



Shropshire Learning Disability Services Plan

2018

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Introduction

There are approximately 1,400 adults living with a learning disability in Shropshire who we want to enable to engage and participate meaningfully in all aspects of our community.

Shropshire Council wants to work collaboratively to create services that support independence and encourage ambition. We want people who have a learning disability to have more choice and control in their lives, to live as independently as possible as part of the Shropshire community, to live in the right home for them with the right support, to be engaged in meaningful activity and to be healthy and safe.

We are proud that in Shropshire 83% of adults living with a learning disability are living in settled accommodation in their own community and that our supported employment team have enabled individual's living with a learning disability to secure sustainable employment in numbers twice that of the national average.

In 2017 we met with adults living with a learning disability, their families, carers and professionals from social care and health to identify what matters most to people in Shropshire and to guide the development of this plan to support the commissioning of future services.

From this meeting we identified that we all want raised expectations from people living with a learning disability and their families about independence and access to mainstream services, and lower expectations regarding access to specialist funded support from Shropshire Council.

We identified that we all want to work more from a strengths and assets based approach with people identifying meaningful outcomes to achieve, recognising what people can do for themselves and where support is needed, exploring with the individual what support they can access from their family or from their local community, before looking at formal care.

This approach will support more people to remain independent, accessing care and support from their community first and foremost, to ensure formal care from Shropshire Council can be appropriately targeted.

Delivering this vision will require significant change and the full support of adults living with a learning disability, their families, friends and carers. Shropshire Council want to work collaboratively to make these changes happen through the design and provision of effective social and health care services.

We have recognised that transition can be a challenging time for young people and their families. Shropshire Council were successful in securing funds via the '**Named Social Worker**' pilot in 2017 which enabled us to explore more ways of working that promote choice and independence. From this pilot we plan to continue building relationships with our partners in children's services to create more seamless transitions working effectively with partners in health and education to develop a range of services that meet the needs of each individual young person'.

This plan outlines a broad vision for change, developed with people living with a learning disability, their families, carers and social care and health professionals and contains some detailed proposals in terms of priorities identified through collaborative working.

This plan will act as the interim plan for learning disability services delivered by Shropshire Council for 2018 whilst a longer-term strategy is being developed which will be led by the Transforming Care partnership between Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council, Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Telford CCG.

What is a Learning Disability?

A learning disability is defined by the Department of Health as a “significant reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills with a reduced ability to cope independently which started before adulthood”.

Some other widely used definitions of learning disability are:

‘A learning disability is a reduced intellectual ability and difficulty with everyday activities – for example household tasks, socialising or managing money – which affects someone for their whole life.’ (MENCAP)

‘A Learning disability includes the presence of: a significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information in learning new skills (impaired intelligence), with: A reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning), which started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development’ (Valuing People 2001, HM Government)

Having a learning disability may mean that an individual finds it harder to learn certain life skills. Difficulties experienced will vary from person to person but may include aspects such as learning new things, communication, managing money, reading, writing, or managing personal care. Some people are born with a learning disability, whereas others may develop as a result of an accident or illness in childhood.

The impact of living with a learning disability will vary with some individuals able to live independently or with minimal support, whereas others may require up to 24 hour care.

Shropshire Council Vision

‘Working to make Shropshire a great place to live, learn, work and visit’

We have set three high-level outcomes which provide the focus of the work of the council and underpin what we are trying to achieve over the coming years. These outcomes run through all of the plans of the council, from the corporate level through to plans for teams and the goals and targets of each member of staff.

Healthy people

Our vision to have the healthiest population in the country starts with local people themselves. We need people to want to be more healthy, aware and incentivised to take proper care of their health, and for this to come from them rather than from us. Our role therefore involves supporting people to take responsibility to look after themselves, increasing their quality of life as well as their length of life, and reducing ill health to minimise demand and dependency on public services. In doing so, we will be promoting health awareness and healthier lifestyles within families, and within workforces, alongside efforts to encourage mental as well as physical wellbeing. This will reduce the likelihood of people developing health problems such as Type II diabetes, and help to detect diseases such as cancer earlier, improving the chances of successful treatment outcomes.

We also want to encourage people to make the most of a range of outdoor and indoor opportunities for leisure, culture and community volunteering. Participation in positive activities will not only enhance their own physical and mental wellbeing, but can also help in the management of natural and built environment assets. One example would be Walking for Health schemes, whereby participants and volunteers alike attain positive benefits.

Resilient communities

Resilient communities, in our definition, are self-sufficient and have the resources and capabilities to meet their collective needs and flourish. They are safe, sustainable and help each other; ensuring vulnerable children are safe and supporting vulnerable adults to remain in their communities, and that all are enabled to realise their individual goals.

Prosperous economy

Includes working with our older population profile and promoting Shropshire as a place to develop technologies that enable people’s independence, improve health outcomes and contribute to health and social care.

The Population in Shropshire

Public Health England's report of '*People with Learning Disabilities in England 2013*' estimated that nationally there are around 1,068,000 people with learning disabilities in the UK; 2224,930 children (0-17), 900,900 adults (18+) of whom 206,132 (23 %) are known to learning disability services.

