
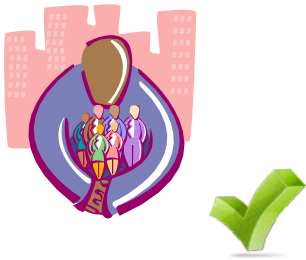




Report to the Learning Disability Programme Board 7th March 2013

	<h2>Good news</h2>
	<p>Networks of families are still strong in many places. Families are still keen to be involved in making services better. Some areas are beginning to work in new partnerships with self-advocates and families.</p>
	<p>Lots of examples (87) from all over England were sent in for the Good Practice Project. The best 6 examples were chosen by Reps from the two Forums working closely together.</p>
	<p>Some of the small changes in joining up Health and Social Care should make life easier for family carers, by helping them get day-to-day things done more easily.</p>

	<h2>Issues that families are worried about</h2>
	<p>Changes are being made all at once to housing benefit rules, health services, social care services, welfare benefits, assessments and so on. Does the Government realise what this all adds up to, for families of people with learning disabilities?</p>
	<p>Many people don't know how PIP or Universal Credits will work. How will people with learning disabilities and their families get the help they need to understand the new systems?</p>
	<p>At Health and Wellbeing boards in some areas, the Learning Disability Partnership Boards are not being linked in yet. Family carers of people with learning disabilities are struggling to be heard among other carers.</p>
	<p>Sometimes, commissioners and providers think that services are being delivered well, when they are not. Sometimes people aren't told what choices are available to them. Many families aren't confident enough to raise these issues, afraid of losing the support they do have.</p>