

Progress and Challenges

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

Yes

Please provide any comments, evidence and/or examples here

South Ayrshire's Learning Disability Partnership agreed the findings are reflective of professional's views. It would have been helpful to have had more detail on how services were being provided or sustained in times of austerity. The sample group selected for the purpose of the review was small and we wondered how representative this group was individuals living in a rural setting.

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 move from institutional to community based services has been very positive and has ensured people with Learning Disabilities have been given a voice and real choices. Overall there is evidence of improved quality of life for this group. There has been increased use of Person Centred Planning in developing care package which has encouraged service users and their families to become equal partners in the development and delivery of care. Choice and control will be promoted further with the introduction of Self Directed Support Legislation.

The Same as You? has ensured that partners work jointly in their approach to service delivery. The Partnership recognises the need to make continual improvements. The Learning Disability Health Improvement strategy influenced and improved joint working across agencies and third sector. NHS Ayrshire & Arran are further reviewing services (New Horizons) reconfiguring the work force and strengthening partnerships. Social Work is currently reviewing day opportunity service provision to develop choice

beyond day centres with clear pathways for young people in transition to access training, education and employment, building on the Same as You? recommendations.

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

Further Education and employment Development of learning activities that reflect needs and wants of service users that better equip them for community life including staying safe and developing their life skills with particular emphasis on employment readiness. Use of outcomes to focus support has had a very positive impact on the day support experience for service users and carers. The period of transition from school to adulthood should incorporate a positive clear and transparent process which includes continued learning and assessment process with a clearly defined plan for the future that is reviewed. Supported employment provides benefits both economically and socially and should therefore be a priority for the Scottish Government in a policy framework with ring fenced funding to promote these opportunities.

The Welfare Reform is beginning to impact on people with disabilities, training is being delivered to staff to ensure they are equipped to maximise benefits and provide advice and guidance to those who may lose benefits. Another consideration is the impact of loss of ILF and the resultant shortfall in funding for care provision.

Community wards –development of approaches that ensures that vulnerable individuals with very complex needs are cared for safely at home particularly during periods of crisis There is a need to have stronger alignment of health and social care resources building on partnerships and integration. The next stage will be to develop policy initiatives and evaluate their impact and further develop the interface of general health services, special health services and personalisation.

The role out of self directed support and promoting positive risk taking to ensure people have choice and control in relation to how they want to live and be supported whilst ensuring Adult Support and Protection concerns are highlighted and dealt with quickly and appropriately.

carer's strategy Supporting carers to continue to care by assessing their needs, maximising income and providing appropriate services

Isolation and loneliness. Developing better access to and encouraging the use of universal services whilst creating opportunities for adults to socialise with their peers.

Developing clear transition through a person's life at key points to age appropriate services. This should be adopted in the assessment for care/ support process. People should access resources on a needs led basis as they do now when transitioning from school to adulthood. There needs to be clear transition pathways for older people.

Resources Improving the way in which we commission services to ensure they provide best value whilst ensuring quality of care.

Autism Strategy Joint approach with East and North Ayrshire to develop a one stop shop for access to services.

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

Day Opportunities Services have moved away from the traditional inward looking day centre approach to adopting a more focussed person centred service that looks to provide then individual with opportunities to pursue lifelong learning and employment skills development.

Assessing risk and managing challenging behaviour in a partnership across statutory and third sector better commissioning and a focus on risk enablement with robust risk management plans and protocols being developed.

The promotion of Healthy Lifestyles and effective use of funding streams from Scottish Government around health inequality and improvement. The development of a robust Health Improvement Strategy that has ensured advice, guidance and support is readily available and there is a focus on wellbeing and prevention.

Respite options have developed from traditional respite care to a range of services on offer from short breaks or respite at home to caravan holidays and short stays in other locations e.g. city breaks or holiday destinations.

Co-location of Health and Social Work staff which has promoted good working relationships and joint working approaches and a person centred planning approach towards service delivery.

Use of legislation to ensure individuals are safeguarded in a way that ensure minimal intervention and benefit to the person.

Bridge To Vision service for those with visual impairment or conditions that

may impact on vision. Assessment and intervention has dramatically impacted on individual's ability to remain as independent as possible and has had a positive effect on challenging behaviour.

