

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes

No

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 would agree that some aspects of life for adults with a learning disability and their carers have improved. I also agree that adults at the complex/profound end of the spectrum continue to have to fight very hard to get appropriate services.

I would say that although the closing of the institutions was one of the best things to happen for people, there is a great danger of lack of funding producing great problems in the future. By this, I mean, councils going down the route of commissioning the lowest bidders for supporting individuals, therefore people not having appropriate support and adults becoming very unhappy and in some cases exhibiting "challenging" behaviour and at the very worst, adults being abused.

This would also create great stress to the parent/carer.

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

The opportunity for adults to have an independent life through supported accommodation/Care in the Community.

Unfortunately, this is now under threat as funding has been cut to many organisations and therefore the adults who are supported in the community are in danger of not having such a "good life".

There is also the danger that councils will engage with companies who have much lower bids and therefore organisations who may cost a bit more, will now lose the service. Less money means less service and a lowering of standards. The reason for the extra cost is good recruitment, good training and good supervision, good service.

The degree of disability is not really appreciated by commissioners of services and therefore this can cause real difficulties for the organisations who are providing support. I think that commissioners should visit some of the adults supported by organisations, to see that it is a very complex job, which needs to have well trained staff with the right attitudes.

Unfortunately, I continue to see some really poor practice.

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

There is a need for the government to re-visit the Beattie Report (1999). Look again at the approach, which was to be "Inclusiveness" – a belief firmly held that it is the only way to help young people with disabilities reach their potential. **Foreword for Bettie Report** – Quote from Henry McLeish "The key recommendation in the report is that the principle of "Inclusiveness" should underpin all post school guidance, education and training."

This is not happening, further education is denied to adults who have more complex conditions. There is a great need to provide innovative and enjoyable education to post school pupils whatever their ability.

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

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

As a parent carer I have been part of two steering committees to set up social/activities nights for adults with disabilities. One is now closed due to lack of funding. I am currently involved in a parent led pilot to ensure adults in the West Dunbartonshire area are given an opportunity to access 'creative arts'. The committee are looking at extending these opportunities and have linked with a care organisation already working in this area. Parents will continue to work in partnership to continue this work, which has proved beneficial to all.

I have also for the past 30 years been proactive in the area, raising concerns re lack of education after leaving school, lack of equality in health care, lack of day opportunities. I continue to raise these issues. It becomes increasing difficult to continue going to consultation days and completing consultations, as what I have said in this consultation is what has been said for more than 20 years.

Government needs to stop consulting the public and start taking action. They must have over-whelming information about gaps in service and ways of improving life for children and adults with disabilities. Start putting money into more innovative services, not into more research and more consultation. There is a need to have action now – people with disabilities are living their lives now, they can't wait until some magic time in the distant future.

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

A good Doctor/Consultant – someone who has an understanding of learning disability/non-verbal adults. Patience and compassion and a willingness to learn how to communicate non-verbally – this should not be too difficult with the aid of parent, support worker etc.

An ability to really listen to what the parent/support worker is saying.

Respect

Equality - It is not the fault of the adult that they are disabled.

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

- Improved interaction with educationalists.
- Innovation
- When parents ask for further educational opportunities, we do not see this as being done in the traditional way.
- No more cooking programmes
- Councils are funding local colleges to provide further education but what they are providing is not appropriate and a waste of money.

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

Stop cutting budgets for people who are supported in the community
My son has been in his own home for a number of years, very well supported by an organisation whose values and beliefs are similar to my own, however, since hours have been cut for the service, I have seen the impact this has had on my son and also the staff
It is a great pity that people who want to work in this field and have had lots of training feel they have to leave to get more hours and more work. Good support workers are like gold!

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

Change of public attitudes

Improve opportunities – not just bringing in trolleys from the car park!

Realistic education and training

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

Health care – this is the one I am most concerned with as my son has complex medical needs. Please see Q. 6

Day opportunities – My son has never gone to the local Resource Centre, as they could not meet his needs. I had to do some research to find things that were meaningful and enjoyable for him.

Further Education – I would love to see someone taking a real interest in this subject

Thank you for taking the time to read the consultation document and taking the time to respond to the question. Your continued input and support is vital in ensuring that we continue to close the inequality gap that people with a learning disability face daily.

All completed questionnaires should be returned to Sarah Grant either by e-mail or at the address below. The closing date for responses is 30th September 2012.

Sarah Grant
The Scottish Government
Learning Disability Strategy
Adult Care and Support Branch
Room 2ER
St Andrews House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG
Tel: 0131 2444749
Sarah.Grant@scotland.gsi.gov.uk