



# **Title of report: Learning Disability Strategy Update**

**Meeting: Adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee**

**Meeting date: Monday 21 June 2021**

**Report by: Cabinet member health and adult wellbeing;**

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

Notice has been served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in Connection with Key Decisions) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

## **Purpose**

To consider the progress and make recommendations on the learning disability strategy to date, the strategy sets out the long term commissioning plans of Herefordshire Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group with and on behalf of people with a learning disability and their family carers and make appropriate recommendations.

## **Recommendation(s)**

That:

- a) Scrutiny Committee considers the work in progress across the system to support the learning disability strategy 2018-28, and the work in progress of the implementation plans; and determine any recommendations it wishes to make to the executive.

## **Alternative options**

1. Do nothing. This is not an option as it will not support good outcomes for people with a learning disability in Herefordshire, and does not support the Learning Disability Strategy adopted in 2018 to support strength based outcomes for customers with a learning disability in Herefordshire.

## **Key considerations**

2. Herefordshire Council adopted a joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability Strategy in 2018 to span a ten year period. Alongside this an implementation plan was developed to support the delivery of the strategy.
3. The strategy isn't a legal requirement, but the delivery of social care provision for people with a learning disability with eligible needs is a statutory duty under the Care Act of 2014.
4. To ensure a strength based approach in delivery of care and support, there is a need to improve some of the services and support for people with a learning disability.
5. It is estimated that the total number of people with a learning disability in Herefordshire is in the region of 2000, whom this strategy aims to support.
6. Of these 200 the council currently supports 590 people with a learning disability and 42 young people with a learning disability in transition all of whom have an eligible social care need; with an annual budget of £20,859,241 for 2021-2022.
7. In relation to health eligibility, the CCG has responsibility for all 2000 of the learning disability population in Herefordshire.
8. The learning disability partnership board are a key stakeholder and by working with partners they support the delivery of the strategy, and ensure that people supported are at the centre of decisions.
9. The strategy has four priorities which are; what I do during the day; where I live; citizenship choice and control, and staying healthy and safe.
10. Progress to date shows that as a system we have achieved 50% of the original tasks within the implementation plan. A full breakdown of this can be found in appendix E.
11. There are currently 3 work streams that are delivering better outcomes against the strategy:-
  - a) Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)
  - b) Learning Disability and Complex Needs Programme Board (LDCNPB)
  - c) Learning Disability and Autism Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).
12. **The Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)** provide informal governance and seek to hold decision makers and wider stakeholders to account for the delivery of the Learning Disability Strategy. The membership of experts by experience, family carers,

care service providers, universal services and council officers act as a reference group and have a role in promotion and information sharing across the county. They have been capturing activity and progress against the strategy, and the easy read plan available in Appendix B, which contains some of the key milestones to date.

13. **The Learning Disabilities and Complex Needs Programme Board** is a council run programme and sponsored by the Assistant Director of all Age Commissioning. Membership of the board is from commissioning and operational staff within the council from both adults and children's services. It is a start and finish group which sets out to improve services and quality outcomes for people with learning disabilities through council funded activities and services. An improvement plan is available as appendix C.
14. **The Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP)**. The STP for Learning Disabilities and Autism sits across Herefordshire and Worcestershire and incorporates the health and social care systems with membership of both commissioners, customers and providers from CCG and the Council. The focus is upon health improvements across the STP footprint. The Integrated care system (ICS) is an NHS approach which brings together partners from both health and social care to deliver joint outcomes, and supports the long term NHS plan. Herefordshire and Worcestershire have joined together through the STP footprint to implement the ICS approach. This is a long term plan to address local issues, to provide safe and sustainable health care in the future. Membership of the STP links together all 3 boards to ensure collaborative working. Recently this has resulted in a draft 3 year plan by the CCG based on local priorities, outlined in appendix D.
15. Some of the key deliverables under the three programmes of work can be seen below linked to the Learning Disabilities Strategy priorities.

*Priority - Citizenship*

- Engagement cycle- The LDPB carried out an engagement session with the learning disability community to find out how best the board could communicate topics and seek feedback on current issues, and from this event created an engagement cycle process.
- Easy read/web pages- Where appropriate, information is created in an accessible format. An example of this is the learning disability strategy, an easy read version can be found on the LDPB webpage. <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/social-care-support/learning-disability-partnership-board>
- Involvement and representation- the LDPB is chaired by an expert by experience. This helps to ensure the board remains focussed on the people whom it is there to represent. The chairs skill set ensures that the board retains its values in all activities it undertakes and maintains an “all means all” approach to promote inclusion at all stages from decision making, design, delivery of plans and evaluation.

*Priority - Where I live*

- Complex Needs Framework –This was a recent key decision approved in May 2021 that Herefordshire to join with Worcestershire and the CCG across the STP

footprint, to share the complex needs framework, a list of 11 specialist providers. This will enable Herefordshire to access support for the low numbers of people with a learning disability and comorbidities and forensic histories. This supports the transforming care agenda, to support people in their own homes and communities, including those historically whom have been supported in hospitals and those presenting high risk.

<https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7889>

- Insourcing of a current residential and respite service.- A key decision taken in May 2021 for two residential homes , for 16 people and respite facility for five people with a learning disability to be run by the council (via Hoople Cares) at the end of the current contract in August. This is in line with both the Learning Disabilities Strategy and the Market Position Statement, to ensure that services are reviewed and consideration is given as to how best these can be delivered in the future to improve outcomes for residents.  
<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50037282>
- Other projects include a new pilot beginning in June 2021 which enables better use of assistive technology to support people's independence and manage risks called Just Roaming, as well as more supported living schemes also coming online in June; Holm Lea and Tillington in 2022.

