

## 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

The fact that so many people have moved out of hospital into the community is a positive result, provided there are good community care services in place. Unfortunately there can be wide variations in available services. Some people may wish to live independently but lack the capacity to do so without significant support. I agree with the list of challenges which need to be addressed. Funding is a major concern and should be highlighted.

**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

There have been more consultations, but I have to say that unless better services result from these, people's expectations cannot be fulfilled. There is a better understanding of learning disability now and that is helpful. However, once again, the problem is funding. Too often people have been asked for their "wish list" but there is not enough money available. Services vary throughout the area, too.

**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

Courses in colleges should be planned to help people move on to work if possible. Transition planning has been highlighted, yet there is little suitable employment available. People's expectations are raised, only for them to be dashed when they leave college and realise there may not be paid employment available. I'd like to see more sheltered workshops.

#### 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 am a parent and not part of an organisation.

### 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

I can't claim to have made changes. As a parent I have continued to attend as many meetings as possible to put forward my views that more needs to be done especially for adults with autism. I have also written to various professionals about this.

### 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

My son has autism as well as learning disabilities. He always has to have a support worker with him at medical and dental appointments. He doesn't always notice changes in himself that might be important so I think a regular health-check would be helpful. Do all healthcare professionals have training in how to work with patients who have disabilities?

## 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

There should be regular discussions with people with learning disabilities and autism to ensure that educational opportunities are available to all that wish them. Is lifelong learning something to be developed further?  
As regards educational opportunities they should help to improve people's lives by giving them skills for living and working, not just "passing the time". Leisure opportunities too could be covered by helping people to find ways of occupying their spare time in a positive way.

## 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

I think this will require considerable financial investment in order to provide suitable housing. I should, however, like to point out that choice is important. Not every person wishes to live independently. My don lives in Cheshire House, a nursing home. He can come and go freely, but there are always support staff here to help him in many different ways. He can socialise with other residents, or, if he needs time on his own, he can go into his own flat there. Living alone in the wider community can be lonely for some.

## 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

Often people with learning disabilities and autism find it very difficult to gain paid employment. More sheltered workshops should be set up for those who cannot cope without support. Training courses could be set up in co-operation with local firms. How many people with autism and/or learning disabilities are employed by local and national government, for example?

## 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

Keep listening to people with learning disabilities, their advocates, parents and carers. It is also helpful to know the results of these consultations. People are concerned about cuts in funding and how these may affect them, so it is important to keep them fully informed. People should have choices, but at the same time these must be realistic.