Figure 1 shows predictions for the numbers of people aged 18-64 with a moderate or severe learning disability in Shropshire. There is predicted to be a 4.3% reduction in the number of people aged 18-64 for Shropshire in the next 16 years, compared to a 4.7% increase in the national figure.

People aged 18-64 in Shropshire predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability, and hence likely to be in receipt of services, by age

	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035
People aged 18-24 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	134	123	119	130	129
People aged 25-34 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	182	187	179	165	167
People aged 35-44 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	208	206	221	234	228
People aged 45-54 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	245	231	202	196	211
People aged 55-64 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	214	229	244	228	200
Total population aged 18-64 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	983	976	966	952	935

In the over 65 age group - **figure 2** shows Shropshire is predicted to see an increase to 33.8% during this time period, which is slightly higher than the national predicted increase of 33.7%. The number of people in this age group is far smaller compared to the under 65-year age group but is predicted to increase which reflects the general increase in the ageing population experienced both locally and nationally.

Figure 2: Total population in Shropshire aged 65 and over predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability

	2017	2020	2025	2030	2035
People aged 65-74 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	145	147	146	165	177
People aged 75-84 predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	50	58	71	74	75
People aged 85 and over predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	18	20	24	31	41
Total population aged 65 and over predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability	214	224	242	270	293

Going forward Shropshire Council want to ensure through partnership working that those living with a learning disability in Shropshire are appropriately supported through person centred services that are creative in responding to people’s needs and aspirational.

We want to ensure that individuals remain as independent as possible living in their own community, accessing informal support from family, friends and their community wherever possible. Where formal paid support is needed, we want to ensure that innovative and reliable support options are available, with sustainable care and support delivered by skilled staff that demonstrates value for money without comprising on quality.

Where do we want to go?

We want people who are living with a learning disability to have choice and control in their lives, to live as independently as possible as active members of their local community. Shropshire Council want to enable people living with a learning disability to live as independently as possible in the right home for them with the right support, access mainstream services wherever possible, be employed or engaged in meaningful education or training, access social and leisure opportunities of value and to be healthy and safe.

People living with a learning disability, their families, carers, and social care and health staff who work with them told Shropshire Council in 2017 what is important to them for us to focus on in 2018 - **their 6 priorities**.

- **Choice and Control**
- **Inclusion**
- **Transition**
- **Health**
- **Housing**
- **Employment**

We will use these priorities to make decisions during the next year which will help us to keep on track with where we want to go, which we identified through our collaborative working and to ensure that decisions made are consistent with this plan. We will ensure that we work meaningfully with stakeholders involved with 'Making it Real' which is a national brand that we are using in Shropshire to ensure we work in meaningful partnership with people who use services and carers. 'Making it Real' was originally an idea that emanated from the national organisation 'Think Local Act Personal' (TLAP).

Through a series of what are called "I" statements, "Making it Real sets out what people who use services and carers (might) expect to see and experience if support services are truly personalised. They are a set of 'progress markers' - written by real people and families - that can help an organisation to check how they are going towards transforming adult social care. The aim of 'Making it Real' is for people to have more choice and control so they can live full and independent lives.

Priority - Choice and Control

It is important to have real choice and control from a variety of options and be supported by families, carers and staff to make meaningful choices

- Shropshire Council will ensure training is available and accessed by staff (from social workers to support workers) in person centred support and dignity and respect so that workers completing assessments or providing support are encouraging those they support to make choices from meaningful options
- Shropshire Council will ask that all staff attending training are observed in practice on a regular agreed basis to ensure meaningful decision making is enabled and promote advocacy support to individuals living with a learning disability in Shropshire

The Joint Training team embrace the concept of personalisation and through training enables staff from social care & health – the statutory, assessment, independent & voluntary sectors, carers and service users to work within the concepts of choice and control. Joint Training works closely with Taking Part Advocacy to provide courses that include advocacy where appropriate in order that learning can link to meaningful life changes. On specific courses, “Experts by Experience” are employed to co-train staff giving real life examples of choice and control and identifying the responsibilities that come with this.

ACTIONS

- Joint training to continue to be responsive to the needs of different learning groups and provide training to support choice and control across all aspects of life, home, occupation, health.
The importance to change practice through training will underpin the planning of new training opportunities - *Ongoing*
- We will produce safeguarding cards in the words of those people we support, with those people we support to then enable practitioners to use person centred language to facilitate the most appropriate conversations and outcomes for the person - *September 2018*
- Observations in day services to ensure staff are facilitating decision making - *September 2018*
- Day Services offer to be reviewed to ensure the services are meaningful, purposeful, outcome focused and working collaboratively with individuals accessing the services – *April to October 2018*

Advocacy

Taking Part work within the Community Advice and Advocacy Network, **CAAN** which is commissioned by Shropshire Council. CAAN provides access to appropriate advice and advocacy services to meet the needs of people when they need it and to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. Training is provided by Taking Part either by them as an organisation or working in partnership with other organisations. They train other clients and professionals including in learning disability awareness.

Issue Based Advocacy

Taking part provide 1:1 advocacy for individuals in Shropshire, who need help with specific issues. This type of advocacy helps people to sort out things that may be troubling them or things that they want to change. They will help individuals to work with other people as well if that is what is needed.

