

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 group felt that the findings of evaluation were the same as the experiences they have come across in the last 10 years. The group felt that although service provision had improved greatly over the last 10 years, there is still room for improvement.**

**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 group felt the closure of large hospitals was one of the main areas that had been successful and worked well, the acknowledged that there is still a need for some hospital provision as supported living does not work for everyone and from time to time people may still need an admission to hospital.**

**The group felt that the increase in staff training, knowledge, specialised services and regulation of service providers had made the support and care they receive of a high quality and tailored to their specific need.**

**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

The group felt that although self directed support is a good idea and a positive change in the way that people receive their support, they feel that it was difficult to understand the changes and that the system may not suit everyone.

The group felt that education i.e. college courses need to move with the times and offer more choice, they felt that you tended to be offered the same course over and over again. They felt that courses were not helpful if you wanted to move on and look for employment.

The group felt that there was still a stigma attached to people with a learning disability that made it difficult to get a good meaningful paid job. They feel that the jobs on offer tend to be voluntary or low paid and the choice was not very good.

The group felt that although transport provision had got better it was not consistent, not all buses have wheelchair access, not all taxi firms have wheelchair taxis. They also felt that unless you live in a city transport links are poor, unreliable and not at suitable times.

#### 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

**Staff at the service had input with this question**

- we use local shops and amenities
- we promote the service in a positive light throughout our working day and beyond
- Service users have care packages that are tailored to their needs and are written in a format that is relevant to them i.e. easy read or pictorial
- We attend training and keep up to date with changes in legislation which allows us to provide a high quality service
- We advocate on behalf of the service user, if they are unable to do this themselves, when services or access to service is not to a standard that everyone would expect
- We network with other agencies and ensure all involved in the care and support of the service users are informed and updated with their permission.

### 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

The Group made the following comments

- I have been a good neighbour
- I have positive relationships in the surrounding area
- I have become involved in local activities and positively promoting the area I live in
- Being in touch with local councillors
- I was a local leader for the Olympic and Paralympics games
- Being a member of the local gym
- Using local shops

### 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

The group felt that sometimes GP's have a lack of understanding in regards to learning disability and possible communication issues that can surround this.

The group felt there are still times when GP's would rather speak to the person supporting them than speak to them.

Some of the group commented on how inaccessible some healthcare facilities can be if they are older buildings and your mobility is limited or you are in a wheelchair.

### 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

The group felt that access to places within further education can be difficult to access and may not be suitable for the person.

The choice of courses is very limited and you can be offered the same course more than once.

The group felt that there are not enough tutors with a wide knowledge of the issues that people with a learning disability have especially with communication difficulties.

### 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 group felt that there needs to be provision to live independently in more areas and possibly closer to family, they feel that although housing provision is much better the choice of area to live in is very limited.

They felt that it can be difficult to understand aspects of support and feel that sometimes they are not involved in some areas especially surrounding finances.

They felt the comments made earlier about transport links were very important to allow them to live more independently .

The group feel that information about support and advice should be available in all formats including pictorial, easy read and makaton.

They felt that due to the continuing stigma surrounding learning disability they are treated differently in some areas especially the criminal justice system even if this means being held in the cells or going to prison.

The group felt that continuing training, support and knowledge building for those working in the care sector will continue to make a difference.

### 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 group felt that there was still a stigma attached to people with a learning disability that made it difficult to get a good meaningful paid job. They feel that the jobs on offer tend to be voluntary or low paid and the choice was not very good.

Better training for prospective employer to allow them to employ people with a learning disability.

## 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

**Removing the stigma of learning disability, starting this at an early age so that people grow up accepting that we are all different and that people with a learning disability deserve to be treated the same way as they are.**

**Better support mechanisms so that if you have or want a child you are able to keep them with you with the right support.**