Adults with Learning Difficulties in England 2003/4

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We have decided to use 'learning difficulties' rather than 'learning disabilities' because these are the words that the people themselves said they prefer. It was used throughout the research. In this report we talk about 'people with learning difficulties', meaning people who since they were a child had a real difficulty in learning many things. We do not mean people who just have a specific difficulty in learning, for example, people who only have difficulty with reading which is sometimes called dyslexia.
In 2001 the Government published a White Paper called *Valuing People*. In it the Government said that it would help people with learning disabilities ‘to live full and independent lives as part of their local communities’.

In 2005 the Government published a paper called *Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People*. In it the Government said that ‘By 2025, disabled people in Britain …. will be respected and included as equal members of society.’

The Government also said in *Valuing People* that they would carry out a survey ‘about the lives of people with learning disabilities and their families’. It would be the first time a national survey of adults with learning disabilities in England had been done.

This is the report of that survey.

It tells us how much more needs to be done if people with Learning Difficulties are to be more included and have a better life.