Citizen Advocacy

Taking Part manages a team of Citizen Advocates who support people with learning difficulties. A Citizen Advocate will build a trusting relationship and speak up for their rights as a citizen. **Group advocacy** is provided in a number of places including residential homes, day services and other similar settings. They encourage people to speak up and share their living experiences and feedback about changes. Taking Part also share information in these group advocacy sessions about what is happening locally, regionally and nationally.

Self Advocacy/Experts by Experience is where we support individuals to represent their peers and themselves in meetings and groups. Their voices are really powerful so it is important that their views and voices are listened to.

Care Act

Taking Part have three qualified advocates who can provide 'Advocacy under the Care Act'. They achieved their Independent Advocacy Qualification in 2016. Taking part also provide **Paid Relevant Person's Representative**-Paid Reps for people who receive care and support under an authorisation of a Deprivation of Liberty order.

Easy Read

Taking Part have two officers who provide this service for clients who reside throughout Shropshire. They produce their own easy-read documents for information about our service. They also offer an easy read design service.

ACTIONS

- Review the advocacy offer across Shropshire to ensure capacity can meet demand – September 2018

Priority - Inclusion

Important to work, live, access services and recreational opportunities in my community.

- Shropshire Council will map out recreational, educational and training opportunities in communities in Shropshire and ensure the information is available and easy to find for all, to support people to remain independent in their own community

Shropshire Choices is a live accessible website which enables individuals to find out information about informal services that are available within Shropshire to promote independence and also provides information about adult social care, housing and health support. The website information supports informed decision making when making choices about need and provides comprehensive information about local organisations, projects and groups. The website has a resource directory with learning disability organisations offering support, care and information as well as leisure and training opportunities.

Organisations who support those with learning disability needs are encouraged and supported to register onto the directory and have complete control of their profile page to ensure information is as up to date and accurate as possible. Updated information from the website is promoted across the council to inform staff and via Shropshire Choices social media to inform the public and additional organisations.

Shropshire Choices work closely with the Community Enablement Team in Shropshire Council, who promote the website and encourage organisations to get involved with the site. First Point of Contact (FPOC) and Let's Talk Local hubs signpost individuals to the website whenever possible, and Community Care Co-ordinators (CCC's) are aware of the site to enable them to signpost and support individuals in the community to promote independence when they visit their local GP's. For those who do not have access or limited access to the Internet, there is also a Shropshire Choices Support Finder brochure available.

ACTIONS - to support choices.

- To enable people with learning disabilities to find information easily and as independently as possible we will create a Learning Disabilities page. This page will include information about learning disability and how to seek informal and formal support where needed and in addition there will be information on safety, including Safe Places – *complete – to be reviewed July 2018*
- From the learning disability page, there will be links to learning disability services and Day services, Enable, Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, transition information, housing, employment and education, health and advocacy. There will be links to Transforming Care, transport options, carers, support, PA's, and care providers. – *complete – to be reviewed July 2018*

Day Services

There are currently 7 Day Services based within Shropshire, each offering person centred care and support to individuals. To ensure that services are meaningful and outcome focussed Shropshire Council will review the day service offer and ensure that individuals accessing services play an active role in that review to ensure that Day Services are meaningful and purposeful.

ACTIONS

Review the Day Service offer across the county to ensure services are purposeful and outcome focussed – *July to October 2018*

Employ individuals living with a learning disability as Experts by Experience in Day Services to champion person centred practice, to support staff training and participate in staff recruitment and to ensure individuals living with a learning disability are enabled to participate meaningfully in shaping, monitoring and reviewing the day service offer – *September 2018*

Priority - Transition

Important for a pathway to be put in place to bring together children's and adult services to ensure a planned and supported move into adulthood.

- To develop the transition pathway between adult and children's services to ensure adult social care workers work with children's social care workers much earlier (from age 14 years) to identify and plan with the young person and their families or carers.

We recognise that transition can be a challenging time for young people and their families. As part of the 'Named Social Worker' pilot, we have been exploring ways of working that promote choice and independence. We plan to build relationships with our partners in children's services to create seamless transitions, whilst working effectively with partners in education and adult service provides to develop a range of services that meet the needs of each individual young person' .

We will work with young people with learning disabilities, their families and carers to ensure that they have access to the right information, advice and support at the right time to facilitate decision making.

Whilst ensuring that the voice of the young person remains at the centre of the process, we will adopt a multi-agency approach to the transition process. We will work with families and carers as well as partner agencies including education, health and other social care professionals to ensure that a clear transition pathway is identified.

Through the identification of a lead professional this will ensure that all young people, parents and carers are aware of the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved and this will enable us to work together in a more integrated manner.

We will work with young people with learning disabilities, their families and carers to ensure that transition assessments are undertaken at the right time. We recognise there should be no set age for this as we acknowledge that every young person and family is different and therefore transition assessments should be undertaken at a time most appropriate for them.

Through adopting a multi-agency approach we will enable young people to have access to a variety of opportunities to prepare them for adulthood, these include to achieve employment, to be part of the community and to maintain good health and wellbeing.