Liaison Nurses who link with the acute hospital to plan for admission to hospital to ensure advice, guidance and training is provided to enable staff to manage the care of adults with learning disabilities.

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

N/A

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

L.D. Health Care Strategy – flexible implementation taking into consideration broad policy initiatives SDS/ personalisation, alignment of resources and workforce.

Understanding better, the needs of the population and innovating across agencies, focusing on strengths, capability and partnerships across lifespan health, social care and third sector. Addressing integration in ways which support people with a learning disability and not just organisations

Specialist Health Services -developing clarity of role and partnerships to support challenging populations, reviewing workforce and targeting expertise. There is an ongoing review of NHS Ayrshire and Arran health service (New Horizon- report)

Integration agenda – joint working across services, better use of needs information, community capacity building in relation to healthy living, long term condition management (e.g. dementia pathway). Accessing general health services, using health inequality project monies to develop individual, community and partnership initiatives with a focus on positive health no

matter complexity

Further developing primary care services and supporting their role in ensuring accessibility and acceptability to people with a learning disability and their families. Addressing the needs of families and carers.

Developing an initial review of CAMHs and learning disability, transitions to adult services and complex presentations

Additional health activity will focus on reviewing assessment and treatment services (residential) and ensuring a strong community focused service supporting the individual

Contribution to the national review of learning disability nursing, Strengthening the commitment

Ensure NHS Ayrshire & Arran embed learning disability in all board health initiatives

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

Develop a corporate approach both within Local Authority and Health Board to enable the provision of supported modern apprenticeship places for young adults with learning disability. A more pro-active approach from partner agencies – for example Job Centre plus liaising with employers to emphasise the real economic benefits of a Project Search approach to employment.

Learning which continues post formal schooling should be meaningful in terms of contributing holistically to the well being of the person. There should also be an emphasis on ensuring that learning is acknowledged and where possible link to SCQF stages using for example ASDAN. Learning progression should also be acknowledged and sourced through care planning.

Further Education colleges should play a significant part in providing learning opportunities for people with LD to access the skills that will enhance the possibility of achieving employment. Colleges should link with community learning and development providers to provide for a smooth transition from and to the services offered.

Education and employment can't just be a Social Work responsibility. Whilst day opportunities can offer meaningful learning experiences for people, there is a clear need for a full systems approach to the lifelong learning needs of people with LD. The services in education should fit around the

person rather than trying to make the person fit the provision

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

Develop access to a range of housing models that allow individuals to choose how they live and with whom. Incorporate smart technology that enables people to live as independently of supports as possible. Promote positive risk taking.

Community capacity building to ensure the needs of adults with learning disabilities is considered within our universal services to enable the development of social networks.

Ensure training needs are met across all staff in order that they are skilled and able to sustain people at home in times of crisis.
Use of universal services.

Develop opportunities to educate the public on the positive contribution of adults with learning disability to their communities.

Protect vulnerable adults and take steps to address hate crimes.

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

The onus for solving the conundrum of few people with LD being in employment should not solely rest on Social work. The need for a societal shift in perceptions of employment for people with additional support needs should be a priority for Government. Some positive news stories about employment for service users should be promoted and ring fenced funding for supported employment services should be established. The Project Search model should be rolled out and highlighted as a good model of economically and socially beneficial employment approaches. The benefits are known to include higher levels of commitment, job retention reliability and low absenteeism.

Social firms are also a positive avenue to develop employment opportunities within communities thereby contributing to a community model of integration.

Employment should also not be seen in silos of able bodied/disabled. A mix

that reflects society is important to contribute to the promotion of positive perceptions of people with a learning disability. Large organisations must lead by example, thinking in terms of employment, exposure to work environment, linking to education institutions and developing partnerships.

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

- Complex needs – people who don't fit well with service provision e.g. complex behaviours, self harm and substance misuse.
- Ensuring the rights and needs of learning disabled adults are addressed within the criminal justice system including alternatives to prison.
- Acute hospitals how can they be supported to manage the care of people with complex learning disabilities and how can access to hospital be improved.
- Health and Social Care integration ensuring a meaningful focus.
- Changing demographics – what does this mean for the future service delivery.

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