

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Progress and Challenges

Q.1 Do the findings of the evaluation broadly reflect your views about services for people with learning disabilities/carer?

Yes No

Please provide any comments, evidence and/or examples here

Midlothian Local Area Co-ordination (LAC), having spoken to many people with learning disabilities, and their families and carers, agree that the findings reflect the LAC team's views about services.

Q. 2 Can you give examples, either locally or nationally, of what you think has worked well over the last 10 years of *The same as you?*

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

From Midlothian LAC experience locally:

- No-one we have spoken to would say that hospital, and few would say that residential or nursing homes, were suitable accommodation for people with leaning disabilities – living in the community is now a natural expectation.
- People want more opportunities and are more willing to express their wishes to be included and involved within their local area. People have thrived within local communities and groups when have been involved, consulted and encouraged to play an equal part, and their contributions and capacity have been recognised. People value the Local Area Co-ordination way of working.
- Integration and smooth transition through early years and school is a benefit to children and their parents.
- There is more recognition that work is an important aspiration for people with learning disabilities.
- People with learning disability have a voice and can have influence in

their communities and the services they receive through LAC reference groups, the LAC National Reference Group and representation on The same as you? Group.

Q. 3 Can you give examples of issues in current work and/or policies that still need to be addressed?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

People tell us that:

- they have difficulty getting a place at college
- they want opportunities to learn and improve their knowledge and skills, regardless of age, but need this to be done in a way that suits them.
- it isn't easy to find work.
- they are worried about the changes to their benefits.
- they want opportunities to live ordinary lives, like other people of the same age.
- they want only the level of support they need, at the time they need it, to enable an ordinary life.

Parents and carers tell us that:

- they don't always get useful information at the time they need it.
- one of the best sources of information and support is other parents.
- they are not always consulted or aware of changes until it happens e.g. welfare reform.
- a little bit of support goes a long way.

Good Practice – Organisations

Q. 4 Can you provide examples of what you have done over the last 10 years, within your organisation, to improve services and access to services within your local area?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

Midlothian LAC has provided relevant and timely information to people and families in an accessible, meaningful way, enabling access to services. We have “worked in partnership with community organisations and services to model and encourage active inclusion of all in their activity through:

- I. sharing information, knowledge and experience
- II. joint ventures
- III. training and structured learning opportunities
- IV. publicising good practice examples ”

(Page 20, Values into Practice, A Framework for Local Area Co-ordination in Scotland, SCLD 2010)

This has included presenting information in an accessible way; ensuring people with learning disabilities have a voice, understand and have opportunities to respond to consultations on matters that affect them; working with the local authority, health service and other agencies to provide training opportunities to improve health and well being.

Good Practice - Individuals

Q.5 What have you done, as an individual, to make positive changes within your local area?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

Future Priorities - Healthcare

Q.6 What still needs to be done to ensure that people with learning disabilities have access to better and more appropriate healthcare?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

People tell us:

- they want the same information that other people have access to, but in a way they understand.
- they want opportunities to learn how to improve and maintain good health. They say they might need to hear these messages more than once.

Future Priorities - Education

Q.7 What still needs to be done to ensure that people with learning disabilities have access to better educational opportunities?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

Well planned transitions from schools to college (if appropriate and wished), Accessible adult education opportunities, to retain existing and develop new skills.

Future Priorities – Independent Living

Q.8 What still needs to be done to ensure that people with learning disabilities are able to live independently?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

- Ensuring that people and their families are involved and in control of the decisions and plans for independent living.
- Flexibility and sufficiency of choice of suitable housing solutions – for some people, living independently means a place of their own, but for others, this may not be their best option; sharing with someone else may be an option to avoid loneliness or isolation, but choice is the key.
- Control of funding that means that people can have the level and type of support necessary to work towards the life they want, even when only a very little support is needed.

Future Priorities – Employment

Q.9 What still needs to be done to ensure that people with learning disabilities have access to better employment opportunities?

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

- Higher aspirations and expectations, recognising people's skills and capacity.
- Opportunities for people to grow and develop in a job.

Future Priorities

**Q.10 What other future priorities do we need to focus on?
(Please list these in order of importance with the most important first)**

Please provide any comments and/or examples here

People tell us that one of the most important aspects of their lives is the opportunity to build and maintain relationships with others. When the chances of doing this in the ways most of us do – school friendships, being out and about in our neighbourhoods, work and social networks – are denied to people, then the risk of isolation is greatly increased. Recognition that this is a vital part of peoples' lives, not an added extra, is essential.