ACTIONS

- Develop confidence and competence of social workers
- Transition senior practitioner in post to lead on transition process for ASC - *complete*
- Collaboration between Adult Social Care, SEND and Health to ensure the pathway is both a meaningful and usable document to help young people plan their transition – *Sept 2018*
- Adult Social Care to be actively involved in EHCP's from Year 9 – planning to support preparation for adulthood - *ongoing*
- **Department of Health named social worker pilot** – As part of this plot social workers have been mapping out opportunities for 14 -25 year olds in relation to Day Services and recreation and leisure opportunities in local communities across Shropshire. The pilot will be completed in March 2018 and the outcomes will be shared nationally and used locally to support better transition services.

Priority – Health

Important to support and promote health and wellbeing and to ensure good quality health care and support across the county is available in times of crisis as well as planned events

- We will make sure that everyone who provides care and support to people with learning disabilities provides a good service through appropriate monitoring and review. We will work with the Care Quality Commission, Shropshire Partners in Care, voluntary groups, charities and with health partners to ensure that services are assessed by professionals, families, and people with learning disabilities regularly.
- We will ensure that locally commissioned mainstream health services providing support for physical and mental health are accessible and will work with NHS England to ensure that nationally commissioned services such as primary care, dentistry and some specialist services provided in hospital are also accessible. We will work with local providers to promote and enable access to annual health checks to promote health and well-being.
- We will ensure that effective and timely support is available to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis so that the right support can be provided at the right time. Wherever possible, assessment and support should take place in the individual's own home and any admission should focus on a return home where appropriate.
- We will ensure that safeguarding works for people with learning disabilities through ' Making Safeguarding Personal'
- Health colleagues working with Shropshire Council (as part of the Government's initiative Transforming Care) will ensure that people living with a learning disability with health needs are treated closer to their homes and in their communities with continued support. Health agencies will ensure they work with other agencies to support people with complex needs who are returning to the county as part of the Transforming Care Cohort (TCP). Health agencies will do this by contributing to the plans for people's repatriation and will provide specialist advice and support to service providers in order to maximise people's life opportunities promoting health and wellbeing going forward. Health and social care will work with NHS England for patients residing in specialised services and will work collaboratively with other partners for patients in other settings who need to be repatriated back to Shropshire. This work has already begun with the aim to have all Shropshire patients currently residing in specialised services across the UK back in the county by the end of March 2019.
- Health agencies will also support the development of unplanned respite options within the county to help reduce the risk of inappropriate hospital admissions for people with complex needs. The aim is to establish a Community Learning Disabilities team which will be visiting people in their homes to offer short term, help and interventions to enable Carers and families to take respite. Health agencies will

work with Shropshire Council to ensure all patient carers are assessed for qualification in terms of respite support.

- As health intensify their community presence, they will support plans for the expansion of the current Intensive Support Team (IST) who are a multi-disciplinary team, with capacity to support people living a learning disability with complex need in their own homes.
- Working in partnership with the criminal justice system, health agencies will develop services to respond to the needs of people with learning disabilities who have offended, or are at risk of doing so, in order to ensure we keep re-offending at low levels, whilst also ensuring safety of our communities whilst promoting social inclusion for those released from the criminal justice system.
- Alongside work to increase the uptake of annual health checks, health agencies will develop a new community based nurse-led complex needs service for people living with multiple and profound learning disabilities and complex physical health problems; including long-term and life limiting conditions
- At the central core of the health transformation programme is the initiative that will develop a service which will work flexibly with people wherever they are - at home with input from primary care, hospital, hospice, and/or care settings; supporting with specialist knowledge, reasonable adjustments and effective communication in order to maximise people's wellbeing at very challenging times.
- Health agencies will ensure active involvement in the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) Programme and demonstrate a commitment to follow-up on multi-agency actions agreed as part of mortality reviews. Health colleagues will work proactively to improve joint working between health and social care (across all agencies and settings) and this will include undertaking the multi-agency action planning required to deliver on the key health priorities agreed for people living with learning disabilities in Shropshire.

ACTIONS

- Shropshire Council to work in partnership with health colleagues to identify pathways of support for unplanned events
- Shropshire Council to promote the use of hospital passports to support appropriate care and support
- Shropshire Council to promote and enable people to access annual health checks

Housing

Important to have a choice of housing to meet need such as home ownership, supported living and rented accommodation in my community and ensure that where needed appropriate care and support is available to support my accommodation choices.

- We will map out what is available in Shropshire to support accommodation planning
- Person centred housing profiles to be co-produced with individuals as part of a social care assessment to support appropriate housing and support
- Ensure 'easy to find and understand' information is available to support informed choice and control regarding housing options
- Develop the market place with providers to ensure good quality care and support is available to individuals living in supported living or in their own home

Shropshire Council has a strong focus on providing opportunities for people with disabilities to live as independently as possible and providing information on housing choices available. We are commissioning suitable accommodation for supported living accommodation with the aim of:

- Supporting younger adults in residential care placements to move to supported living accommodation in their own community where possible
- Identifying adults who may have been at risk of going into residential care due to a lack of appropriate community options
- Identifying those that may be in temporary placements
- Identifying individuals leaving educational residential placements or hospital.

The Supported Living Team aims to build support around each individual's needs and strengths and provide them with the opportunity, if they choose, to have their own home and tenancy. We have shown success with our approach; between January and October 2017 22 people moved into eight new supported living homes. A further 26 people are looking to move in 2018. We also continue to maintain a further 80 supported living homes occupied with long-term tenants.

