

To: Chairs of Learning Disability Partnership Boards

July 2002

Health Action Plans

We are pleased to enclose a copy of "Health Action Plans and Health Facilitation: Good Practice Guidance for Learning Disability Partnership Boards" which we hope you will find helpful.

The document is one of a series of three documents on Health Action Plans and has been written to be accessible to all the members of the Partnership Board, including those with learning disabilities. The other documents in the series are:

- Action for Health - Health Action Plans and Health Facilitation: Good Practice Guidance on Implementation for Learning Disability Partnership Boards (detailed version)
- Health Action Plans: What are they? How do you get one? (a booklet for people with learning disabilities)

All three documents are available at: www.doh.gov.uk/publications/coinh.html and also on the learning disability website pages at www.doh.gov.uk/learningdisabilities. Details of how to obtain hard copies (and tapes available for end of August) are given in the enclosed flyer.

Health Action Plans and health facilitation are key elements of the strategy for improving the health of people with learning disabilities set out in the Valuing People White paper and the implementation guidance which goes with it:

- The full background is set out in chapter 6 of the White Paper "Improving Health for People with Learning Disabilities".
- The Health Services and Local Authority Circular on Valuing People, (HSC2001/016:LAC(2001)23) issued in August 2001, says that Partnership Boards should agree a framework for the introduction of Health Action Plans with statutory bodies by summer 2003. By the same date there should be clearly identified arrangements for Health Facilitation for people with learning disabilities. By summer 2005 all people with learning disabilities wishing to have a Health Action Plan should have one.

The guidance covers a range of practical issues, including:

- Who prepares Health Action Plans
- What the plan might cover
- How Health Action Plans might work in different circumstances
- Choice, consent and confidentiality
- Evaluating Health Action Planning
- What is meant by Health Facilitation

The Valuing People Support Team will be available to work with Partnership Boards over the coming months to help develop Health Action Planning and Health Facilitation. Someone from the team will contact you shortly about this.

Ian Berry
Head of the Disability Policy Branch, Department of Health

Rob Greig
Valuing People, Director of Implementation