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

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• The need to have a plan in place for individuals and their carers to cover unplanned events or emergencies.
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**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

This is a response on behalf of a local authority and as such we do not have comments to make on this.
However, we received some feedback from service users and carers through our consultation work. They told us that they felt more listened to now compared to previously. "We were told ‘You don’t know your own mind’. They wouldn’t listen to my decisions – now I’m listened to, my decisions, wants and needs are heard’ (service user).

By contrast to this positive experience, carers raised concerns about perceived lack of training for G.Ps, dentists and hospital staff dealing with admissions “about how to deal with adults with learning disabilities” (parent carer) as well as making better use of the material that was currently available to assist staff. Given the significant role that carers can have once a person is admitted to a hospital ward, it was also felt that “carers should be supported if they stay over.” (parent carer)

**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

As part of our consultation work with parent carers the need for better choices at times of transition was mentioned.

As part of our consultation work with people with a learning disability people expressed their satisfaction from learning opportunities that required some effort on their part or involved making things – they liked having something tangible to show for their efforts.

**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

- Undertake work to embed personalisation into all initial assessment and review work that that is undertaken. This will be complimented with a review of our own existing day services. This is anticipated to expand the alternatives in keeping with self directed support developments with people having life options outside of traditional services.
• As part of our consultation work with people with a learning disability it was acknowledged that having core skills in literacy, numeracy, basic IT and money management were key requirements to provide a degree of independence and to increase a persons choices and control. There could therefore be more opportunity to make better use of the capacities of Allied Health Professional teams working in partnership with personal assistant support staff.

• In addition to this people expressed requiring more support to aid their social networking and provide opportunities to establish more intimate relationships.

• As part of our consultation work with parent carers the choice and availability of suitable housing options and support services were deemed to be essential to enable their future planning. This included the availability of specialist nursing care where needed.

• Good examples of the use of tele-care / tele-health should be identified and the information disseminated perhaps in efforts to evidence where smart housing could aid the support that people need to live in their own home or in a homely setting.

**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

• Work needs to be done across the range of employers both private and public to better understand how they can attract a diverse workforce by tailoring jobs in a way that suits the skills and abilities of not only their current workforce but the potential workforce in their communities and the fact that learning disabilities are not a barrier to sustained and positive employment.

• As such a greater understanding of how to sustain individuals with learning disabilities in employment is needed and employers need to be given the skills in how to provide environments where staff have job coaching capabilities and disability awareness that will allow them to support individuals as well as the wider workforce.

• The vocational capacities, potentials and aspirations of individuals will be considered as part of future assessment and review activity in keeping with our own review of existing day service provision.

• As part of our consultation work with people with a learning disability more vocational orientated training was requested along with needing greater placement opportunities in the open labour market.

• Comments made by our parent carer (PIP) group highlighted the need to provide proper incentives to encourage access to better employment opportunities. Their comments extended to the need for dedicated projects like our own “Coalyard” (see Q4 answer); avoiding financial disincentives for people; incentives for
employers (financial and support) and the availability of on-going support to help people stay in work.

**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

As part of our consultation work with people with a learning disability and their carers the following consistent themes emerged:-

- Improve public education to help them better understand and improve the consciousness of the needs of people with learning disabilities.
- Increase the availability of good social and recreational opportunities and make local service information easily available and accessible. This was complimented by the need for targeted public information campaigns to educate people on the needs of people with a learning disability.
- Ensure that the incremental welfare reforms do not have a regressive effect on the life chances of people with a learning disability or their carers.
- Ensure that public materials are written in accessible formats so that individuals can access and understand the opportunities and services that are available to them.