Our links with Extra Care accommodation schemes enable older people to remain in their own homes for longer, promoting independence and supporting community inclusion. Through the Government's **HOLD** programme (Buy to Live) – Home Ownership for people with Long Term Disabilities, Shropshire Council has been awarded over £2.4m to help people with disabilities live independently. This shared ownership scheme enables individuals with enduring physical and/or learning disabilities (this includes those with challenging behaviour, sensory impairment and complex needs) to buy a home of their own. Shropshire's project will help assist at

least 30 adults with learning disabilities to purchase properties. Excitingly, homes will be designed innovatively, using assistive technology, to enhance independence. We have completed a tender process to identify suitable specialist providers and have created a framework of seven organisations who will be given the opportunity to quote for every service in supported living accommodation.

ACTIONS

- Mapping availability of supported living. Discussions to explore possibility of Housing IT system displaying available properties scheduled to take place. *tbc*
- Person Centred housing profiles will be completed as soon as a housing need is identified and gives our accommodation officer all the details to enable appropriate viewings to be arranged, and enable individuals to have choice - *ongoing*
- We will offer a full information pack on how supported living works including an easy read tenancy agreement and benefits information. Information will also be available on Shropshire Choices. This will also be provided from education establishments – *complete – review July 2018*
- To maximise the HOLD funding to enable as many people as possible to take advantage of the scheme – *ongoing*

Priority - Employment

Important to have a range of employment opportunities available from voluntary work to paid work that is relevant and purposeful “

“If I want to work in a shop then I want to work in the shop and learn everythingnot sort clothes out of bin bags in the back of the shop”

- Shropshire Council to identify with Enable (in-house supported employment team) and demonstrate what provision is in place to support access to voluntary work, internships and apprenticeships and paid employment in a variety of organisational settings that is meaningful.
- We will raise awareness of supported employment and apprenticeship opportunities
- Enable to work with Adult Social Care, Children’s services, Education and Health to map out what is available in the local community for young people leaving school as an alternative to residential college
- Day Services in Shropshire to identify and work with organisations that can offer purposeful voluntary job opportunities as a stepping-stone into work
- Raising awareness of travel training as an opportunity to support independence

Enable is Shropshire Council's very successful supported employment service which supports people with disabilities and mental health needs into employment, with the focus on assisting individuals to find a job that suits their needs and interests.

Enable delivers individualised support for finding a job, as well as a comprehensive package of ongoing advice, guidance and support to both the jobseeker and the employer.

With over 20 years of experience, Enable has a proven track record of ensuring that clients find the career path that best suits their interests and skills - providing support to people in their efforts to achieve steady employment in mainstream competitive jobs. Enable firmly believes that employment promotes health and well-being as well as bringing financial security to an individual. With the help of innovative employment schemes and approaches, Enable constantly performs above the national average.

ACTIONS

- Enable to liaise with Shropshire secondary schools to promote supported internships and inclusive apprenticeships as a progression route for young people with SEND - *in progress*
- Supported internships are available to young people through partnership working with Shrewsbury College and Telford College although the young person must have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to access this – *currently in progress with 15 people*
- Enable is a Pacesetter site to promote inclusive apprenticeships and learning disability apprenticeships across Shropshire. Enable is working in partnership with local colleges and training providers to provide job coach support and support at interview/application stages – *In progress locally and nationally*
- Enable is working with Futures to promote an alternative transition pathway for young people to include a supported internship, access to sporting activities, independent living skills and social activities. This would be offered as an alternative to residential college and would involve a number of organisations – *will be offered from Sept 2018*
- Mapping out progression routes for Young People with SEND in easy to understand format – to be completed by *August 2018*
- Enable is working with Shropshire Parent and Carer Council (PACC) on an ongoing basis to support information sharing with families and carers.
- Enable have set up a focus group made up of young people with SEND to look at how accessible the local offer is and if the information around transition is easy to understand. The young people are also writing about their own experiences of transition into employment and are looking to produce a video about this – *in progress – review August 2018*
- Travel training - Enable is providing and promoting travel training and will invite parents and carers via PACC to an annual celebration event to promote travel training to describe success stories – *ongoing*
- Experts by Experience to be employed to act as Employment Champions – *March 2018*

Appendix 1

Background and Policy Context

This plan is informed by and in line with the Care Act 2014, The Children and Families Act 2014, the principles of Personalisation, Making Safeguarding Personal, The Mental Capacity Act 2005, The Equality Act 2010 and the Transforming Care programme.

The Care Act 2014 reinforces national policy for adults with a learning disability, including the core principles in **Valuing People** (2001), and **Valuing People Now** (2008) of:

Rights, Independence, Choice and Social Inclusion.

The Care Act 2014 consolidates existing piecemeal law pertaining to adult social care and introduces a number of new duties for local authorities. It emphasises the requirement for services to actively promote improvement in people's wellbeing, through the care and support they provide at all stages, from the provision of information and advice, to reviewing a care and support plan. It brings new entitlements for carers and reaffirms the principles of personalisation, legislating for personal budgets and requiring local authorities to promote Direct Payments.

