

# **NICOLA SMITH**

## **CO-NATIONAL DIRECTOR: LEARNING DISABILITIES**



# **Working Together as National Directors**

*Office of the National Director: Learning Disabilities*

# About Myself



I have been a member of the National Forum of People With Learning Disabilities.



I have worked with Mencap.



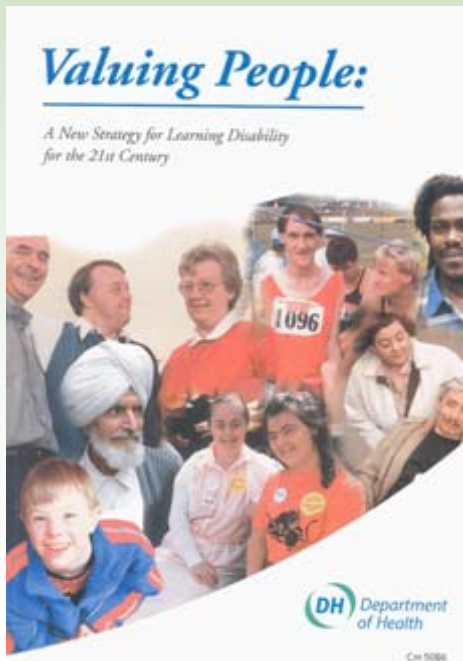
I have set up and run a self advocacy group in my local area.

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# About My Role



I work with Rob Greig to advise the Government on ways to help people with learning disabilities.



We work with a team in our Office to make sure that **Valuing People** happens.

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# How we Work Together



We have different things that we are good at  
I use my experiences when talking with people with learning disabilities and with professionals



Rob is good with all the long papers and jargon!

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# How we Work Together

We meet up regularly so we know what each other is doing

We are not joined at the hip

It is important I have the right support – from the office and when I am out and about

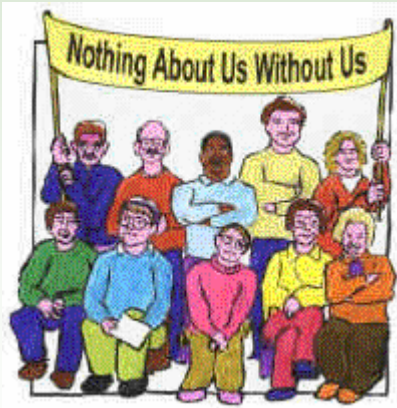


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# Why It Is Important I Do This Job



To show that people with learning disabilities can do important jobs



To make sure that people with learning disabilities have a voice and are listened to

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# My Work Priorities Are:



Building relationships with the self-advocacy movement



NHS Campus Closure



Support for family carers

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# Rob's Big Work Priorities Are:



Getting the NHS to work better for people with learning disabilities



Jobs and employment



Adult education

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# We Also Chair the Task Force

## The Learning Disability Task Force

This is chaired by myself and Rob Greig. We meet 4 times a year to work on the main challenges faced by people with learning disabilities. In March we will work on Hate Crime.



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# Telling People What We Are Doing

We are thinking about how we can let more people know about what we are doing.



We are setting up a website.

I will be starting a newsletter for self-advocacy organisations

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We know we must keep listening to people with learning disabilities, carers and advocates...



and others working in public services and the voluntary sector...

if our work is going to make a difference.

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# **NICOLA SMITH**

## **CO-NATIONAL DIRECTOR: LEARNING DISABILITIES**

**Tel: 0117 984 1799**

**Email: [Nicola.smith@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.smith@dh.gsi.gov.uk)**

# **Thank you for listening**

*Some of the graphics in this presentation are by Pen Mendonca. They are only for the use of the Learning Disability Task Force ([penmendonca@btinternet.com](mailto:penmendonca@btinternet.com)).*

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