

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

ADULT SERVICES CABINET MEMBER

**SUPPORTING AND DEVELOPING COMMITMENT TO
THE LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To seek Cabinet Member endorsement to create a post of Valuing People Co-ordinator/Administrator in order to support the Partnership's requirement to deliver the Learning Disability Strategy across North Lincolnshire.

1.2 To outline the requirements placed upon North Lincolnshire to deliver the Learning Disability Strategy, "Valuing People Now".

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 "Valuing People, A Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities" was published in 2001 and was the first white paper on learning disabilities in 30 years. Eight years later the strategy has been reviewed. The review has seen good progress in many areas but also highlights work required over the next three years, to move from progress to transformation.

2.2 The revised strategy "Valuing People Now" sets out the priorities for delivering policy and action over the next three years. It supports people with learning disabilities to have real choices and control over their lives. It also aims to ensure mainstream public services become more inclusive of people with learning disabilities.

2.3 Since the launch of the Valuing People strategy in 2001 local authorities have been required to develop Learning Disability Partnership Boards. Valuing People Now states that local Learning Disability Partnerships will continue and that government will explore how to increase the statutory requirement on public bodies to consult and work with Learning Disability Partnership Boards.

2.4 Members of the North Lincolnshire Learning Disability Partnership Board have recently taken time out to review the progress it has made and to re-establish its priorities and actions required to deliver the Valuing People agenda. As part of this review the board members have considered how to develop, review and sustain membership of the Learning Disability Partnership Board, to achieve the level of representation and balance required for full effectiveness and how to provide the co-ordination and

administration required to support Valuing People Now's implementation plan. Only by achieving the levels of commitment required to develop the wide variety of partnerships that are needed can people with learning disabilities succeed in achieving inclusion within their own communities.

- 2.5 The Learning Disability Partnership Board has had a level of success and its membership has grown since inception. A number of key partnerships have developed that have resulted in service changes positively affecting the lives of people with learning disabilities and their families. With the ever-growing demands on statutory and voluntary workers to deliver on national performance targets and to ensure meaningful involvement of people with complex learning disabilities, co-ordination of the partnership arrangements have become an increasing challenge.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Option 1

- 3.1 To create a fixed term post for three years of a Valuing People Co-ordinator/Administrator. The Learning Disability Partnership Board members believe that through committing dedicated time to the co-ordination and administration of the partnership, through a dedicated post holder, progress towards meeting agreed priorities would be more actively achieved.

Option 2

- 3.2 To not fund extra capacity to support the Partnership's development and take no action.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

Option 1

- 4.1 The Partnership Board believes that the recruitment of a Valuing People Co-ordinator/Administrator would enable the Board to effectively co-ordinate its activities. The role would include acting as a central point for all partners, servicing the Board and sub-group meetings, collation of all information and documents and advertising the work of the partnership. The post will be reviewed during that period in line with other arrangements to support the Partnership arrangements for all citizens of North Lincolnshire.

Option 2

- 4.2 The Partnership Board as it currently operates would continue to meet and progress in a number of areas. This could be achieved without any additional support. However, the ability of the Board to achieve full effectiveness and ensure the work of its sub-groups is co-ordinated will continue to be a major challenge. There will be barriers to achieving its priorities should no extra capacity be made available to support the Partnership's activity. Option two is therefore not recommended.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 Financial implications

5.1.1 The Local Authority received the Learning Disability Development Fund directly to support delivery of the outcomes in the National Indicator set for people with learning disabilities. It is proposed that a proportion of the allocation be utilised to fund a post for three years. The LDDF funding is guaranteed for 2009/10 and 2010/11 so the third years will be a carry over of the last year's budget.

5.1.2 The post of Valuing People Co-ordinator/Administrator has been evaluated at Grade 4, therefore the annual cost of a full time position will be £19,469.68 (calculated at mid point including on costs of 29.5%).

5.2 Staffing implications

5.2.1 The post holder will be accountable to the Learning Disability Partnership Board and their workload will be allocated via the Integrated Learning Disability Services Strategic Manager.

5.3 Property implications

5.3.1 The postholder will be based with the Integrated Learning Disability Services Strategic Manager, initially at The Hollies.

5.4 IT implications

5.4.1 IT access will be required for the postholder and can be met through the same funding routes as the post holder's salary. The hardware and wiring costs will amount to £800, the software costs will amount to £223 and the annual virement charges will be £352.

6. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

6.1 Statutory implications

6.1.1 The creation of this post supports the delivery of the council's statutory duties.

6.2 Environmental implications

6.2.1 None.

6.3 Diversity implications

6.3.1 The creation of this post supports the delivery of the council's diversity agenda and a Diversity Impact Assessment has been completed.

6.4 Section 17 – Crime and Disorder implications

6.4.1 None.

6.5 Risk and other implications

6.5.1 None.

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Learning Disability Partnership Board has consulted with staff, service users and family carers. They all support the development of this post as critical to delivering their priorities.

7.2 Trade Unions have been consulted and have raised no objection to the proposal.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet Member notes the requirements placed on North Lincolnshire to deliver the learning disability strategy, Valuing People Now.

8.2 That Cabinet Member endorses the creation of the post of Valuing People Co-ordinator/Administrator, for a fixed term period of three years, to support the Partnership in delivering the national Valuing People priorities.

8.3 That the matter be referred to the Corporate Services Cabinet Member for approval.

SERVICE DIRECTOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

“Valuing people now: a new three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities” -
Department of Health, January 2009