



# National Social Inclusion Programme Third annual update

**Welcome** The National Social Inclusion Programme (NSIP) was created in 2004 to co-ordinate the 27 sets of actions of the Social Exclusion and Mental Health report produced by the Social Exclusion Unit (SEU). Much progress has been made within this time, with the majority of these actions having been implemented at national level and with significant action at regional level in place to secure consequent local change.

There has been a range of successes in first two years.

A few examples are:

- Publication of three commissioning guidance documents on Day Services, Vocational Rehabilitation and Direct Payments
- Abolition of hospital benefit down-rating
- Production of mental health specific briefing documents on housing
- NIACE regional partnerships on education in all nine regions
- Capabilities for professionals to support inclusive outcomes in their work.

# What are we continuing to work on from 2004?

## **Implementation of the SEU report continues through the Community Participation work stream:**

**Housing** There has been much activity within this project. We have expanded the housing pages on our website to include a substantial range of housing and social inclusion issues, which can be discussed through a new multi-layered forum. We worked with the Cabinet Office on the recently announced Public Service Agreement (PSA) 16 and continue to work in partnership with colleagues across government and the regional development centres of NIMHE/CSIP to ensure that the PSA drives change at local level.

**Arts** Our Arts project has seen the launch of the report of the 'Arts, Mental Health and Social Inclusion' research study at Tate Modern this autumn. This has been followed by the development of a partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Tate, Victoria & Albert, The Wallace Collection and the Museums Archives and Libraries Association. The partnership will work with museums, galleries, community and other arts organisations, supporting people to take up arts related activities in more mainstream settings and to engage in volunteering, education, training and employment in this sector. A training programme for people working in museums,

galleries and libraries on mental health and social inclusion is being developed. This will be circulated by the Museum Archives and Libraries Association to every museum and library in the UK. More recently, we have established a partnership to undertake a similar programme of work with performing arts organisations; Southbank Centre, National Theatre, National Arts Council. A range of regional arts organisations is also involved in this initiative.

**Day services** Regular e-bulletins are sent to our network of over 500 providers and commissioners to support and steer the modernisation process. We led a national review to assess and monitor the re-design of services and published outcome measures for socially inclusive day services to enable commissioners to engage with this process. We have also produced a DVD case study to highlight key processes in recommissioning services.

**Families and Young people** This project has continued to influence the developing policy agenda on improving support for parents and young carers. A review of how mental health services can best promote family contact when a parent is in hospital has been produced in partnership with the Department of Health (DH), Mental Health Act Commission, Barnardos and the Family Welfare Association.

**Direct payments** Over the last year, we have undertaken much activity to promote progress on the uptake of direct payments especially in the context of the broader policy agenda of personalisation. We have been involved in training and development activity at over 50 training events with people who use mental health services, carers, mental health workers (statutory and voluntary sector), Direct Payments support staff, commissioners and managers. There is also continuing work with user-led and disabled people's organisations and with the *Increasing the uptake of direct payments* project within the DH.

**Shift** In the last year NSIP has strengthened its partnership with *Shift* through work with our joint Expert Advisors and on the Reaching Out Action Plan, with Action on Stigma to address the barriers to employment experienced by people with mental health problems. The expert advisors have helped to strengthen the involvement of people who use services within the programme by broadening the focus of the existing group to encompass all areas of the programme (previously concentrated on employment/income and benefits). We have also worked together on developing good practice particularly on the modernisation of day services.

# What's new?

NSIP is working closely with Cabinet Office and regional stakeholders to ensure that the recently announced Public Service Agreements on socially excluded adults (in relation specifically to employment and housing) are embedded within local structures and are serving to strengthen regional and local activity in these areas.

**Collaboration with the Social Exclusion Task Force on the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report, 'Reaching Out: An Action Plan to Tackle Social Exclusion': Here we have driven the creation of regional employment partnerships, built on the Vocational Rehabilitation commissioning guidance and linked this to the work of both the NIACE regional partnerships on education and the Income and Benefits project. The resulting work stream – Employment, Learning and Skills is now core to our programme's activity.**

In line with the promotion of a more 'joined-up' and strategic approach to mental health and employment, NSIP has worked to engage colleagues from a broad range of government departments on this agenda. This has resulted in us setting up a cross government group, with the backing of Ministers to ensure a consistent and coherent approach.

