

## REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

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The Committee met on 26 March 2009.

Attendances: Councillor Gubby (Chairman)

Councillors Forster, Mrs Tidy, Tunwell, Webb and Woodall

Janet Colvert – Chair of LINK Interim Core Group

### 1 Scrutiny Review of Employment Opportunities for People with a Learning Disability

1.1 The Committee has completed its Scrutiny Review of Employment Opportunities for People with a Learning Disability. The full report has been previously circulated to all members and copies are also available on request from Mary Clarke, telephone 01273 481587.

1.2 The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee established a Scrutiny Review Board, comprising Councillor Tunwell (Chairman), Councillor Forster and Councillor Webb to undertake a Scrutiny Review of employment opportunities for adults with a learning disability with the following scope:

*Consider how best East Sussex County Council can engage with local employers (including voluntary and community organisations) to promote and develop employment opportunities (both paid and voluntary) for adults with a learning disability.*

1.3 During the review the Board:

- Assessed which barriers local employers faced when developing employment opportunities for adults with a learning disability.
- Considered work already being carried out to develop and support employment opportunities by East Sussex County Council and other support agencies.
- Learnt from examples of best practice from employers providing employment opportunities.
- Considered how best East Sussex County Council could support local employers to overcome barriers and develop employment opportunities for adults with a learning disability.

1.4 The Committee **recommends** to the County Council that –

☆ In partnership with local colleges and clients with learning disabilities, a promotional video is developed to illustrate the positive impact that employment opportunities can bring for a person with learning disability, as well as the positive impact it can have for a company and its staff. This video should then be distributed to local employers to promote employment opportunities for adults with a learning disability.

☆ The Directly Provided LD Service develops a range of literature aimed at parents and carers to explain:

- the employment opportunity services run by East Sussex County Council;
- the positive impact that employment opportunities can have for adults with learning

disabilities; and

- how benefit entitlement can be managed alongside employment opportunities.

- ☆ The Directly Provided LD Service publicises its work in supporting clients with a learning disability to gain employment opportunities by:
  - a) Using news stories on the internet and in the local press to help promote the service and to highlight the range of employment opportunities that clients with a learning disability carry out;
  - b) Developing a scheme that recognises and highlights those employers who have a good record for employing staff with a learning disability; and
  - c) Promoting the work of the service to employers through events such as the Local Life show held in Eastbourne to help generate interest to offer employment opportunities.
- ☆ Adult Social Care aims to increase the numbers of adults with a learning disability who are supported into employment through a variety of avenues:
  - a) redirecting current resources within Directly Provided LD Services so that there is greater focus on increasing the number of clients with a learning disability that can be supported to gain and maintain employment opportunities;
  - b) improving partnership working with Job Centre Plus, employers and other partners to improve employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities and the support they receive; and
  - c) improving the commissioning of services from the independent and voluntary and community sectors to ensure provision of high quality services that are in line with the Valuing People Now and Putting People First objectives.
- ☆ The Directly Provided LD Service identifies funding for the co-ordinator post and appoints to this post as soon as possible. This will help create better links and improve efficiencies between the Learning Disability teams based in Hastings, Eastbourne and Wealden, as well as increase contact with the broader community to develop employment opportunities.
- ☆ The Directly Provided LD Service amalgamates the ChoicES and Working Wonders employment services under one name. This will help eliminate any confusion around having two differently named teams providing the same service and will help with publicising the service in the future.
- ☆ East Sussex County Council increases the number of employees with learning disabilities that it employs.

*[See also report of the Cabinet, paragraph 2, page 18]*

GRAHAM GUBBY  
Chairman

26 March 2009