

LEARNING DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

Report By: Head of Adult Social Care – Learning Disabilities

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To provide a progress report of the Learning Disability Service and its partners in implementing the Action Plan agreed, following the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) Inspection.

(Copies of the CSCI Inspection Report and Herefordshire Council's Action Plan in response to the report were presented to Scrutiny Committee on 22nd June, 2007. For reference, a copy of each report will be placed in the Members' room. Individual copies can be provided on request.)

Financial Implications

2. None

Background

3. The Commission for Social Care Inspection inspected Herefordshire Council's services for people with a learning disability in January 2007. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate social services implementation of the national and local objectives relating to the social care needs of people with learning disabilities, and the quality of the outcomes for service users and cares. The inspection team was particularly concerned to see how the Council was responding to the *Valuing People* policy agenda.
4. The overall judgment of the service was that **“people were not being served well and that the Council's capacity for improvement was uncertain.”**

Summary of the key findings of the Inspection

5. The inspectors found that there had been insufficient focus on services for people with learning disability in Herefordshire. There had been inadequate work across all departments of the Council to increase the social inclusion of people with learning disability; for example, there was no-one on the Council's workforce with a learning disability.
6. A large number of service users had not had their needs reviewed for some time and therefore the Council could not be assured that their needs were being appropriately met.
7. The Council had been slow to implement the *Valuing People Strategy* and the Valuing People Partnership Board (VPPB) was not operating as an effective driver of service improvement. However, the production of a Needs Analysis and a Scrutiny

review were key levers in raising the profile of this service user group. There was a need for an overarching strategy and an integrated model of service and delivery plan, which should be widely understood.

8. The Council was only just starting to move away from a traditional pattern of service provision with too much of its finances being spent on residential care, and there was insufficient range or choice of services.
9. There was much to do to improve organisational capacity, both at a strategic and at operational level, with a more strategic approach to workforce planning
10. The range of user-friendly information should be improved and a systematic quality assurance framework put in place.
11. The health care needs of people with learning disability were not adequately addressed.
12. The huge programme of change and improvement required was within a context of mounting budgetary pressures and the need to make efficiency savings and would need to be closely risk managed.

Considerations

13. Following the publication of the Inspection report in June, 2007, The Council was required to provide an action plan, addressing the recommendations made.
14. This action plan was endorsed as fit for purpose by both the Lead Service Inspector and the local Business Relationship Manager.
15. The Action Plan represents the key priorities for the joint Primary Care Trust and Herefordshire Council service.
16. The plan groups and prioritises the Council's and the PCT's actions in 5 sections, as follows:
 - Assessment, care management and safeguarding;
 - Plans and commissioning;
 - Empowering people with learning disabilities and their carers;
 - Tackling inequalities and increasing opportunities;
 - Workforce.
17. CSCI are monitoring the progress against this action plan very closely and visited on 20th August, 2007 to check on the early milestones and target dates. Attached as Appendix 1 is a summary of the report produced for that meeting. This shows the considerable early progress and achievements against the Action Plan. For each of the five sections the Inspector's recommendations are set out in bold followed by the progress that has been made to date which is set out in the bullet points.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT progress against the Action Plan be noted, subject to any comments the Committee wishes to make.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None