



**The voice of  
learning disability**

# The changing world of service provision for people with a learning disability

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# Focus is on...

- Transformation – meeting needs using mainstream and specialist services
- The challenges of the funding climate – budget cuts
- Better value for money
- Personalisation – getting commissioning right
- Driving continuous improvement and rising expectations
- Rhetoric vs. Reality and the Green Paper

# Mencap's role

- Campaigner for change
- Campaigning for a human rights approach
- Also a major provider of services
- Our response to personalisation

# Transformation – putting people first

- Totally support the principles of it
- Could transform the lives of people with a learning disability
- Want it based on principles of self directed support
- Must be based on principles of human rights
- Must not be tokenistic

# Access to mainstream services

Equal access to universal mainstream services

- Health – deliver on Sir Jonathan Michael's report
  - Transport
  - Leisure facilities
  - Education and employment
- and crucially,
- housing

# Access to specialist (non-universal) services

- Support in the home to live independently
- Support in the community to lead fulfilling lives
- Specialist health services
  
- Some will need limited support from social care
- Others will need 24 hour support
- Also support for the families

# The funding climate

- Dichotomy of big increase in funding vs. cuts on the ground
- Demographic growth – children surviving into adulthood
  - Adults outliving parents
  - More complex needs
- Funny money – double counting of health transfers
  - Boundary shift from health to social services
  - Replacement of supporting people money
- Pressure on council budgets – only 1% growth
- Next CSR...
- Councils bound to be squeezed

# Better value for money

- Reduced out borough placements
- Implement Mansell 2 – complex needs
- Residential care to supported living
- Get people into work
- Better transition planning
- Too often only about forcing down prices and wages

# Value for money and personalisation

- In-control showed can lead to lower costs
- But caution – some is transfer to other budgets
- Personalisation must not be seen to be about saving money
- Meeting people's dreams can be expensive
- Stories of people given inadequate support
- Welcome DH document on use of resources

# Personalisation – getting the commissioning right

- Proper forward planning – use of JSNAs
- Try to shape the market
- Commissioning in a free market?
- Move away from block contracts
- Individual contracting and service design
- Providers being responsive to user demand

# Continuous improvement and rising expectations

- Deliver better value for money and improved outcomes
- Traditional one size fits all no longer wanted
- High quality personalised support
- Voluntary sector good at innovation
- Provision of brokerage services
- But can it all be done without more money?

# Rhetoric vs. Reality and the Green Paper

- Have the best policy framework we have ever had
- Long stay hospitals closed
- NHS moving out of social care
- Moves towards independent living
- Users being put in control
- Vision is great but...

# On the ground

- Older parents forced to carry on
- Poor or no transition planning
- People left on their own with little support
- Day centres and FE courses closing
- Tighter eligibility criteria

# And the Green Paper

- Welcome policy direction
- But mainly about old people
- Unclear on funding
- The vision will not be delivered without long term funding
- Need to convince all that this is a human rights issue