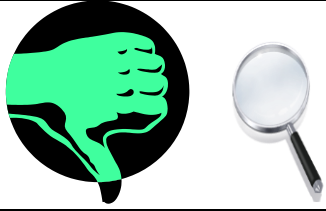





Report to the Learning Disability Programme Board

	<h2>Good news</h2>
	<p>The “Thinking Ahead” guide by Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities has been published. It had lots of input from NVFF and other families, and is being sent far and wide to help families plan for the longer-term future.</p>
	<p>NVFF took part in an event held by NHS England, about how to improve services for people with learning disabilities. Lots of useful information and experiences were exchanged.</p>
	<p>Contact a Family have asked to link with our North East members about Person-centred Transition Reviews for young people. A number of family leadership courses are taking place around the country, due to the demand by families for better information and planning.</p>

	<h2>Issues that families are worried about</h2>
	<p>Changes and cuts are happening very quickly, and all at once. There seems to be less understanding about people with learning disabilities – especially in services that are being called “generic” or “universal”.</p> <p>This all feels like total chaos for families and the impact on family carers trying to cover for cuts in support is immensely stressful.</p>
	<p>People with mild to moderate needs are having their support cut completely, and many individuals and their families feel stranded and are going into crisis.</p> <p>Putting things right again takes a long time and costs a lot more in the long term than the savings made by cutting support packages.</p>
	<p>Learning from Winterbourne View is still important, but we need to focus on the wider issues as well, to reduce or prevent the need for people to go into assessment and treatment units.</p>