

LEARNING DISABILITIES SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT

Report By: Head of Adult Social Care – Learning Disabilities

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To update the Committee on the Council's response to the Commission for Social Care (CSCI) report on the Learning Disability Service.

Financial implications

2. None

Background

3. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) inspected Herefordshire Council's services for people with a learning disability in January and February 2007. Their report indicated significant failings in the planning and delivery of the service: judging the service as "not serving people well with uncertain prospects". The Council accepted the findings of the inspection.
4. The inspectors presented their report to the Council on 21st June, 2007. The Council responded simultaneously with a comprehensive action plan.
5. Appendix 1 of this report provides an update on the progress of the action plan further to the report to his Committee in October.. The plan groups and priorities the actions the Council will take to address the 27 recommendations made by CSCI into five sections which are summarised below;

Section 1: Assessment, care management and safeguarding

7. Immediate priority was given to the recommendations in respect of weaknesses in assessment and care management, including safeguarding. Action was quickly taken to tackle the backlog of reviews by engaging additional social work staff through an independent team. Additional long-term capacity is now in place to ensure all service users are provided with at least an annual review of their support needs.
8. The other matters in this grouping concern person-centred planning, transitions from children to adult services and the updating of the manual of procedures.

Section 2: Plans and commissioning

9. This second grouping is to ensure Council and its partner's plans are comprehensive and integrated in order to successfully deliver high quality services. Targets and

timescales for service improvement will be determined through a single learning disabilities service plan.

Section 3: Empowering people with learning disabilities and their carers

10. This third grouping is central to the Council's intention to make self-directed support (direct payments and individualised budgets) the mainstream response to meeting people's needs. Other important components are the re-launching and re-energising of the valuing People Partnership Board and greater access to advocacy.

Section 4: Tacking inequalities and increasing opportunities

11. The fourth grouping sets out how we will increase opportunities for people with learning disabilities and tackle inequalities through an accelerated and targeted programme of equality impact assessments, increasing the number of people in employment and ensuring better health care.

Section 5: A workforce to deliver success

12. This programme of radical change requires a fundamental shift in culture and approach to provision of services. This section sets out the actions the Council and its partners will take to have a workforce with the right understanding, knowledge and skills to deliver it successfully.
13. Overall progress on implementing the Action Plan is good with all actions on target. By January 2008 the majority of the improvement milestones will have been achieved. The remaining milestones will become part of the mainstream Adult Social Care Improvement programme.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the action plan progress report be noted, subject to any comments the Committee wishes to make.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet paper – 21st June, 2007
- CSCI Inspection report and Council's Action plan – available in Member's room