

What the PMLD Network said about *Valuing People Now* Easy read summary March 2008



What is *Valuing People Now*?

Valuing People was published by the Government in 2001. It said what the Government wanted to do to make life better for people with a learning disability.



Lots of the things in *Valuing People* were good ideas. But lots of them did not happen. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) were some of the people who missed out.

So the government has written *Valuing People Now*. It says what big things the government wants to do in the next 3 years to make life better for everyone with a learning disability.



The government asked people to tell them what they think about their ideas. The PMLD Network told them what we think.

The government will make some changes to *Valuing People Now*. We should get a final copy of *Valuing People Now* later this year.

What does *Valuing People Now* say?

The main things the government wants to work on in the next 3 years are:



- **Personalisation** – giving people real choice and control over their lives and services.
- **What people do during the day** (and evenings and weekends) – helping people to do things in their communities, and get people working in paid jobs.
- **Better health** – making sure the NHS gives people with a learning disability good healthcare.

- **Access to housing** – making sure people have the housing they want and need, including more people with a learning disability renting or owning their own home.
- **Other things** – Valuing People also talks about other things like advocacy, including people in the community, including everyone, transition (moving from children's to adult services) and carers.
- **Making sure that change happens** – and people's lives get better.

What does *Valuing People Now* say about people with PMLD?



- The government says it knows that things haven't got better for people who need lots of support – like people with PMLD.
- It says we should think about people who need lots of support first – before we think about what other people with a learning disability need.
- It says we should think about the extra things people who need lots of support need. So that they can be included and do the same things as everyone else.

What did the PMLD Network say about *Valuing People Now*?



- The PMLD Network is pleased that the government has written *Valuing People Now*.
- We are pleased the government wants to make things better for people who need lots of support – like people with PMLD.
- But we think some changes need to be made.

What changes do the PMLD Network think need to happen?

Including everyone - making sure we think about everyone's needs – like people with PMLD.



- The government talks about 'including everyone' in Valuing People Now. We think it should be **the main thing** the government works on.
- We want the government to find out how many people with PMLD there are and provide services that meet their needs.
- We want people with PMLD to be represented on partnership boards and forums.

Personalisation - giving people choice and control over their lives and services.



- People with PMLD need more choice and control over their lives.
- Individual budgets (where people get money to buy the services they choose) are a good way to give people more choice and control.

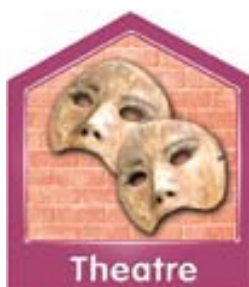
But the government needs to understand that people with PMLD need lots of support. They must get enough money to have the support they need.

- It is important that people who support people with PMLD find out what their needs and wants are. So that they can do the things they want.

This means getting to know the person with PMLD and talking to the people who know them well.



What people do during the day (and evenings and weekends) – helping people to do things in their communities.



- We want meaningful things for people with PMLD to do in the day.

- There need to be community bases – buildings where people with PMLD can have their physical and health needs met. People with PMLD can then go out and do the things they want to. And know they can come back here if they need to.



Better health – making sure the NHS gives people with a learning disability good healthcare.

- People with PMLD must get the healthcare they need. They should have a health check every year. They should also have a health action plan.
- The NHS must provide good healthcare to meet all their needs. People with PMLD often have lots of health needs. Sometimes they will need special help.



Access to housing – making sure people have the housing they want and need, including more people with a learning disability renting or owning their own home.

- We want people with PMLD to have more choice and control about where they live.
- Staff must have training so they can support people with PMLD to live where they want.

Advocacy and Rights –making sure people are speaking up about the needs of people with a learning disability. And that they people with a learning disability are respected.



- There must be more advocates speaking up for people with PMLD.
- More advocates need to be trained in how to communicate with people with PMLD.
- Every group that makes decisions about the lives of people with learning disabilities must have someone who speaks up for the rights of people with PMLD.



Partnership with families – This is about listening to what families say.

- The government needs to think more about the needs of carers.
- Families of children and adults with PMLD need more support, including short breaks.



People as local citizens – making sure people get the support they need to live in their local communities.

- People with PMLD have the right to join in and do things in their community. We need to make sure that there are suitable toilets and transport for them.

Making the transition to adulthood a positive experience – supporting young people as they move into adult services.



- We need to make sure young people with PMLD and their families get the support they need when they move into adult services.
- We need to think about their health needs and their education. And make sure they can still spend time with people they like and do the things they want to.



Improving the workforce – making sure that staff can support people well.

- Staff need to be trained so they can support all the needs of people with PMLD. Like their health needs and understanding how they communicate.