



# LDIAG NEWS

Oct. 2006

Welsh Assembly Government's Learning Disability Implementation Advisory Group

This month's newsletter is about standards in advocacy and what people told us about the group's new statement.

## Standards in advocacy

The group thinks it is a good idea if advocacy has standards to make sure that advocacy is always good.

The group explains advocacy as helping someone's voice get heard.

The group think advocacy should always be independent of services and families.

People with a lot of disabilities, black people and gay and lesbian people do not have enough advocacy services at the moment



Action for Advocacy have written some good advocacy standards.

The group have learnt it is difficult to measure good advocacy.



The group will be asking advocacy groups what they think good advocacy is, and then thinking about how to measure it.

## What people told us about our new Statement

Everyone thought it was a good idea to have a new statement.



Everyone thought what the statement said was good.

People wanted to make sure that money and time was given to services to make changes.



Written with All Wales People First.  
For more information  
mailto:lis.walters@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk  
02920 492443 Take a look at the group's website  
<http://www.ldiag.org.uk>





# LDIAG NEWS

Oct. 2006

Welsh Assembly Government's Learning Disability Implementation Advisory Group

This month read all about the work being done on advocacy standards and what the consultation responses were like to the Proposed Statement on Policy and Practice for Adults with a Learning Disability.

## **Recommendation to adopt standards in advocacy services.**

A paper on standards in advocacy was presented by the strategic planning group for discussion. The paper defines eligible services as being those that: provide support to an individual to make their views known, being focused on creating change for the individual, independence from the assessment process, independence from any service provided to the person, independence from family.

Three areas which have been highlighted as areas where more work needs to be done are: people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, people from black and minority ethnic communities and support to gay and lesbian people with a learning disability. A number of organisations across the UK have been working on advocacy standards. Advocacy Wales held a conference this year which successfully ensured validation of the proposed standards.



A lot has been learnt from the three year grant scheme. It was found that it was important to look at things like how good advocacy was measured. Standards focus on inputs and some outputs. It is really difficult to measure the difference advocacy makes in people's lives. Sharing infrastructure between small scale schemes needs to be looked at. Standards aim to help organisations organise themselves to ensure good quality service is delivered. The subgroup hopes to ask the advocacy groups what they consider to be success to help them define outcomes which can be used with the standards. There is a need for more robust management of standards. There are concerns that lots of organisations may not meet the standards. The final paper should therefore include quantitative and qualitative targets.

## **Consultation responses**

The consultation responses were very positive and indicated considerable support for the Proposed Statement on Policy and Practice for Adults with a Learning Disability. There was clear agreement that there was a need for a new statement and with what the statement said. Many of the comments stated there was a need to support any new statement with enough resource and managerial commitment to ensure it could really work. Other responses talked about the need for measurable targets, a need for new momentum in the learning disability services. Some comments felt there should be stronger language instead of "should" "must". All the responses have been summarised into a document which will accompany the statement that will be sent to the Minister.



Written in conjunction with All Wales People First.  
For more information  
<mailto:lis.walters@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk>  
02920 492443 Take a look at the group's website  
<http://www.ldiag.org.uk>