*Priority - What I do during the day*

- Costed care planning processes- this seeks better outcomes and accountability for those people supported in residential placements to ensure the support planning process consistently meets the needs of the individuals. Currently this new tool is being piloted by operations with commissioning and providers; before being evaluated prior to roll out.
- Employment – a review has been undertaken to recommend a range of new ways of working to improved outcomes by more people with a learning disability entering paid employment. This is in early stages, and has involved working closely with Job Centre plus to help people access universal support. Whilst the pandemic has impacted on the early pilot, there have been some successes in increasing the numbers in employment of people with a learning disability whom also have a social care need, and 7.1% of this population that Herefordshire supports are in paid work, compared to the national average of 5.6% and 4.2 in the west midlands. The increased numbers are in small part due to early outcomes of the pilot, but also due to better data collection of current activity.
- Review and redesign of day opportunities- This work is underway and will inform future commissioned services as well as a stronger use of the virtual offer which has emerged successfully for some people with a learning disability during the pandemic.

*Priority- Keeping healthy and safe*

As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, focussed and unplanned work across the health and social care system during the last 15 months has helped to keep people safe in new ways. The whole system responded flexibility to manage risk by working differently to put in place measures to keep people safe such as;

alternative services where services closed, working with providers to support them in different ways, actively seeking to support social care customers whom were deemed at higher risk of placement breakdown due to pressures relating to the pandemic. As well as practical, supportive and financial measures and guidance. All of which has resulted in no deaths of a person with a learning disability in Herefordshire reported as a result of the pandemic.

- Addressing Health Inequalities – the plan set out the ambitions to increase current targets and will develop delivery plans to ;
  - Increase Annual Health Checks. The current activity is at 85% of the learning disability population, and the ambition is to increase this figure. The population count will also increase by 10% as more people join the register.
  - Increase vaccinations from 90% (Coronavirus immunisation and Flu)
  - 100% LeDeR (Learning Disability Mortality Reviews) to be completed within a 6 month timeframe. The current baseline is at 93%.
  - Development of personalisation clinics to make reasonable adjustments for health appointments.
- Admission Avoidance – avoiding admissions to locked hospital by
  - Developing a community forensic mental health service
  - More supported living opportunities (this also links back to the Complex Needs Framework recently signed off)
  - Community mapping and risk register across the STP footprint

## **Community Impact**

16. Herefordshire Council's corporate plan has four priorities, one of which is the improvement of the health and wellbeing of people in Herefordshire to 'enable residents to live safe, healthy and independent lives'. The council is a proactive partner in creating opportunities and the promotion of the wider system to create healthier lifestyles. Through working with partners and supporting practices which empower people to have more choice and control in remaining independent, this reduces the need for formal social care; seeking opportunities through the Talk Communities Programmes to access universal support as well as being contributors in their own communities, and empowering people to be active citizens.

## **Resource Implications**

17. There are no specific resource implications relating to this report as the purpose of the report is to consider the progress of the learning disability strategy to date.
18. As stated earlier in this report, the council currently supports 590 adults with a learning disability and 42 young people with a learning disability in transition, all of whom have an eligible social care need, with an annual budget of £20,859,241 for 2021-2022.

## **Legal implications**

19. Whilst there is no direct legal requirement to have such a strategy, under the Care Act, the council has a legal duty to meet the needs of those who have been assessed as having eligible assessed needs.

## **Equality duty**

20. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the ‘general duty’ on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act. Current and planned services for adults with learning disabilities help to make this a reality by;

- i. improving wider community understanding of the needs and capabilities of adults with learning disabilities;
- ii. improving social value by promoting people with learning disabilities visible access to roles, such as paid employment and to activities linked to civil participation;
- iii. promoting self-advocacy and citizen advocacy to support people with learning disabilities to recognise victimisation or discrimination; supporting them to be able to speak out to prevent it and by ensuring there are ‘safe spaces’ where people with learning disabilities can access skilled support.

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. Current and planned services for adults with learning disabilities help to make this a reality by:

- i. ensuring that adults with learning disabilities have equal access to housing and employment opportunities;
- ii. making ‘reasonable adjustments’ to public services, such as primary healthcare, to ensure that people with learning disabilities are not excluded from them;
- iii. promoting a high expectation of good health for people with learning disabilities through routine access to health screening programmes; early regular cognitive function tests for dementia; an agreed standard of annual health check and effective health action plans.

## Risk management

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Implementation plan priorities change	As pilots are developed and evaluated plans may need to change to ensure an evidenced based approach. This will be overseen by each of the three implementation groups.
Implementation plan is not on track	The key deliverables have a governance route and projects transparent, with an escalation route in the event of slippage or risk.
Duplication of actions across implementation groups	Membership and information sharing across the boards and footprint should avoid duplication and best practice shared
Coronavirus pandemic	The pandemic has impacted on some development timeframes and also helped to prioritise and seek solutions that are fit for current purpose
NHS plan in early stages and not yet confirmed	This will go through governance, and has enabled collaborative working and co production in the draft stage of the plan

## Consultees

Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Learning Disabilities Programme Board

## **Appendices**

Appendix A- Presentation

Appendix B - Strategy Implementation plan – (LDPB accessible document)

Appendix C -Learning Disability and Complex Needs Programme Board – (Plan on a page)

Appendix D – Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICS 3 year plan

Appendix E - Overview of progress against the Strategy- Checklist

## **Background papers**

Decision to adopt the Learning Disability Strategy

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5164>