

Key Issues In Learning Disabilities.



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VALUING PEOPLE

- **Cross-government**
- **Rights-based agenda**
- **Local Government in the lead**
- **Programme of national and regional support**

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HOW THINGS ARE GOING

Local Picture

- From excellent to poor
- Some Partnership Boards are ineffective
- Limited corporate authority engagement

National Picture

- Some impressive progress in some areas – weak in others
- Not all Government Departments are fully engaged
- A renewed focus in the Department of Health

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THE KEY CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL (and National) GOVERNMENT (1)

1. Demand and Resources.

- Significant growth in numbers of people
- Significant increase in levels of disability

2. Making a Reality of Citizenship

- Corporate Authority engagement
- Mainstreaming responses to what people say they want and need

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THE KEY CHALLENGES FOR LOCAL (and National) GOVERNMENT (2)

3. Fall-out from Cornwall and Merton/Sutton
 - Separate NHS/local government systems
 - A lack of political priority
 - Outdated services allowed to continue to exist
 - A lack of a focus on advocacy and rights
 - No independent inspection or overview
 - POVA not working
 - A lack of staff training

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LOCAL AUTHORITY LEADERSHIP

Policy since 1991 that local authorities should be leading 'social care' commissioning

Policy since 2001 that local authorities could undertake 'lead commissioning'

Cornwall and Merton/Sutton were places where neither had happened

Minister has announced he will “strengthen the commissioning of learning disability services, (and) consider a stronger role for local authorities as part of this”.

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SOME KEY QUESTIONS MIGHT BE

How can the LGA help to promote a greater corporate authority response?

What strategies can be adopted to deal with the increasing numbers of people needing support from services and the resource consequences?

What might a 'stronger local authority role' look like?

What would need to happen to help make this work?

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