Assessments should build on individual, family and community strengths, support access to universal services and aim to prevent, delay or reduce people's dependency on services. The Act brings a duty to stimulate a diverse market of continuously improving, high-quality services, including a range of different service provider organisations to ensure genuine choice. Councils must commission a diverse range of services that provide best value for local people. Transitions for young people with a learning disability into adulthood must be effective.

The Children and Families Act 2014

The Children and Families Act 2014 changes the system for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Changes include replacing old statements of educational needs with a new Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan for people aged from birth (0) to 25.

Local authorities and health commissioners will commission services together for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Personalisation

Personalisation guides and directs us in how we can care and support people in the most effective, valuing way, starting with acknowledging the person as an individual, keeping them in the centre of everything we do by actively working together identifying strengths, preferences and ambitions. Working in a personalised way ensures we

recognise that people who use services are best placed to understand the support they need as experts in their own lives and how that support should be delivered, to support and enable them to live their lives how they want as independently as possible. Shropshire Council actively supported the personalisation agenda and from this have made a meaningful commitment to Think Local, Act Personal with '**Making it Real**'.

When we talk about personalisation we mean we will;

1. Make sure people have choice about how they get care and support, wherever they live.
2. Involve people and their carers in planning and checking services that give them choice and independence in the community.
3. Make sure people whose services are paid for by the Council have a personal budget.
4. Give people information and advice to help them decide where to get the right care and support.
5. Help people to stay independent for as long as possible and to manage with less support in the future if they can.

Making Safeguarding Personal

The Care Act (2014) defines safeguarding adults as protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) aims to make safeguarding person-centred and outcomes focussed, and moves away from process-driven approaches to safeguarding.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides a statutory framework to empower and protect vulnerable people who are not able to make their own decisions. It makes it clear who can take decisions, in which situations, and how they should go about this. It enables people to plan ahead for a time when they may lose capacity.

The Equality Act 2010

A new Equality Act came into force on 1 October 2010. The Equality Act brings together over 116 separate pieces of legislation into one single Act. Combined, they make up a new Act that provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all.

The Act simplifies, strengthens and harmonises the current legislation to provide Britain with a new discrimination law which protects individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society.

Transforming Care Partnership

Running alongside this plan will be the work carried out by the Transforming Care Partnership (TCP) in Shropshire which works within the Transforming Care Plan for the county. This care plan is the local response to '**Building the Right Support**'

(October 2015, a service model for commissioners of health and social services, DOH).

TCPs are made up of Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the NHS England's, specialised commissioners. They work with people with a learning disability, autism or both and their families and carers to develop community services and close inpatient facilities for people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition.

Building the Right Support, was published on 30 October 2015 and requires local authorities and NHS bodies to deliver services against Transforming Care Partnership implementation plans from 1 April 2016. In summary, the TCP is progressing work from the 'Winterbourne Concordat' and 'Winterbourne View – time for change'. NHS England acknowledged that individuals should not live in hospital environments. Thus, at a national level TCP is intended to reduce the number of beds provided across the country overall and ensure that when placements occur, the average length of stay is reduced to 85 days.

Each area of the country is required to devise and implement a plan to reduce the numbers of people with learning disability and/or Autism, including those with a mental health condition placed in out of area inpatient facilities due to displaying behaviour that challenges by putting in place the right support in local communities.

Stakeholders

The Stakeholders in this strategy are:

- Any adults of 18 years of age and over with a learning disability living in Shropshire
- Carers and family members of adults with a learning disability
- Shropshire Council Adult Social Care
- Shropshire CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group)
- SSSFT (South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust)
- Advocacy services
- Providers of day time activities and education
- Local Authority
- 3rd sector services
- Voluntary services
- Supported employment providers
- Police, probation, prison service, and criminal justice system
- Housing providers
- Leisure services
- Carers support services
- Prison service
- Criminal justice
- Disability employment advisors
- employers

The Shropshire Learning disability Partnership board is held on a quarterly basis and is attended by representatives from the Local Authority, Shropshire CCG, SSSFT, Individuals with lived experience of learning disability, Carers of people with a LD, PACC, Healthwatch, SPIC, SC Housing, Transforming Care Partnership, Carers Trust 4 All, SC children's services and the West Mercia Police equalities and diversity officer.

Appendix 1

Transition protocol

Shropshire Multi-Agency Transition Protocol for supporting young people from year 8 to adulthood who have additional needs



Shropshire Multi-Agency Transition Protocol for supporting young people from year 8 to adulthood who have additional needs

1 INTRODUCTION

Transition into adulthood can mean a period of uncertainty for young people and their parents or carers. At times they may be unsure what to expect and what support is available to help plan for the future. This Multi-Agency Transition Protocol seeks to address these issues. The Transition Protocol starts from year 8, however practitioners and professionals can support parents and young people prepare for adulthood from a much earlier age.

This protocol is to support all the professionals and agencies in Shropshire that have a responsibility in ensuring young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) make a successful transition into adulthood. This includes Education, Health and Social Care professionals involved in planning and commissioning services as well as those delivering them.

This protocol has been designed with young people at the centre. It has been developed to support and continually improve the transition process, by ensuring multi-agency working for the benefit of young people, their parents and carers. The protocol aims to outline the transition pathway and ensure everyone involved in transition, including young people, parents and carers understand the specific roles and responsibilities so that they can work together effectively to support the young person.

