



# Getting A Life

Transition and life chances for young people with learning disabilities

NDTi Big Inclusion Event 19 Nov 2009



# Why things have to change

We have talked to young people with learning disabilities and their families around the country, and we know that they face barriers to getting a job and getting the life that they want. These barriers include:

- **Low expectations** from people who work with learning disabled young people
- **Complicated assessment and funding systems** that young people and their families have to navigate in order to get equal life chances
- Lack of **employment focus** in transition planning
- Need for all **agencies to take responsibility** for getting young people into employment and work together better
- Need for **system change**, with a change to focus on what young people *want* to do and *can* contribute

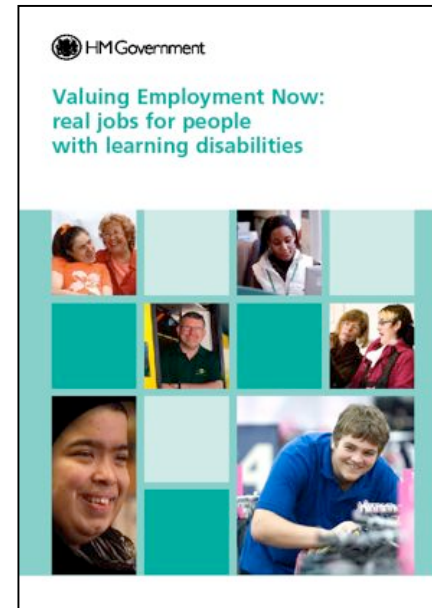


# Background

The Getting a Life programme was set up in 2007 to address the problems facing young people, in particular around getting paid employment.

Getting a Life is now part of the government's Valuing Employment Now strategy. The aim of this strategy is to get more people with learning disabilities into employment.

One of the key areas of the strategy is to grow the presumption of employability. Getting a Life is showing how agencies in local areas can work together so that young people move from school or college into paid employment.



# Our aims for Getting a Life

We want **young people** in the Getting a Life programme to:

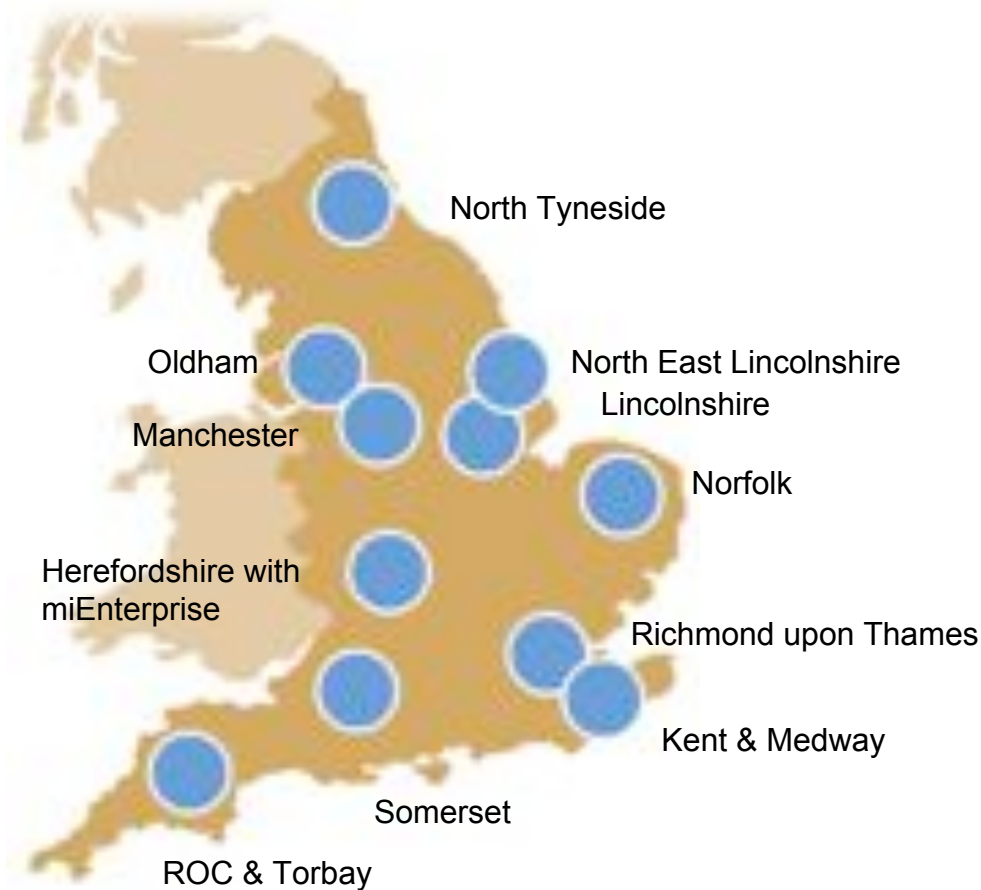
- leave school or college and go into paid employment
- know what is possible and have support to plan for their future housing
- have choice and control over their lives, and equal opportunities
- have friends, relationships and social lives and be part of their communities

We want **local, regional and national systems** to have:

- Developed models of best practice
- Learnt what needs to change and started to change it
- Shared good practice



# Making it happen – sites



## Demonstration Sites

We are working with twelve areas around the country. Each site is working with around 30 young people to:

- ✓ Test out ways of overcoming the problems that young people face
- ✓ Develop a pathway into employment that works
- ✓ Give young people the chance to get a job and to tell everyone their success stories



# Making it happen - development

- Each Getting a Life site has a **leadership programme** so that young people and their families can share what is positive and possible around employment.
- Sites are looking at different ways of working to develop **evidence-based pathways to employment** and enable young people to get the life they want.
- Each site is using **person-centred planning**, reviewing and assessment to focus on young people's route to employment
- Lessons learnt from person centred reviews feed into **strategic plans** for each region to create system-wide change



# Making it happen - materials

We are developing a suite of materials to support multi-agency teams in local areas to implement a pathway into employment.

- A **model pathway into employment** and an easy-read book showing one young person's story
- **Support planning tools** including person-centred transition planning, customised supported employment and personalisation
- A **self-assessment tool** to help groups of people from different agencies can see how well they are helping people to get paid work - and to work out how they can improve
- A **person-centred framework for assessment**, to make sure that all assessments contribute to a young person's person-centred transition plan



# Making it happen – next steps

## The challenge

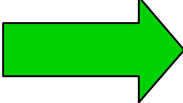
The 16+ system doesn't work for young people with learning disabilities. People often do "two sixth-forms" – one at school and one at college.

Capacity and skills are needed to offer customised supported employment. Funding streams are difficult to access.

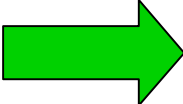
Jobs need to be at the centre of personalisation.

Some schools still don't work with their partners to make sure that all young people get good person-centred transition planning.

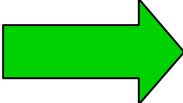
## What we are doing



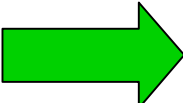
Talking with the Learning and Skills Council.



Working with the Department of Work and Pensions



Working with the Personalisation team and the Children's Individual Budget steering group.



We are working with the Transition Support Programme on this.

# Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact us.

## Getting a Life Programme Managers:



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