



Learning Disability Coalition

Media Release - For immediate release

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Contact: Jaine Barry, 020 7696 5603, jaine.barry@mencap.org.uk

Learning Disability Coalition calls on government to provide same funding for adults with a learning disability as children, in Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Learning Disability Coalition (LDC), a group of ten learning disability charities, is calling on the government to make the same extra investment in funding services for adults as it recently did for children with a learning disability (£340 million.)

The LDC is asking the Treasury to see the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) as an opportunity to invest greater funds into services for adults with a learning disability, to ensure there is a seamless transition of care throughout people's lives.

Dame Jo Williams, chief executive of Mencap and co- Chair of the Learning Disability Coalition, said:

"The additional funding should be regarded as a down payment to meet the growing demand for services. It is estimated that there will be at least an 11 per cent increase in the number of people with a learning disability between 2001 and 2021. And those over 60 are likely to increase by 36 per cent. We must make sure that there are enough resources to support these people, giving them and their families the quality of life they deserve."

The Learning Disability Coalition recommends that, by the next CSR, Government should carry out a thorough evaluation of demographic, economic, health and social trends and their impact on the resource requirements of people with learning disabilities.

Barbara McIntosh, co Director of the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities commented: "The truth is that the Government just does not have sound data on which to estimate accurate public expenditure for services for adults with a learning disability"

At least 80 per cent of people with a learning disability in the UK do not get services tailored to meet their needs. That figure will get worse as current cuts to services start to bite.

Carol Boys of the Downs Syndrome Association said "We are experiencing a dramatic increase in the cries for help from people with Downs Syndrome, and their families. Lack of day time activities will lead to mental health problems and early dementia. In the long term, this will put a far greater burden on the public purse."

Ivan Lewis, Care Services Minister, announced in May, that the government would be refreshing its 2001 Valuing People report. The LDC welcomes this move. It says that the



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review should tackle the need for more accurate information on which to base public expenditure decisions affecting people with a learning disability. Without this they will never have the same chances and choices as everyone else. *Ends*

Notes to editors

- To arrange interviews please contact: Jaine Barry, Mencap Press Officer, on: 0207 696 5603 or jainebarry@mencap.org.uk
- The Learning Disability Coalition is campaigning to make sure that there is sufficient public funding to enable people with a learning disability to have the same chances and choices as everyone else.
- For more information visit www.learningdisabilitycoalition.org.uk
- The Learning Disability Coalition has 10 member organisations: Association for Real Change, British Institute of Learning Disabilities, Down's Syndrome Association, Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities, Mencap, National Forum for People with Learning Disabilities, People First, SENSE, Turning Point and United Response.
- 1.5 million people in the UK have a learning disability. A learning disability is not an illness and is sometimes called a learning difficulty, intellectual impairment or intellectual disability. People usually have a learning disability from birth or sometimes from early childhood. Although it is a permanent condition, people with a learning disability can and do learn and develop with the right sorts of support from other people.