
LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY 2012-2015

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consult members of the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee on the draft Learning Disability Strategy 2012–2015.

Summary

2. The draft strategy has been developed in partnership with County Durham and Darlington NHS and looks to both identify a common framework under which specialist commissioning for children, young people and adults with a learning disability and their families and carers will take place and a model for supporting people to get the support they need through their own resources and universal services. . The strategy identifies 11 broad outcomes which were developed through the Children and Young Peoples Plan and the Valuing People Partnership Board. These will be delivered through a range of emerging action plans.
3. The strategy looks at what and how the Council and Primary Care Trust will undertake to support the delivery of these outcomes. However it is clear that the two agencies alone are not solely responsible for meeting the needs of this group of people.
4. The strategy proposes a model of partnership that begins with the individual and their current support system, both personal and from the community, and then looks to identify what role Social Care and Health Service can play in supporting people meet their needs.

Recommendation

5. It is recommended that the Committee consider the strategy and feedback their comments into the consultation process.

Murray Rose
Director of People

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no direct implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report will address the health and wellbeing of children, young people and adults with a learning disability and their family carers.
Carbon Impact	There are no direct issues relating to Carbon impact.
Diversity	The strategy supports the move to a more individualised response to diversity
Wards Affected	This report impacts on residents with learning disability within all Wards of Darlington,
Groups Affected	This report impacts on adults with a learning disability, their family and carers
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend any changes to the Council's Budget or Policy Framework
Key Decision	This is a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This links to all of the outcomes of One Darlington: Perfectly Placed
Efficiency	This report incorporates some of the efficiency savings identified in the MTFP

MAIN REPORT

Background

6. This is the first multi-agency, all age strategy for children, young people and adults with a learning disability and their family and carers. A key outcome of the draft strategy is to ensure some commissioning consistency across Services for People and Durham and Darlington NHS. The strategy is built around the delivery of 11 broad outcomes developed through both the Children and Young Peoples Plan and with the Valuing People Partnership Board.
- (a) People with a learning disability will have real choice and control over the health and social care support they receive.
 - (b) Young people with a learning disability will get the support they need to move into adulthood.
 - (c) Professionals, and carers will work together to make sure that carers can continue to support the person they care for, while also having a life beyond their caring role.
 - (d) More people with a learning disability in Darlington will have a paid job.
 - (e) People with a learning disability in Darlington will receive the support they need to keep physically and emotionally healthy.
 - (f) People with a learning disability will have choice about where and with whom they live.

- (g) People with a learning disability are living their lives within their own community making use of universal services to meet their social care and health needs.
- (h) People will experience the health and social care support they receive as joined up and seamless.
- (i) The Local Authority and National Health Service will work together to make sure that any local resources are used most effectively and offer value for money.
- (j) People with a learning disability will be treated as equal citizens and have the support they need to lead a fulfilling life.
- (k) Work is undertaken with people at an early stage to stop problems from arising or getting worse (early intervention and prevention).

The Strategy

7. The strategy is set out in this way:

- (a) Forward - Sets out a commitment to partnership and whole system approach to meeting the needs of people with a learning disability and their family carers.
- (b) Vision – Sets out a vision for citizenship for Darlington.
- (c) Introduction - Sets out the delivery context for both children and adults services. In relation to adult services it spells out that there is still some way to go to ensure that people with a learning disability are participating as equal citizens.
- (d) Strategic Context - Sets out the commitment and links to the Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes.
- (e) Outcomes for Darlington – Sets out 11 key outcomes for people with a learning disability and the families and carers, and offers a range of actions that can meet them.
- (f) Needs Assessment - Identifies some statistical information and looks to ensure effective contribution to and use of the Strategic Needs Assessment.
- (g) Partnership - Reinforces that the outcomes in the strategy will only be delivered through effective partnership
- (h) Resources – Sets out the current direct spend on people with a learning disability at approximately £10 million per annum and sets out briefly the economic context.
- (i) A word about Autism – Sets out the Councils commitment to support people with Autism.
- (j) Safeguarding – Reinforces the importance of ensuring that those people who need it are safeguarded.
- (k) Why are we doing this? – Sets out the wider personalisation agenda in relation to four main themes, those of:-
 - (i) Increasing individual choice and control.

