

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Progress and Challenges

Q.1 Do the findings of the evaluation broadly reflect your views about services for people with learning disabilities/carer?

Yes No

Please provide any comments, evidence and/or examples here

I agree that SAY has prompted positive change.

Q.2 Can you give examples, either locally or nationally, of what you think has worked well over the last 10 years of *The same as you?*

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

I worked with two women who moved from hospital to a shared flat, and saw the positive impact on their lives.

I now work in a day centre, and have seen the improvements to our range of activities which now include community venues.

Q. 3 Can you give examples of issues in current work and/or policies that still need to be addressed?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

I am disappointed at the poor light in which day centres are shown. In the rush to make people "The same as you" it is easy to forget the value that peoples current lives have. Many people whom I worked with were devastated by the loss of their friends when they were handed over to the care of provider organisations. This was not done by choice, but by policy.

Good Practice – Organisations

Q. 4 Can you provide examples of what you have done over the last 10 years, within your organisation, to improve services and access to services within your local area?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

I facilitate a drama group using a Community hall, and have used Community centres for other groups which required more privacy than is available in the Centre - eg anger management.

The Centre also supports people to use sports facilities, as well as Cafés pubs etc - but then we always did - this is not new practice.

Good Practice - Individuals

Q.5 What have you done, as an individual, to make positive changes within your local area?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

Future Priorities - Healthcare

Q.6 What still needs to be done to ensure that people with learning disabilities have access to better and more appropriate healthcare?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

Some medical staff still have old fashioned attitudes, and give treatment which suits carers rather than individuals. I was present as a ^{home} support worker took a call from a GP stating that a woman "should be OK" even though he had not examined her in person. That woman had large blisters cut from her feet as staff had sent her to the day centre before she had fully recovered from previous treatment.

Future Priorities - Education

Q.7 What still needs to be done to ensure that people with learning disabilities have access to better educational opportunities?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

People with learning disabilities should be made aware of which courses are on offer, and asked what they would like to do. In the past the same individuals were given access to repeated college placements. This is now worse, as day centres no longer support people to any courses and many people who use my service have no other option - they now miss out entirely.

Future Priorities - Independent Living

Q.8 What still needs to be done to ensure that people with learning disabilities are able to live independently?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

Funding. So many people who would like to live in supported accommodation are told that "there just isn't the money."

Future Priorities – Employment

Q.9 What still needs to be done to ensure that people with learning disabilities have access to better employment opportunities?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

I have seen a lot of poor examples of employment. Individuals left isolated, doing boring repetitive tasks, not considered part of the staff group. Many people return to the day centre as they are assured of a pleasant day amongst friends. I would like to see "buddies" - ordinary workers who are given training and paid a premium to offer support to a person with learning disabilities who work along side them. Make the people an asset - not a source of frustration.

Future Priorities

Q.10 What other future priorities do we need to focus on? (Please list these in order of importance with the most important first)

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

Ensure that support in the community is held to the high standards expected in day services -
The support has slipped to a point where some support workers are directing which activities their supported person takes part in. The companies they work for encourage this by using people's supposedly private homes as bases where their staff gather in, with the people they support - regardless of those people's wishes.

- also, as far as day centres are concerned improve - do not destroy, as there is a lot of good work being done. Just ask the people who come here.