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Council

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Public

STRATEGY FOR SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES IN SHROPSHIRE

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Summary

The Strategy for services for Adults with Learning Disabilities is a complete revision of the current joint commissioning strategy for learning disabilities. It encompasses two national strategies for people with a Learning Disability - Valuing People Now and Valuing Employment Now. The strategy has been developed in full consultation with stakeholders and key partners, in particular people with learning disabilities and family carers and sets out the direction of travel for Learning Disability Services for Adults for the next 3 years.

Recommendations

A. It is recommended that Council members approve the strategy for Adults with Learning Disabilities in Shropshire 2010-2013

Report

Background

1. The attached strategy for learning disability services in Shropshire has been developed to reflect the national strategies for people with Learning Disabilities - Valuing People Now and Valuing Employment Now. The Strategy is attached at Appendix A.
2. Valuing People: a new strategy for learning disability for the 21st century (Department of Health 2001) was the first government policy aimed specifically at people with learning disabilities. It highlighted the inequalities people with learning disabilities face in key areas of life and set out the Governments' commitment to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities and to tackle those inequalities. It was written with help from people with learning disabilities, family carers, and people who work in

services or other organisations for people with learning disabilities. It provided a vision for the lives of people with a learning disability and their families based on the four principles of rights, independence, choice and inclusion. Valuing People talked about the changes that needed to happen both in specialist learning disability services and mainstream services and organisations in order to fully achieve the vision and for people with learning disabilities to be full citizens.

3. A key requirement of Valuing People was that each local authority set up a partnership board for learning disability to bring together people with a learning disability, their family carers and senior managers in the public, private, community and voluntary sector. The role of the board was to oversee the implementation of Valuing People locally by informing, consulting, involving, influencing and monitoring.
4. Shropshire has an executive learning disability partnership board and three area partnership boards, a structure which has enabled the wider involvement of people with learning disabilities and their family carers. There are also a number of work sub groups covering employment, housing, health, respite care and getting a life.

Developing the Strategy

5. The strategy has been developed in full consultation with all the stakeholders to the strategy including service users and family carers.
6. A full consultation programme was planned following the launch of the draft strategy at the December 2009 meeting of the Learning Disability Partnership Board.
7. The consultation was open to everyone including stakeholders, service users, family carers and members of the public. People were able to respond in a variety of ways either by email or letter with comments and suggestions, by completing a questionnaire or by accessing the strategy and questionnaire on line at the Shropshire consultation portal. One or two people also made contact by telephone and these views were also noted and included. Existing forums, groups and networks of people including the learning disability coffee chat clubs and the family carers leadership group also participated in the consultation.
8. A consultation event was also held specifically for adults with learning disabilities and their family carers. Individuals were supported by the advocacy organisation Taking Part and the event was facilitated by the Learning Disability Partnership Board Facilitator.
9. This event was an opportunity for the strategy to be explained in an easy to understand accessible format and for discussion to take place to enable people to share views and make comments about the strategy.

10. Again to ensure that people with a learning disability were fully involved in the consultation process the questionnaire was also available in an accessible format.
11. Responses were received from a wide range of individuals and stakeholders including: Service Users, family carers and family carer support workers, the healthy lives sub group of the partnership board, the advocacy organisations Taking Part, OSCA and A4U, Children and Young people services at Shropshire Council, the Learning, Culture and Leisure division of Community Services, Enable, South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust who are providers of specialist health care for this client group, the CAF project group, Shropshire Physical Activity Alliance, front line operational staff and senior managers in the community services directorate and the Supporting People team.
12. In addition the community services scrutiny committee also considered this strategy at their meeting in January as part of the consultation process. Members of the community services scrutiny committee responded to the consultation questionnaire and also commented positively on the accessible format of the draft strategy and the helpful colour coded sections and easy read sections. It was also felt that the easy read section was extremely useful.
13. As a result of the consultation a number of amendments and revisions have been made to the draft strategy and included in this the final version. These include the addition of volunteering opportunities to the employment section and some amendments to the references to the work of Enable, some amendments to the health section, some additions to the stakeholder section, strengthening the benefits section through the addition of information relating to legal services and advice , strengthening the workforce development section, additions to the prison healthcare section, additions and amendments to the transition section and finally the inclusion of access to physical activity in the getting a life section.