2 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES

A disability as defined by the Equality Act 2010; a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Examples covered by the protocol include: learning difficulties, learning disabilities, mental health needs, long-term neurological conditions, autistic spectrum disorders, sensory, and physical impairments.

A Special Educational Need is defined in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 years – January 2015; A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

3 OUR VISION

To provide a positive experience of Transition for all young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), through a person centred approach, that prepares young people effectively for adulthood.

4 OUTCOMES

Young people with additional needs would have the same opportunity as their peers to achieve employment, independent living, to be part of a community and achieve and maintain good health and wellbeing.

5 PURPOSE

The purpose of the protocol is;

- To provide transparency in decision making,
- To provide clarity on roles and responsibilities of young people, their parents or carers, agencies and professionals involved, so we are working together in an integrated, multi-agency manner.
- To support young people and their families through the transition process in a timely way and in accordance with the legal framework,
- To promote best practice and deliver quality outcomes,
- To ensure value for money and the effective use of resources.
- Education, Health, Social Care & other agencies working together to support the planning and commissioning processes.

6 VALUES

Delivering a person centred approach that empowers young people and their families through a way of working that is;

- Outcome focused
- Partnership based
- Respectful
- Honest
- Aspirational
- Open to challenge
- Equitable for all young people
- Co-productive

7 SCOPE

This protocol applies to the organisations and professionals who work with young people and their families in Shropshire, during transition from year 8.

- Educational settings
- Child and Adult Social Care
- Child and Adult Health Care services
- Child and Adult Education services
- Housing
- Employment Services
- Voluntary Sector
- IAG professionals
- Advocacy groups including Information, Advice Support and Service

8 TRANSITION PATHWAY

The pathway matrix is a timeline from Year 8 for professionals to have a multi-agency overview of the Transition process. Aspirational conversations will have started in year 8 to help support the formal planning in year 9. A multi-agency group has been set up from professionals across the service areas to support the transition process. Each service (or pathway) has a Lead Professional who co-ordinates a Multi-Agency team to work with the young person and their family. Occasionally a young person may have highly complex needs and 2 or more pathways may overlap, these need to be rationalised and an agreed Professional assigned to take the lead role. The A number of statutory assessments will be undertaken throughout the transition pathway. Refer to the pathway matrix for details.

9 TRANSITION ASSESSMENT BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Transition assessments and planning should take place at the right time for the young person or carer and at a point when the local authority can be reasonably confident about what the young person's or carer's needs for care or support will look like after the young person in question turns 18. There is no set age when young people reach this point; every young person and their family are different, and as such, transition assessments should take place when it is most appropriate for them.

Planning for Adulthood will take place from a young age to ensure that children's aspirations are met.

10 ADULT CARERS AND YOUNG CARERS

Preparation for adulthood will involve not only assessing how the needs of young people change as they approach adulthood but also how carers, young carers and other family members needs might change. Local authorities must assess the needs of a carer where there is a likely need for support for a young person and when a young person turns 18.

11 MENTAL CAPACITY

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) is designed to protect and empower individuals who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care and treatment. It is a law that applies to individuals age 16 and over. The MCA is built on the following 5 guiding principles

1. The starting point is to assume that a person has capacity
2. All practicable steps must be taken to support someone to make their own decision
3. No one should be said to lack capacity just because they make an unwise decision
4. When someone does lack capacity for a specific decision this decision should be made in their best interests
5. Before anyone takes a decision or carries out an action for someone else they must see if it can be done in a way that is less restrictive of their rights.

Young people aged 16 and over have the right to make their own decisions in relation to the provision that is available for them including being consulted about provision in their areas, although there is nothing to stop them asking their parents, or others to help them make the decision. However, some young people, and possibly some parents, will not have the mental capacity to make certain decisions. A person has capacity for a specific decision if they are able to do all of the following

- Understand the key points of the information they are given
- Retain that information long enough to make a decision
- Use and weigh the information
- Communicate the decision

Where someone does not have capacity for a particular decision the MCA tells staff how to act in the persons best interests and the steps that must be followed. This will always include participation by the young person and consultation with them to determine their wishes, feelings, beliefs and values. Part of the best interests' process will also involve consultation with others and parents/carers will have a significant role in this consultation. They will be asked what they can share about the young person's wishes, feelings, beliefs and values. They will also be asked what they think is in the young person's best interests.

12 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

SEN and Disabled Children Focus Groups to support the on-going Transition process development work – “the voice of the young person”. Disabled Children and Young People 0-25 Strategic Board re-evaluating and developing the Protocol and Pathway on a half-yearly basis.

Future partnership working with other professional agencies, young people and their families to co-produce review and amend the Transition Protocol.

13 MANAGEMENT OF THE TRANSITION PLANNING

The Disabled Children and Young People 0-25 Strategic Board provides leadership, strategic direction and support in establishing effective and efficient transition of young people across Shropshire. They have specific responsibilities for:

- The development and co-ordination of services for young people as they move into adult: - health and social care service.
- Meeting the assessed needs of Shropshire residents
- Ensuring that transition, across all agencies, is managed in accordance with agreed standards, processes and protocols
- The implementation of the national Transition Support Programme.
- Ensuring that transition, across all agencies is delivered in accordance with all relevant legislation regarding the transition process, with a particular focus on the requirements in the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2015.
- Ensuring that the effectiveness of local transition processes to ensure that preparing for adulthood outcomes are effectively delivered for young people with SEND in Shropshire.

