



# A Guide to Learning Disability Services

Community Services

# **A Guide to Learning Disability Services**

## **Joint Learning Disability Team**

The Joint Learning Disability Team offers a wide range of professional services which includes Community Nurses, Social Workers, Speech and Language Therapists, Clinical Psychologists, Physiotherapists, Consultants Psychiatrists and Behavioural Specialists.

We work with adults who have a learning disability and who meet Shropshire Council's Fairer Access to Care Services eligibility criteria.

Care Managers undertake assessments with service users and their carers to develop individual care plans to meet their identified needs.

This could include future accommodation needs, employment and meaningful day opportunities, respite and help to support people to remain in their own homes.

Carers are offered an assessment in their own right and support services can also be provided to help meet their identified needs as a carer.

## Aims and Priorities of the Team

- positive health promotion and equality of access to primary care services
- review, monitoring and support to ensure needs are being met in a person centred cost effective and efficient manner
- continuing care and support in transition to adulthood
- choice and control for individuals through the use of advocacy services, individual care plans, person centred planning and personal budgets
- an integrated service embracing health, social care, accommodation and meaningful day time activities
- support to carers in their role through assessment and linking support needs of both the carer and service user
- protect and safeguard vulnerable adults

## Community Nursing

Community Nurses enable service users to access generic health services, promote healthy life styles and care manage those with the most complex health needs. The nurses can offer specialist support around epilepsy, diabetes, behaviours that challenge and specific feeding regimes as well as giving help and advice in understanding medical conditions.

## **Additional Support Team** (previously The Mental Impairment Team)

This service is located within the Joint Learning Disability Team and comprises a Senior Social Worker, Social Worker and a Support Officer working in a multi-disciplinary way with psychology, psychiatry and the police.

The team provides an assessment and care management service to people with a mild learning disability who are at risk of offending.

## **Supported/Community Living**

The service offers support to help people to live more independently in their own homes.

The support workers provide help for day to day living as well as encouraging individuals to set themselves goals to maximise their independence.

## **Shared Lives**

This is an opportunity to live in a family setting and participate in family activities. The accommodation is of a high standard designed to meet peoples assessed needs. The host family will be supported and monitored by the Shared Lives Team.

## **Residential Care**

Shropshire Council and Shropshire Primary Care Trust fund a number of placements in residential care. These placements are usually for people with severe learning disabilities who require support and care 24 hours a day.

However, where possible, alternatives to residential care are promoted to maximise people's dignity and independence.

## **Welfare Benefits**

Advice and information can be offered to help maximise the benefits that people are entitled to.

## **Direct Payments**

A Direct Payment is a way of putting people in control of the support they have been assessed as needing. People keep control of the money and use it to buy the services they choose. The Council is developing means by which Personal Budgets can be offered which are slightly different to Direct Payments.

## **Transition**

We aim to provide information to young people who are likely to be eligible for a service and their family carers at the 14+ review. We will then help with planning future services and opportunities including in most cases a Person Centred Plan.

Informal coffee mornings to assist with information exchange are arranged across the County on a regular basis.

Those identified as eligible for a service will receive a Community Care Assessment prior to their 18th birthday.

## **Day Opportunities**

We have day opportunities across Shropshire providing services for people with a wide range of learning disabilities. Our day opportunities are user led and aim to provide people with an environment where they can make choices, develop their skills and access community facilities.

## **Employment Opportunities and Work Experience**

This is an opportunity to develop social skills as well as job skills in a supported environment. These services are offered on two working farms and in small community based outlets.

We contract special employment agencies to provide the expertise necessary to support people in work and in work experience placements.

## **My Life, My Choice - changes in the way you receive support**

Transformation of Adult Social Care is a national programme to enhance social care and provide support that is geared around the person to enable them to be as independent as possible. In Shropshire we are now looking at the way we deliver services and this will mean some changes in how our services work.

Shropshire's **'My Life, My Choice'** programme will be an exciting way of giving more choice and control to people who need support with their care. We will be looking at how we can provide information and guidance to everyone who needs extra support and to offer 'personal budgets' to people who meet the eligibility for social care funding.

A Personal Budget is an amount of money which the Council allocates to help people who need support due to disability, frailty or vulnerability to get the support they want. We will be working in a different way, in order to give you more choice and control over how that money is spent.

We want to involve as many people as possible in shaping these changes. If you are interested to know more please contact your local social care team, details on how to contact us can be found on the back of this booklet.

## College Courses and Training

We support people to access a wide range of training activities and college based learning. This includes access to local college courses and community recreational opportunities as well as art, crafts and music.

## How to contact us

For further information about the Joint Learning Disability service or to find out your nearest social care team please call our Customer Service number on:

**0345 678 9005**

or email: **[customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk)**

## Other useful contacts

Emergency out of office hours:

Shropshire Council Emergency Duty Team, on

**0345 678 9040**

If you can read this but know someone who can't please contact us on 0345 678 9000 so we can provide this information in a more suitable format.