**Other work includes a joint venture with the College of Occupational Therapists to ensure that all 30,000 Occupational Therapists have access to relevant advice and guidance to enable them to meet their client's vocational needs. We continue to maintain our commitment to partnership and collaborative working; our relationships with key stakeholders are an invaluable part of our success.**

In the coming year several products are under development, including a training pack aimed at job-brokering advisors to enable them to be more confident in working with both people with mental health problems and employers.

**The Education networks comprises some 1400 members with representation from the learning and skills sector (28%), health and social care sector (18.8%) and the voluntary and community sector (23%).**

'The Really Useful Book of Learning and Earning' has been successfully received with a circulation of 65,000 copies. A second edition is currently being produced, with a waiting list of 30,000 copies.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the NIACE/NIMHE/LSC partnership programme has been positive with the national and regional partnerships building capacity, raising achievement and improving quality.

**Whilst continuing to build on the strong links with the employment agenda, the education networks will continue to influence learning and skills policy and in particular will look at young people with mental health needs, people in secure and forensic settings and also link to the Department of Health led initiative on healthy colleges.**

NSIP have produced a DVD for the Local Government annual conference and TV channel to raise awareness of the programme and focus on the impact of socially inclusive opportunities, specifically in the Arts.

**We have commissioned the Community Development Foundation to look at the ways in which local community development projects and workers might link more effectively to mental health provision and this will be published in the coming year.**

# Building the evidence and embedding change

**Evidence and innovation** The Evidence and Innovation work stream is key to developing and measuring the impact of social inclusion policy implementation. The research network has supported the development of effective research approaches to inclusion and the move towards evaluating progress in key areas. This work stream also has a focus on workforce development, both in developing capacity within the health and social care workforce and in commissioning and developing effective local leadership for social inclusion. The Leadership work with mental health trusts has continued, and is highly valued by those involved.

**Strategic network** In partnership with SCIE, we have established a strategic network for Social Care leads in Trusts and created a commissioning network to develop socially inclusive outcomes. Specific work is being undertaken in the Eastern region with the Regional Development Centre and Strategic Health Authority to support local Primary Care Trusts with outcomes development.

**Collaboration** Following collaboration with a range of professional bodies, the 'Capabilities for Inclusive Practice' document was published in August. This was developed for specialist mental health trust

staff but is also relevant to other fields. To enhance the local application of these capabilities, NSIP has commissioned two tools: one to look at supporting staff and the second to assess local services through the leadership of service users. In partnership with the Mental Health Foundation, a project to build capacity within voluntary sector staff in Northamptonshire is underway using the inclusive practice capabilities as the framework.

## The way forward

Our key challenge is to sustain progress and make more of it in the year ahead. We will do this through our work with regional teams on employment, learning and skills and we have secure funding to do this work.

Equally, it will be important to work in the other domains of community life to which there are still major barriers. We will seek to challenge those barriers and in the process, to contribute to reducing the discrimination that they cause. We will do this by optimising shared learning and innovation – building further the evidence base for inclusion in practical ways and by working

with our partners in support of real change at all levels in services and beyond, taking particular account of new regional and local organisations and the opportunities that they represent.

The future will be about personalisation and community. We will seek to use our collective skills and experience to promote inclusion in this policy context and, in doing so, make our contribution to the development of that policy.

We are well positioned in this respect. Our track record is good. We have added value in many ways to the work of our many partners, attracting resources and focusing effort. There is much more work to do

and we have the profile and infrastructure to do it.

Thank you to all our friends, affiliates and partners for enabling NSIP to achieve some important shared goals. With continuing commitment from NIMHE to the inclusion agenda – and with your support, we will go forward in the year ahead, driving inclusive outcomes; building capacity; advancing further the changes that lead to people having more inclusive lives.

**David Morris**  
Programme Director

You can find further information on all of the initiatives mentioned above at: [www.socialinclusion.org.uk](http://www.socialinclusion.org.uk)

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