humber region to meet with our Family Carers at the Cedar Court Hotel in Wakefield for Morning tea and coffee.

It was an opportunity to find out more about Anne and also an opportunity to let Anne know about people's experiences in this region. It was also a chance to hear about what Anne is working on at the moment and for the family carers to put questions to Anne.

We are also pleased to welcome Scott Watkin into his new post as the Co-National Director for Learning Disabilities. His job is to help turn *Valuing People Now* into a reality and we wish him every success in this role.

New Website

Since joining the Yorkshire and Humber Improvement Partnership we decided the best place to find any information would be on their website so we are very pleased to announce the new Valuing People pages at www.yhip.org.uk.

Our pages have just gone live and can be accessed by clicking the link above on the left of this page. We hope that we can build up a range of resources that will be helpful.

Please bear with us whilst we get it up to date with all the resources you might need. If you have any best practice to share with others in the region, or any other resources that can be shared please email them on to: website@yh-valuingpeople.co.uk