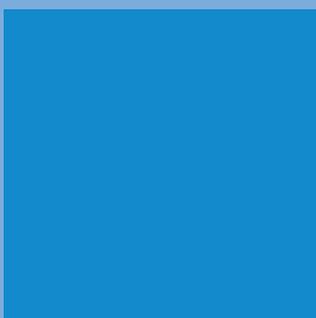


# Good Learning Disability Partnership Boards: Making it happen for everyone

A guide about what a good Learning Disability Partnership Board should be like



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## **Good Learning Disability Partnership Boards: Making it happen for everyone**

**A guide about what a good  
Learning Disability Partnership Board  
should be like**

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## **What Phil Hope says about this guide. He works for the Government as Minister for Care Services**

Learning Disability Partnership Boards are very important.

They bring together lots of people in your local area to work on making things better for people with learning disabilities.

Some Learning Disability Partnership Boards have worked well. But others have not worked so well.

This guide talks about what a good Learning Disability Partnership Board should be like.

It will help your Learning Disability Partnership Board know how to work in the best way.

We hope you find it useful.

Thank you

Phil Hope MP

## About this guide

### What is a Learning Disability Partnership Board?



It is a group of people from your local area. They meet to decide what needs to happen to make the lives of people with learning disabilities better.

Lots of people can be part of the Learning Disability Partnership Board. For example,

- people with learning disabilities
- family carers
- people who work in health, social care, education, employment support and housing
- people who decide how to spend the money for learning disability services.



In this guide, we will call Learning Disability Partnership Boards, **Partnership Boards**.

### Valuing People Now

**Valuing People Now** is the name of a plan the Government made. It talks about what needs to be done in the next 3 years to make the lives of people with learning disabilities better.



The job of your Learning Disability Partnership Board is to make the things in this plan happen.



**Now you can find out what your Partnership Board can do to work really well**

# 1. How your Partnership Board works



Council

The people in charge of your Partnership Board are

- your local **council**
- your local **Primary Care Trust (PCT)**. (They run health services like doctors and dentists.)



Primary Care Trust

The people in charge of these groups must make sure your Partnership Board is doing a good job.



## What makes a good Partnership Board?

Your Partnership Board should be clear about things like

- how you all work together and who does what
- what other groups in your local area you should work with
- what work you need to do
- how decisions are made
- what money there is
- who is in charge.



Your Partnership Board should also work with other groups. For example, groups who make big decisions in your local area.

## 2. People on the Partnership Board



### What makes a good Partnership Board?



The people in charge of your local council and Primary Care Trust (PCT) should be part of the Partnership Board if possible.



At least half of your Partnership Board should be people with learning disabilities and family carers.



There should be a real mix of people on your Partnership Board. For example,

- people with learning disabilities and family carers from different backgrounds and cultures
- people who need more support.



It is good if your Partnership Board has **2** people to run it – a person in charge of health or social care and a person with learning disabilities. They are called the **Chair** and **Co Chair**.



Your Partnership Board could have people who make decisions about things like

- jobs
- housing
- health
- services for children.



Your Partnership Board could ask other people from your local area to come along if they can help with your work.

### 3. Good meetings



Your Partnership Board should make sure **everyone** can take part in the meetings.



#### What makes a good Partnership Board?

Your Partnership Board could sit down together and agree how the meetings will work and how work will be done. And then write this down.



Your Partnership Board should

- make sure people with learning disabilities and family carers have all the support they need to come to the meetings



- send out easy to understand information about the meetings at least 2 weeks before

- give people information in lots of ways. For example, in easy words with pictures, on DVD or CD



- make sure people talk and write using easy words with no jargon

## Your Partnership Board should also



- make sure your meeting place is easy to get to



- have breaks quite often in the meetings to give people the chance to rest



- have meetings at a time that is good for everyone

- have other meetings apart from the main one if you need to



- make sure **everyone** can help decide what to talk about at the meetings.

## 4. The work your Partnership Board does



The **Valuing People Now** plan says there are certain things your Partnership Board should be working to get in the next year. For example,

- better healthcare
- better housing and more choice
- more jobs.

### What makes a good Partnership Board?



Your Partnership Board should work to change things for **all** people with learning disabilities and their family carers.

For example, people with learning disabilities who need much more support. And people from different backgrounds and cultures.



Your Partnership Board could set up some other smaller groups to do certain bits of work. For example, work on

- housing
- jobs
- transport
- hate crime
- advocacy.

These smaller groups are a chance for even more people with learning disabilities and other people to be part of your work.

## 5. Keeping a check on things



Your Partnership Board should **always** know

- what people with learning disabilities and their family carers need
- how well its work is going
- what is happening with the money for services.

### What makes a good Partnership Board?



Your Partnership Board should be told about any changes to services in your local area. Or if there will be less money for services.

This will give your Partnership Board enough time to ask you all what you think. And to make a note of this.



If people with learning disabilities and carers do not agree with a change to services, your Partnership Board should tell this to the people who want to make the change.

## 6. Giving people information



Your Partnership Board should make sure other people in your local area know

- what needs to happen to make the lives of people with learning disabilities better
- what the **Valuing People Now** plan says.

### What makes a good Partnership Board?

Your Partnership Board could give people information by



- setting up a website



- writing a newsletter

- having a big meeting every year which other people can come to. This is called an **annual general meeting**



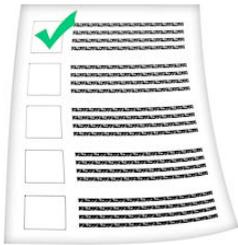
- putting information in places like libraries, doctors' surgeries and sports centres.



## 7. Annual reports

We think it is a really good idea if all Partnership Boards write a report every year about how they are getting on.

This report will be called an **annual report**.



We think this report is a really good idea because it will

- show all the information you have about the needs of people with learning disabilities and their carers
- show what is working well and what needs to change
- help your Partnership Board plan what needs to happen next.



We have made something called a **template**. This is like a form your Partnership Board can fill in to help them make their report.

There are questions for your Partnership Board to fill in about lots of things. For example

- how your Partnership Board makes sure people with learning disabilities and family carers can really take part
- what work your Partnership Board has done about things like health, jobs, advocacy and hate crime.



You and everyone else on your Partnership Board should be able to look at the report and make sure you are happy with it.

It should then be signed by a person with learning disabilities and a family carer.

## Some good examples of Partnership Boards

### Coventry Partnership Board



People from this Partnership Board share information in lots of ways. For example, people with learning disabilities have made some DVDs to show other people what they think about things.

### Southampton Partnership Board



A group of people with learning disabilities did some important work to look at services for people with learning disabilities who have mental health needs.

The Partnership Board made sure the group got good support to do this.



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