- (ii) Supporting access to and use of universal services
- (iii) Development of and increasing use of social capital
- (iv) Support for prevention and early intervention.

- (l) Next Steps. – Sets out a delivery plan to begin to address the outcomes identified within the strategy

Consultation

- 8. The 11 key outcomes were developed through two main sources, directly from the Children and Young Peoples Plan and by the Valuing People Partnership Board. The Board used the framework of “Valuing People Now”, the updated White Paper, as a template to develop the outcomes for Darlington for adults and young people in transition. A range of other key stakeholders have contributed to the development of the strategy including carers, the learning disability people’s parliament and local service providers.
- 9. A Disability Equality Impact Assessment has been started on the overall strategy. This has been shared with the Disability Equality Impact Assessment Steering Group. More detailed impact assessments will be required on the agreed actions to deliver on the outcomes.
- 10. An easy read version of the strategy has been developed.
- 11. A very early version of the strategy has been shared with the Joint Strategic Commissioning Group and they agreed the general direction of travel. The draft before the Committee today is on the agenda for future discussion.
- 12. The strategy has been presented to and been commented on by the Children and Young Peoples Provider Forum and they welcomed the general direction of travel.
- 13. The Learning Disability Peoples Parliament have made some initial comments on the draft and are again in support of the general direction of travel, however some anxiety about the impacts of some of the actions proposed to deliver these outcomes.
- 14. A draft consultation plan has been developed (**attached as Appendix 2**)

Comment

- 15. The focus on delivering key outcomes allows the Local Authority and its strategic partners some flexibility in how it utilises its resources.
- 16. The outcomes have been developed with key stakeholders, notably people with learning disability and their families and carers.
- 17. The draft strategy identifies the priorities for children, young people and adults with a learning disability and their families and carers for the next three years and is in line with the Council’s wider commissioning intentions.
- 18. The strategy makes clear that it is not solely the responsibility of the Council or Primary care Trust to meet these outcomes. The outcomes have been identified and this strategy looks at what contribution the two organisations can make to deliver the outcomes.

Risks

19. At recent consultation events and previous cabinet meetings there has been some lengthy discussion about existing in-house services for adults with learning disability, particularly day services. A programme is currently in place that has resulted in 4 of the 10 services being closed. Phase two of this programme will include a review of the existing services and some assessment undertaken in relation to the future viability of each of the services. The recommendations from this process will be presented to Cabinet.
20. This review will include quality, value for money and the future financial sustainability of each service.
21. This draft strategy includes within it an action to review these services in relation to Increasing individual choice and control. However the theme of alternatives to traditional day services is within a whole range of the other outcomes. For example people living their lives within their own community accessing universal services.
22. To support the future direction of day opportunities, adult social care have held two recent market events for users and carers at which over 40 local providers talked to users and carers about the services and support they offer and what the costs would be.
23. The future review of in house services will be a feature of the consultation on the draft strategy.
24. At a recent Outcome Based Accountability session with carers about the in-house short break service, carers were very clear that what they wanted was the right kind of support. They were clear that for them there was no issue about who run the service but rather its quality.

Next Steps

25. At the Cabinet meeting on 21st of June 2011 they recommended the development of a Sustainable Learning Disability Strategy.
26. A formal consultation process will be undertaken, (**see attached draft Appendix 2**) it is anticipated that this could be completed within 12 weeks.
27. The draft strategy will also need to be ratified through Durham and Darlington NHS; discussions are taking place with them to establish their sign off process.
28. The draft strategy will be presented to Cabinet in February 2012.
29. A copy of the draft Learning Disability Strategy 2012-2015 is in **Appendix 1**. The Plan will set the new commissioning priorities for children, young people and adults with a learning disability and their family's and carers for 2012-2015.