

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 X No

Please provide any comments, evidence and/or examples here

There are no significant surprises contained within the evaluation however the sample of 49 people who use services and 51 family carers is limited given the potential number of people with learning disabilities in Scotland is recorded as being between 27,000 and 30,000.

Generalisations about day services being less beneficial than supported employment are not helpful given every individual is different and benefits from different things.

The fact no person younger than 20 was included in the sample is potentially a missed opportunity to hear about a young person's experience of education, leisure and support provision and risks the views contained within the evaluation being parent and carer led.

The findings minimal focus does not take account of the emerging vulnerability and risks posed to individuals as a direct consequence of increased community inclusion and independent living.

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

In East Ayrshire positive outcomes have been derived from the introduction of Local Area Coordination, long stay hospital retraction programme which included day services and respite provision, the promotion of independent advocacy, developments in direct payments a focussed transitions service and person centred planning and the development in a range of supported accommodation models.

From a child and young person's agenda, national developments reflected in the coordination of areas of good practice highlighted in the Same as You and reflected in ASN Legislation, and the GIRFEC agenda, that have been published in the last ten years, i.e. the importance of coordination of professionals' involvement and planning with a young person, adult and/or carer, listening to individuals, and emphasising quality transitions.

Improvements in residential care, quality of residential environment, individuals' space.

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 continue to be issues with the transfer across services particularly between child and adult services within the local authority and NHS which require continued focus.

The Health and Social Care Integration legislation should address some ongoing issues with respect to systems and strategic direction and leadership between local authorities and the NHS. While there are positive examples of joint working at the front line, this can at times be compromised by the above.

The financial sustainability of more intense community support packages is an area of concern with the potential redistribution of ILF money, the absence of resource transfer money and the cessation of Supporting People money. The impact of forthcoming Welfare Reforms will potentially challenge services also.

With increasing numbers of people living the "same as you", there are emerging issues associated with substance misuse and anti social behaviour. The Adult Support and Protection legislation has also brought many people into the social work system who may previously not have been identified and while positive also has resource implications as to how risks for this population are minimised. This includes the increased use of and access to social media which has presented a wide range of risks to individuals and service responses which can be resource intensive.

The more general impact of substance misuse in pregnancy are also resulting in increasing numbers of children born with additional support needs.

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

With the support of The Same as You guidance, and with the direction of the ASN Legislation, much has improved in relation to inclusion and integration opportunities.

Close working relationships with partner agencies outwith the local authority, such as Skills Development Scotland, local colleges, third sector voluntary organisations and charities, has helped to provide more of a coordinated network of opportunities for our young people growing up and moving on from school education.

Our Promoting Lifelong Learning Partnership, Client Liaison Groups, involvement of an Active Schools programme in all establishments, Community Learning Development work with specialist schools and centres, and a strong emphasis on getting transitions right for all of our young people, for example via a Leavers Passports for mainstream and specialist education settings, has been highly beneficial.

A robust independent advocacy service in East Ayrshire has ensure people's voices are heard and are involved proactively in service developments. This includes advocacy for parents with learning disabilities involved int he child protection system.

A Local Area Coordination Service which has reached into the communities and provided bridges for people to access community activities, develop relationships and access statutory support and welfare benefits when required. The Local Area Coordination Service in East Ayrshire is valued to the extent it is now doubling in capacity as the Council recognises the added value it brings to the community.

The development of person centred planning and investment in a team to provide this at key points of transition at all ages.

There have been reviews of residential accommodation and investment in a range of supported accommodation solutions and a new build residential facility for older people with learning disabilities is supported not only by the council but local RSL's and a private landlord.

Day service provision has been reviewed and new resource centre commissioned to operate as a hub for a range of activities. The day services are increasingly providing more focussed outcomes based activities such as Buns r Us, a catering enterprise which is commissioned for events, jewellery and bag making.

A joint health and social care team has commenced a programme of joint outcome focussed reviews following on the from work undertaken as part of the Integrated Resource Framework pilot in East Ayrshire.

The close working with leisure services in East Ayrshire has resulted in a range of leisure activities being developed and focussed for people with learning disabilities, the most recent being the acquisition of all ability bikes located at the new Ayrshire Athletics Arena, a joint venture driven by service users and funded in partnership by leisure, social work and the NHS. The focus on exercise and activity contributes to the health improvement and prevention of illhealth.

The establishment of two Mentally Disordered Offenders' posts with Criminal Justice Services enables appropriate consideration of supports to people within the justice system.

The continued production of a Partnership in Practice Document, linked with the Community Plan and developed with people who use services and their carers provides an ongoing focus for all stakeholders with respect to learning disability services.

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

East Ayrshire Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership sits within the Community Planning Structure which ensures all stakeholders inform and deliver changes locally. Service user and carer involvement is sought for a range of activities including staff interviews, service reviews, most recently the review of day services and respite provision.

There is no individual in East Ayrshire which makes positive changes as this is all within the context of partnership.

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

Ensuring all learning disability residents access health screening opportunities with support providers sharing responsibility for accessing this.

Continued support to ensure communication routes are facilitated for people so they can inform how they are feeling. There is currently a pilot underway in a day service along with a speech and language therapist utilising an Ipad to aid communication.

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

A recognition that access to opportunity may still need to be considered, e.g. the child or young person who is transported to and from school may find it difficult to attend a before/after-school club or leisure activities as transport may not then be available.

More flexible access to college-based learning when young people are moving towards leaving school. There has been a move towards providing college courses that are functionally useful, and educationally challenging and rewarding, leading to progress and further development for people with learning disabilities. There is a risk that, as colleges has to make significant savings, these courses may diminish in size and availability.

The potential for further education being delivered off campus to particular groups and in different settings should be considered in order to minimise the risk of learning being lost following school. This is particularly important where people require reinforcement and support to sustain their learning and skills.

We must continue to ensure planning for transition into adulthood is started at as early a stage as possible, involving all agencies in the process, giving the young person and family a voice that is clearly heard.

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

The continued development of assistive technology will maximise independent living opportunities for individuals.

There is a considerable level of activity required with respect to risk enablement and information sharing with carers, support providers and the wider community as there remains a risk averse culture with respect to learning disabilities. This has created mini institutions in a person's home where they have the continued presence of paid support increasing isolation and potentially risk. This requires to start in the schools and early years as there can at times be a degree of protectionism which permeates into adulthood raising family carer expectations and anxieties when the level of support they consider is required is not assessed as being required.

Continued community capacity building, driven by local area coordinators to facilitate safe access to community resources minimising the need for paid support services will be a key priority.

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

Starting in schools aspirations for employability require to be established so people consider this as a natural progression as opposed to services and support. The provision of supported work experience based on an individual's skills and abilities should be proactively pursued.

Ongoing investment in job coaches and supported employment opportunities and the development of social enterprises and cooperatives will develop the workforce capacity within the learning disability population.

The Welfare Reforms will potentially have an impact on future employment opportunities.

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

1. The sustainability of community support packages.
2. The emerging population with very different needs, people who are very able but as a consequence very vulnerable.
3. Equity in provision of support associated with risks real or perceived – why can an older person with dementia be widely considered to be at less risk living at home with supports than a person with learning disabilities.