

**To: Buckinghamshire Partnership Forum**

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**VALUING PEOPLE: A NEW STRATEGY FOR LEARNING DISABILITY FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

**A PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To advise the Partnership Forum of the publication of the new National Strategy for Learning Disability , published in March 2001. The key points of the Strategy are contained in the attached Executive Summary. Further work completed by the Learning Disability Joint Planning Group to consider the local implications, will be presented to the Partnership Forum.

**B PROPOSED ACTION**

2. **The Partnership Forum is invited to NOTE the key points of the strategy, and to comment on the presentation**

**C SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3. The Valuing People document represents the first major review of Learning Disability services since the 1970's. It has been long-awaited and has generally been met by positive comment from service users, carers and professionals alike. It was produced in full partnership with all key stakeholders ,especially users and carers, with separate reports from the User group and from Family Carers. Additionally the special needs of ethnic minority groups have been recognised in a supplementary report.
4. The Strategy, produced as a White Paper, places welcome emphasis on inclusion of people with learning disability in all aspects of life. It is aspirational and wide-ranging in its recommendations, with key dates for changes to be in place. It promises additional funding for specific initiatives. At this stage, a number of further items of key guidance are awaited, including some on funding conditions.
5. Local and national events are taking place to explore the implications and make plans for implementation. One significant change will be the responsibility of the Chief Executive of the Local Authority to establish an inclusive Learning Disability Partnership Board, by October 2001. This Board will have the overall responsibility for the local services and for producing the local implementation plan, by January 2002 This will include reviewing the recently produced Joint Investment Plan,. Other papers on the agenda have addressed how this will fit with other local planning mechanisms.

Work is currently underway to assess the implications of the new National Strategy in comparison with the local joint strategy and Joint Investment Plan Action Plan. Further detailed reports will come to the Partnership Forum as work progresses.

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