THE STRATEGY

14. The attached Strategy sets out the services available in Shropshire for people with a learning disability, it describes the inequalities that people with a learning disability may experience and the key priorities for action over the next three years to reduce these inequalities and improve services across all areas. The strategy does not just cover adult social care but is cross cutting across all service areas including transport, employment, health, access to learning culture and leisure opportunities, housing and citizenship.
15. The attached strategy is split into three key sections which follow the sections of the national strategy Valuing People Now. Each section is colour coded to help people with a learning disability navigate through the document. The colour coding of each section links to the executive summary which was produced in an accessible format again to enable people with a learning disability to be included in the development, ownership and implementation of

the strategy. The Executive Summary in accessible Format is attached as Appendix B.

16. The images included in the Easy Read Executive Summary are used widely with people with learning disabilities. There are several different packages of images available which have been developed by organisations and self advocacy groups and are designed to be used alongside simple words to make information easier to understand. The choice of images used by the Shropshire Learning Disability Partnership Board and in the Executive Summary of the strategy reflect the local preferences of Taking Part, the self advocacy organisation for people with learning disabilities in Shropshire.

17. Section one – The Strategy pages 1-62 (blue) outlines what is happening now and includes sections on:

The demographic profile	Housing
Safeguarding	Health and specialist health provision
Assessment and care management	Transition
Advocacy	Choice and control
Hate crime	Learning, culture and leisure
Employment and Volunteering opportunities	End of life care
Carers	Autism
Prison health care	

18. Section two – Key Priorities pages 63-74 (green) describes the key priorities for action over the next three years. These relate directly to valuing people now and valuing employment now. The Learning Disability Partnership Board have been involved in developing many of these priorities through twice yearly away days when the work of the partnership board sub groups and the area partnership boards is reported and reviewed.

19. An outcome of these away days is an annual work plan for the Partnership Board which has now been combined with the attached action plan which is being developed for the implementation of this strategy. The Partnership Board will take an active and important role in monitoring the progress on the implementation of the priorities identified. The action plan, which is currently in development, for the implementation of this strategy is attached at Appendix C. Further input, into the action plan, from the Learning Disability Partnership Board, will be made throughout the year at executive board meetings and partnership board away days.

20. Section three – Making it Happen pages 75-87 (orange) describes what is needed for these priorities to be achieved and includes governance and leadership arrangements including the role of the Learning Disability Partnership Board, commissioning intentions and structures and workforce development. Again this section reflects the principles outlined in valuing people now.

Conclusions

21. Our goal is to make improvements to services for people with a learning disability in Shropshire ensuring that services are based on the four key principles in Valuing People Now of Rights, Independence, Choice and Inclusion.
22. The attached strategy and accompanying action plan sets out how we will achieve this as a Council and with our Partners in both the statutory, independent and voluntary sectors, with service users and with family carers.
23. The action plan continues to be developed to deliver on the key priorities of this strategy. It will be completed by the addition of the further contributions from the Learning Disability Partnership Boards following the themed away days scheduled throughout the forthcoming year. In addition, the Learning Disability Partnership Board will contribute to the delivery of this plan and will also monitor the progress that is made and how it impacts on the everyday lives of people with learning disabilities.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Community Services Scrutiny Committee 14 January 2010.

Human Rights Act Appraisal

No human conflicts with the Human Rights Act have been identified.

Environmental Appraisal

There are no environmental issues.

Risk Management Appraisal

The implementation of any new services or changes to existing services as a result of this strategy will require a risk assessment at service level.

An Equalities Impact Needs Assessment has been completed for the strategy. There were no adverse equality issues identified.

Community / Consultations Appraisal.

The Learning Disability Partnership Board has contributed to the development of this strategy through Valuing People Now

An extensive period of consultation has taken place, this is reported fully in the main body of the report.

Cabinet Member

Simon Jones

Local Member

All

Appendices

- i. A copy of the draft strategy is attached as Appendix A to this report.
- ii. A copy of the Executive Summary in accessible format is attached as Appendix B to this report.
- iii. A copy of the action plan is attached at Appendix C to this report.