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PRESS RELEASE

Community Lives – new training launched for organisations supporting people with learning disabilities to get the lives they want

NDTi is launching Community Lives, an evidence and experience based training programme designed for organisations and groups supporting people with learning disabilities. Community Lives training will help staff to learn new ways of supporting people (including people with complex needs) to lead 'ordinary lives' outside the boundaries of traditional services. By making the most of opportunities and resources in their communities, people will enjoy better lives whilst their support providers also achieve better value for money in these tough financial times

The training is flexible, high quality and very cost effective. One and four day courses are available – or NDTi can tailor-make courses to organisations' exact requirements. Mixed groups of up to 30 people can take part including people with learning disabilities, staff supporting them, carers and family members. Community Lives helps people to develop their own skills and knowledge, understand what community inclusion really means and how supporting it helps organisations to be more person centred.

Jo Seddon, who leads Community Lives, said:

'This training is energetic and action based. It can change both lives and services as well as making progress with policies like Valuing People Now and The Big Society.'

Bill Love, Head of the Learning Disability Programme at NDTi, said:

'In developing Community Lives, we've combined our experience of supporting positive change for people with learning disabilities, with the learning from delivering Community Inclusion training to thousands of people in order to offer training that will really make a difference.'

More information on Community Lives can be found on the NDTi website at the following link:

http://www.ndti.org.uk/uploads/files/Community_Lives_Leaflet_v7.pdf

To find out more, contact:-

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Notes to editors about Community Lives Training and information about NDTi

Community Lives Training

- Designed by NDTi for organisations and groups that support people with learning disabilities, available as a one day, four day or tailor made course.
- Help to develop skills, knowledge and ways of supporting people with learning disabilities to lead more ordinary lives in their communities, doing more of the things which non-disabled people do.
- Suitable for a wide mix of people: front line staff and managers; people with learning disabilities and their families; carers and people from a range of organisations and groups in the community.
- Inspires people to make a real difference, become more person centred and make progress towards policies like Valuing People Now and The Big Society.

NDTi

- NDTi is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes inclusion and equality for people who are at risk of exclusion from any part of society – and who may need support to lead a full life. Formed in April 2009 by the integration of the National Development Team and the Older People's Programme, NDTi's main work is centred on issues around age, disability and health.
- Examples of the organisations that the NDTi is currently working with include:
 - Department of Health
 - Department for Education
 - Office for Disability Issues
 - Valuing People Support Team
 - National Mental Health Development Unit
 - Joseph Rowntree Foundation
 - National Skills Academy for Social Care
 - Atlantic Philanthropies, Northern Ireland
 - Numerous local authorities, NHS and third sector organisations
- Other examples of the recent and current NDTi work include:
 - Developing good practice advice in delivering the personalisation agenda for the mental health and older people's fields (for the DH)
 - Evaluating POPP pilot authorities
 - Developing an Age Discrimination toolkit for the NHS and local government on behalf of the Department of Health
 - Evaluating the Government's Short Breaks for Disabled Children initiative
 - Facilitating a national programme of learning events for the DH on the transition to adulthood for young people with learning disabilities



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