14 LEGAL INFORMATION

The main legislations used to provide a positive transition in to adulthood are;

Children and Families Act 2014

Promoting the Education of Looked After Children (Statutory Guidance for local authorities) July 2014

- Care Act 2014
- Children's Act 1989
- Education Act 1996
- Equalities Act 2010
- Looked After Children and Leaving Care Act 2000
- Short Breaks Regulations 2010
- Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

15 CONTACTS

Shropshire Council

www.shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 0345 678 9000 General enquiries

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group

www.shropshireccg.nhs.uk

Tel: 01743 277500 General enquiries

First Point of contact (FPOC)

Tel: 0345 678 9008 Children's Services

Tel: 0345 678 9044 Adult Social Care

All calls will be dealt with sensitively and in the strictest of confidence by a friendly and dedicated team of advisers, who will ensure customers get the right help and support as quickly and easily as possible.

COMPASS

www.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/compass

Tel: 0345 678 9021

Compass is the single point of contact for receiving NEW enquiries regarding concerns for the welfare or protection of children and young people and Mental Health conditions (CAMHS) in Shropshire. Compass promotes the offer of early help to children and families in the first instance, where it is safe to do so.

Compass provides other professionals with support and guidance in completing assessments for early help and delivering early help plans. This support includes the opportunity to book a consultation with either an early help social worker, a primary child and adolescent mental health worker, or a targeted youth worker.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Team

[www.shropshire.gov.uk/special-education-needs-and-disability-\(send\)](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/special-education-needs-and-disability-(send))

Tel: 01743 254366

The majority of children and young people with SEND will have their needs met within the educational setting and by universal services. Some young people with complex needs may require additional support through the provision of an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Local Offer

www.shropshire.gov.uk/local-offer

Tel: 0345 678 9063

Local Offer brings health, education and social care services together to improve outcomes in special educational needs and disability. The platform contains information on services, clubs and activities relating to SEND.

Shropshire Choices

www.shropshirechoices.org.uk

Shropshire Choices is a website that pulls together information from Adult Social Care, Housing and Health that can assist you in finding the information, advice and support that you or the person you care for, need to remain independent and keeping well. It pulls together a variety of options that are available in your local community for you to choose from. There may be times when you need care and support to remain independent, Shropshire Choices will help you, your family and friends to find the support that is right for you. The range of information will help you to make the right choices at the right time.

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk/camhs-shropshire

Tel: 01743 450800

The Shropshire CAMHS team is based at Coral House in Shrewsbury but some practitioners hold clinics in different parts of the county. Our team consists of Psychiatrists, Mental Health Practitioners, a Speech and Language Therapist, Primary Mental Health Practitioners (PMHP), a Family Therapist and a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist. Some of these Practitioners are Non-medical Prescribers. We are supported by our Administration team. The team offers specialist assessment, therapy and therapeutic interventions. These can be with families or on an individual basis depending on the need of the young person and family. It may or may not include medication. We see young people under 18 who have been admitted to The Princess Royal Hospital after harming themselves.

Children South Staffordshire and Shropshire Health Care

www.sssft.nhs.uk

Tel: 0300 790 7000

The Trust provides mental health, learning disability and specialist children's services across South Staffordshire and mental health and learning disability services in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and Powys. We also provide some services on a wider regional, or national basis.

We aim to be positively different through positive practice and positive partnerships. What matters most to us are people; the people we work to provide effective services for, the people who work for us and the people we work in partnership with.

Young Minds

www.youngminds.org.uk

Young-Minds is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.

Continuing Health Care (CHC) Shropshire

www.shropshireccg.nhs.uk/continuing-healthcare

Tel: 01743 277531

NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) is a package of support funded by the NHS.

It helps care for a patient's physical or mental health needs that have arisen as a result of disability, accident or illness. Individuals assessed as having a certain level of care need may receive NHS Continuing Healthcare. It is not dependent on a particular disease, diagnosis or condition, nor on who provides the care or where that care is provided. If someone's overall care needs show that the primary need is a health need, the person should be eligible for NHS Continuing Healthcare. More information can be found at NHS Choices.

Shropshire Information, Advice and Support Service (Shropshire IASS)

www.cabshropshire.org.uk/shropshire-iass

Tel: 01743 280019

The Shropshire Information, Advice and Support Service provides free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support regarding special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including health and social care.

Shropshire Virtual School

Tel: 01743 250124

A team of educational professionals staffs the Shropshire Virtual School. We are committed to the education of children in the care of Shropshire Local Authority. We promote the attendance, achievement and progress of Shropshire's looked after children from rising threes to adulthood.

The Virtual School works closely with social care and education settings to ensure that all children have a termly Personal Education Plan (PEP) that is of high quality, and clearly tracks the progress of the young person.

All local authorities have a Virtual Head who is responsible for the education of the children in its care wherever they are placed.

Parent and Carer Council

www.paccshropshire.org.uk

Tel: 0845 601 2205

PACC is a local parent carer forum and promotes the participation of parent carers in the planning and delivery of services for children and young people (0-25 years) with disabilities or additional needs in Shropshire.

