

## **Rising Number of People with Learning Disabilities**

The population of people with a learning disability in England is predicted to grow and, although Valuing People has successfully raised the profile of people with a learning disability, barriers still exist to prevent people achieving full citizenship.

A report by the Learning Disability Task Force published in November 2004 exposes the difficulties in pulling together demographic and financial information that would enable central and local Government to plan future services. It highlights the Task Force's concern that plans for improvements in provision of housing and support, day services, fulfilling lives and better healthcare are not being realised because there is a lack of information about what is actually spent, and, therefore, what the future investment needs to be.

The report draws together new research into demographics and financial information. It reveals the extent to which levels of demand for services are increasing and where deficits in funding will occur. For example by 2021 there will be a 37% increase in adults with learning disabilities aged over 60; there will be an overall 11% increase in the total numbers of adults with learning disabilities. This highlights the need for adequate funding arrangements to be put in place to ensure consistent and improving services.

**Copies of the report and key recommendations are available from:**

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