

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

### Progress and Challenges

Q.1 Do the findings of the evaluation broadly reflect your views about services for people with learning disabilities/carer?

Yes  No

Please provide any comments, evidence and/or examples here

But I would say like, as one who was interviewed by SEND:

My overall view is that things did get better for people with learning disabilities and their families for several years after the same as you? Was participation and some at least. Of these improvements were probably due to the same as you? However, over the past 2 or 3 years things have moved backwards, largely due to the cuts in public finances and they seem likely to get worse. In some areas jobs are likely to be worse off than we were in 2000.

Q.2 Can you give examples, either locally or nationally, of what you think has worked well over the last 10 years of The same as you?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

The establishment of SEND (again I would say that, wouldn't I!) This has led to greater public awareness of learning disability, more people with learning disabilities and carers being able to speak up for themselves, more accessible information and through the eSAY project, a more comprehensive and reliable database concerning all aspects of learning disability. Local area coordinators have in places, made a big difference to people with learning disabilities and their families. Long-stay hospitals have closed. This has in general though not always led to improvements in the lives of families in need. The down-side has been fewer places for living in the community for people who don't live in hospital.

**Q. 3 Can you give examples of issues in current work and/or policies that still need to be addressed?**

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

More opportunities for meaningful daytime activities are needed - especially! These should include paid employment, voluntary jobs & further education. The closure of day centres has gone too far and replacements for the services they provided are sorely needed.

More opportunities for more independent living in the community are desperately needed - and not just single tenancies with inadequate support. The education of many children with special needs in mainstream schools leaves much to be desired, largely because of lack of resources, particularly properly trained teachers.

#### Good Practice - Organisations

**Q. 4 Can you provide examples of what you have done over the last 10 years, within your organisation, to improve services and access to services within your local area?**

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

As a trustee of Scy I have tried to ensure that it fulfils the role for which it was set up.  
As a member and former trustee of Enable Scotland I have tried to make sure that it continues to work well and for people with learning disabilities and their families



### Good Practice - Individuals

Q.5 What have you done, as an individual, to make positive changes within your local area?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

As Chairman of the Edinburgh Branch of I CAN I have tried to ensure that our members know what services are available - partly through sharing our premises with FARR, partly through participating in the National Review of services for people with learning disabilities, partly through organising members' information exchange meetings.

### Future Priorities - Healthcare

Q.6 What still needs to be done to ensure that people with learning disabilities have access to better and more appropriate healthcare?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

Continue to improve the training of doctors and nurses.

Increase the number of learning disability nurses in hospitals.

Increase the number of speech and language therapists in post (there are, apparently, significant numbers who are unemployed).

As an example of excellent practice I would like to mention the Intensive Care Unit of the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh.



### Future Priorities – Employment

**Q.9** What still needs to be done to ensure that people with learning disabilities have access to better employment opportunities?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

Jobs, jobs, jobs. But this involves growth in the economy and, almost certainly, a change in UK government.  
In the meantime the attention of Health Boards and local Authorities should be drawn to Recommendation 16 of "The same as you?". A great deal still needs to be done in this area.

### Future Priorities

**Q.10** What other future priorities do we need to focus on?  
(Please list these in order of importance with the most important first)

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

The particular needs of older carers.  
Hate crime.