

FINDINGS FROM 'MAKING THINGS BETTER' EVENTS

Richard Poxton, Consultant - Health and Social Care Development

"MAKING THINGS BETTER" EVENTS – MAIN FINDINGS

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MAKING THINGS BETTER FOR PEOPLE FROM MINORITY COMMUNITIES

- Reviews by Learning Disabilities Partnership Boards have shown progress to be slow and patchy. But some areas are making real changes and are working well with local communities.
- The Valuing People Support Team decided to continue this work by holding regional workshops to learn about successes and to action plan next steps.

THE EVENTS

- "New Work on Improving Services for People with Learning Disabilities from Minority Ethnic Groups"
- Locations: York, Birmingham and London, March/April 2006
- Focus on local examples of real progress
- About 100 people (managers, staff, users) attended

SUBJECTS COVERED

- Delivering Strategies and Plans
- How Partnership Boards might engage with local BME communities
- Overcoming obstacles and making links
- Developing person centred planning
- The statutory duties

MAIN FINDINGS

Sorting out some basics
Making Plans
Issues to tackle
How to do it

SORTING OUT SOME BASICS

- Know the facts about local minority communities
- Listen to what local people have to say
- Involve lots of people
- Work with families and community groups
- Understand the law – people's rights and Councils' duties
- Take a broad view

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MAKING PLANS

- Be clear about the law
- Use the Council's Equality and Diversity Plan
- A priority for the Partnership Board – not just for a Sub Group
- A strategy based on real listening
- Strategic and personal plans
- More than health and social care
- Different outcomes for different people
- Plans that include targets and that are monitored

ISSUES TO TACKLE

- The stigma of having a learning disability
- Lack of information
- Not knowing how you get support
- Ways of working and services that are not right for local minority communities (including assessments)
- Institutional racism
- Partnership Board membership

HOW TO MAKE PROGRESS

- Awareness and information events
- Translation and explanation
- Interpretation – language support
- Champions for change
- Training
- Development workers including in the voluntary sector
- Link workers alongside “services”
- Adapt services where necessary
- Think about the work properly – not a “tick box” approach
- Takes time – needs commitment