

	<p>Report from Reach</p>
	<p>Report on Reach Parliament Case Studies</p>
	<p>Report to Stoke on Trent Learning Disability Partnership Board</p>

How to contact us:

  	<p>Reach Winton House Stoke Road Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2RW</p> <p>01782 747872</p> <p>reach@asist.co.uk</p>
---	---

	<p>With thanks to Photosymbols © for the photographs used in this report</p>
---	--



At the last Reach Parliament meeting on April 11th 2011, Reach MPs looked at two real life case studies.



Case Study 1 was called **My friend was moved and I don't know why.**

Case Study 2 was called **They won't let me see my girlfriend.**



Both case studies were about real experiences people in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire have recently shared with Reach.



Reach changed the names of the people so they could keep the reports anonymous.



MPs heard the stories and then shared their thoughts with project workers.



At the end of the meeting, MPs were asked if the case studies should go to the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

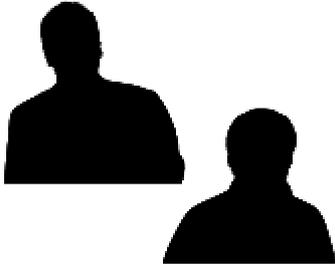


MPs voted using the traffic light cards.



Case Study One

My Friend was moved and I don't know why



MPs heard about two adults with a learning disability who live in Staffordshire.



Michael **Phillip**

In the report the names of the people were changed, the two people will be known as **Michael** and **Phillip**.



Michael contacted Reach to say that he was worried about his friend Phillip.

They both shared a house and had support from social care staff.



Michael told Reach that Phillip had gone away somewhere and that he did not know where and that no one had told him what was happening,



A few days later Michael rang Reach again to say that staff had told him that Phillip had moved out.

Nobody told Michael why Phillip had moved or where he had moved to.



Reach asked MPs:

- What they thought of Michael's story?
- Did they think the staff were right not to tell Michael anything?
- How the staff should have dealt with this?
- What they would do if they were Michael?



After collecting MPs thoughts, project workers told MPs that they had spoken to someone who supports Michael and Phillip.



Reach had found out that Phillip had chosen to move as he was not happy living with Michael.



Reach asked MPs:

- Does this change the way they think about Michael's story?
- What they thought the staff should have told Michael?



Case Study One MPs Feedback



- “Michael should be told the reason why Phillip has moved.”
- “The staff were not right to not tell Michael. He’s very upset, it’s like a nightmare. If you don’t tell people where people are you are not doing your job properly.”



- We think Michael and Phillip should have been supported to talk things through before moving out - people should know the truth.”



- “We think Michael would be devastated to find out the truth but it’s better to know than to be worrying.”



- “Staff should have told Michael the truth.”
- “Phillip should have told Michael that he was not happy - he should not just go.”
- “I think that it is not OK to move and not tell people, I moved, nobody was told and I don’t see my old friends now.”
- “I would prefer them to be honest with me.”



Even when MPs had found out that Phillip had chosen to move they said that Michael should have been told the truth.



MPs believe that “people should be told what is happening even when the news may not be good”.



MPs believe that “people should be treated equally”.



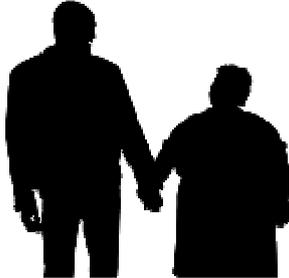
MPs would like to ask the Learning Disability Partnership Board:

- **What does the Partnership Board think of this case?**
- **What support does the Partnership Board think Michael and Phillip should have had to make things easier for both of them?**

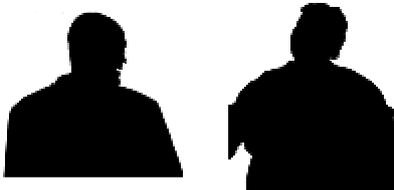


Case Study Two

They won't let me see my Girlfriend



MPs heard about two adults with a learning disability who live in Stoke on Trent.



Roy

Hazel

In the report the names of the people were changed, the two people will be known as **Roy** and **Hazel**.



Roy and Hazel have been in a relationship for over ten years.

Roy is unhappy because he never gets to see Hazel.



Hazel's brother doesn't want them to be together.



Roy said he and Hazel have talked in the past about getting married.



Hazel lives with her brother and he won't let Roy come to their house to see her.

Roy says Hazel's brother controls her life.



Roy and Hazel first met when they both used to go to the day service.



At one time, Roy and Hazel's key workers supported them to see each other about once a week or every two weeks.



Now, Roy and Hazel's lives have changed.



Now, Roy says "they won't let me see her, they won't let me go near her."

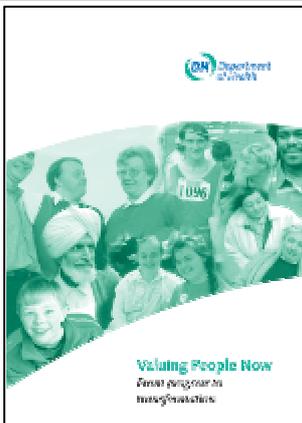


Reach asked MPs:

- What they thought about Roy's story?
- Did they think Hazel's brother was right to stop her seeing Roy?
- What they would do if they were Roy?



Reach project workers shared a quote with MPs from Valuing People Now.



Valuing people now says:

“People with learning disabilities should have the chance to have relationships and get married if they want to.”



Reach asked MPs:

- What they thought about this quote when they read Roy's story?



Case Study Two MPs Feedback



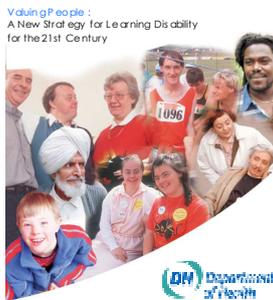
- “You shouldn't be able to stop people from having a relationship.”
- People who could support Roy - social worker, key worker, care worker, link worker, advocates.”
- “Because the family look after her and support her they feel they have the right to make her decisions, which is wrong.”
- “They aren't being treated equally, other people should not get in the way if they want a relationship.”
- “If they would like to be together then why not - they might need help at first, have a care plan in place.”
- I would speak to the brother first, then speak to a social worker and also speak to an advocate.”
- “People should have rights - her brother is poking his nose in.”
- “At the end of the day it's up to them if they want to get married.”
- “Stop interfering in their lives, they should be equal people.”



MPs believe that this story highlights that not all people are “treated equally”



They have said that “all people have the right to a relationship if they want one”.



Valuing people says:

“Your choices should be the same as other people’s.”

Valuing People Now says:

“You have the choice to have relationships, become parents and carry on being parents, with the support you need.”



MPs would like to ask the Learning Disability Partnership Board:

- **How can the Partnership Board make sure people have the rights that Valuing People says they should have?**