

Welcome to the fifth edition of *Better Health!* the newsletter of Debra Moore Associates



A new year begins

This issue highlights the launch of the governments new 3 year plan for learning disabilities - Valuing People Now. Key priorities include personalisation and, of course, better health. There continues to be a strong role for local Learning Disability Partnership Boards and an emphasis on monitoring quality.

So a 'toast to the new year and the new strategy'!

Best Wishes
Debra

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Valuing People Now published!

On the 19th January we saw the publication of *Valuing People Now - from progress to transformation* the Government's strategy for people with learning disabilities for the next three years following consultation.

As well as setting out the priorities for action it contains the formal response to the main recommendations in Healthcare for All, the independent inquiry into access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities.

The key issues for the NHS are to :

- achieve full inclusion of people with learning disabilities in mainstream work to reduce health inequalities
- ensure high-quality specialist health services where these are needed.
- ensure that people and their families get the healthcare they need and the support they need to live healthy lives.

The strategy sets out a programme of work to address 'Healthcare for all' recommendations and the Government is determined that lessons are learnt and that action is taken to improve healthcare for people with learning disabilities.

The 'Valuing people national health steering group' chaired by the Director of primary care will be responsible for overseeing delivery of commitments around mainstream healthcare for people with learning disabilities.

DH will work with SHA's to support PCTs in commissioning services and developing care pathways in ways that address the needs of people with learning disabilities.

There is also commitment to scoping study for a confidential inquiry into premature deaths and commissioning of a PHO to collate and analyse data regarding people with learning disabilities.

Other positive actions on the health front include further reinforcement of priority within 09/10 NHS operating framework and the forthcoming publications of a World Class Commissioning guide and Health Action Planning/Health Facilitation guidance.

For the full document, including the easy read version, go to:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_093377



Coming Soon... 'Making it happen'

In May and June we will be running workshops to support front line practitioners, particularly community learning disabilities teams, with a range of issues including health action planning and facilitation, implementing person centred approaches in health services and supporting people with complex needs.

Most of these workshops can be tailored and delivered for individual teams and services so if you would like more information about these workshops or support in your particular area please contact us at: info@debramooreassociates.com

If you have received this email from someone else and would like to be on our mailing list, please contact info@debramooreassociates.com

Also don't forget we have free forums, resources and up-to-date news items on our website www.debramooreassociates.com

'Working Together' Guidance for Hospitals, Families and Paid Support Staff

This really helpful publication from HTF contains a range of useful information and tools to support people with learning disabilities going into hospital.

The guidance makes the important point that family carers, paid support staff and hospital staff should all be supported and working together to get the best outcomes for the individual.

It contains sections describing what people from each of these groups should be doing before, during and at the end of the hospital stay and includes a checklist for admission meeting. It also links to the Traffic Light Hospital Assessment and the Risk Dependency and Support Assessment forms.

You can find this guidance at: http://www.hft.org.uk/p/4/121/Working_Together.html or <http://valuingpeople.gov.uk/dynamic/valuingpeople118.jsp>

New best practice publication for health professionals

Getting it right is a tool for health practitioners, that contains information and 'tips' on how they can 'get it right' when treating people with learning disabilities in healthcare.

The resource was produced by a group made up of representatives from a range of professional colleges and organisations that came together in response to the Mencap Report 'Death by Indifference'.

You can get further information from the website: www.mencap.org.uk/gettingitright

Human Rights in Healthcare

This important guidance published in October 2008 provides a framework and straightforward information about Human Rights in Healthcare and is aimed primarily at frontline staff but is also useful for board members, administration staff and other key stakeholders.

It has been developed by DH in partnership with the British Institute of Human Rights and 5 NHS Trusts who have worked to develop human rights based approaches to improve delivery and design of services.

The booklet that accompanies the framework includes

1. An introduction to human rights and relevance to healthcare
2. A look at the obligations that NHS organisations have under the Human Rights Act and explores what this means
3. Provides ideas and suggestions of how health services can do to take a human rights based approach in their design and delivery

I am sure many people working with 'vulnerable' groups in health settings will find this guidance especially useful.

You can download the documents from:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_088970

Guidance issued on improving patient safety in mental health and learning disability services

In November the NPSA issued an alert on the resuscitation of patients in mental health and learning disability settings.

It applies to all NHS organisations in England and Wales where mental health and learning disability patients are treated and has been developed in partnership with the Resuscitation Council (UK) and NHS mental health services.

This follows a review of incidents involving patients choking or experiencing cardiac or respiratory arrest in mental health and learning disability settings.


National Patient Safety Agency

For further information go to:

<http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/corporate/news/guidance-issued-on-improving-patient-safety-in-mental-health-and-learning-disability-services/>



Events & Training

We provide training and consultancy services to commissioners, providers, self advocacy organisations and family carers.

Our focus is on promoting person centred and inclusive health services for everyone including people with learning disabilities, mental health needs and older people.

We do this by providing bespoke support, training events and conferences to share the latest thinking and good practice.

Finally....

I hope you have found this newsletter helpful - we welcome comments and feedback. If you would like to include an article or news item in our next edition please contact us on info@debramooreassociates.com or visit our website www.debramooreassociates.com

High Quality Healthcare For ALL Conference

In December we held our Better Healthcare For ALL conference in Leeds chaired by Anne Williams - National Director for Learning Disabilities.

A busy and practical programme included speakers from the Healthcare Commission, NHS Confederation, SHA's and the Department of Health.

A highlight of the day was songs and poetry from Suzie Fothergill from Skills for People in Newcastle. She explained how the healthcare system can affect someone directly in both positive and negative ways and how things could be improved.



Anne Williams, Suzie Fothergill and Debra Moore at the conference

CHANGE is changing!!!

CHANGE the equal rights organisation has a new logo, a new look, and a new website!! I am sure many of you will have used the comprehensive range of pictures accessible materials they produce to support better health for people with learning disabilities.

There is a new online shop on their website where you can buy accessible books, Picture Bank CD ROMs, training materials.

Check it out at www.changepeople.co.uk



NHS Constitution

On the 21st of January the NHS Constitution for England was published and captures the purpose, principles and values of the NHS as well as bringing together a number of rights, pledges and responsibilities for staff and patients. The core purpose and values of the NHS will be reinforced by placing a duty on providers and commissioners of NHS services to have regard to the new NHS Constitution. This legal duty is contained within the Health Bill, which was introduced into Parliament on 15 January 2009.

There are 7 key principles contained in the constitution:

1. The NHS provides a comprehensive service, available to all irrespective of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief.
2. Access to NHS services is based on clinical need, not an individual's ability to pay.
3. The NHS aspires to the highest standards of excellence and professionalism
4. NHS services must reflect the needs and preferences of patients, their families and their carers.
5. The NHS works across organisational boundaries and in partnership with other organisations in the interest of patients, local communities and the wider population.
6. The NHS is committed to providing best value for taxpayers' money and the most effective, fair and sustainable use of finite resources.
7. The NHS is accountable to the public, communities and patients that it serves.

For further information visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_093419