

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Progress and Challenges

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Yes No

Please provide any comments, evidence and/or examples here

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

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The following issues have been identified. They are being taken forward as part of work with the local Partners in Practice Group and through the Carers Strategy. Work on the impact of changes to the ILF and wider welfare reform is being taken forward by an internal process linked to reablement approaches.

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- The need to have a plan in place for individuals and their carers to cover unplanned events or emergencies.
- From local consultation work, people with existing Independent Living Fund packages are also anxious about having clarity about what future support will be available once ILF ends.
- The future planning process for pupils leaving school is currently being revised. Transition support and planning for pupils with ASN has developed significantly in this area over the past ten years, in particular in joint working across relevant agencies. It is recognised that this is a challenging area and Education Resources are committed to continuous improvement in this area. In particular many parents need support to understand the enabling and co-ordination role which can be offered by adult social work services in supporting the needs of their young adults when they leave school. Many parents and carers still consider that either they do not need social work involvement or conversely that social work will assume full service delivery but do not understand that education will no longer be the lead agency in supporting their young adults once they leave school

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Future Priorities - Healthcare

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However, we received some feedback from service users and carers through our consultation work. They told us that they felt more listened to now compared to previously. ...we were told "You don't know your own mind". They wouldn't listen to my decisions – now I'm listened to, my decisions, wants and needs are heard' (service user).

By contrast to this positive experience, carers raised concerns about perceived lack of training for G.Ps, dentists and hospital staff dealing with admissions "about how to deal with adults with learning disabilities" (parent carer) as well as making better use of the material that was currently available to assist staff. Given the significant role that carers can have once a person is admitted to a hospital ward, it was also felt that "carers should be supported if they stay over." (parent carer)

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

As part of our consultation work with parent carers the need for better choices at times of transition was mentioned.

As part of our consultation work with people with a learning disability people expressed their satisfaction from learning opportunities that required some effort on their part or involved making things – they liked having something tangible to show for their efforts.

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

- Undertake work to embed personalisation into all initial assessment and review work that that is undertaken. This will be complimented with a review of our own existing day services. This is anticipated to expand the alternatives in keeping with self directed support developments with people having life options outside of traditional services.

- As part of our consultation work with people with a learning disability it was acknowledged that having core skills in literacy, numeracy, basic IT and money management were key requirements to provide a degree of independence and to increase a persons choices and control. There could therefore be more opportunity to make better use of the capacities of Allied Health Professional teams working in partnership with personal assistant support staff.
- In addition to this people expressed requiring more support to aid their social networking and provide opportunities to establish more intimate relationships.
- As part of our consultation work with parent carers the choice and availability of suitable housing options and support services were deemed to be essential to enable their future planning. This included the availability of specialist nursing care where needed.
- Good examples of the use of tele-care / tele-health should be identified and the information disseminated perhaps in efforts to evidence where smart housing could aid the support that people need to live in their own home or in a homely setting.

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

- Work needs to be done across the range of employers both private and public to better understand how they can attract a diverse workforce by tailoring jobs in a way that suits the skills and abilities of not only their current workforce but the potential workforce in their communities and the fact that learning disabilities are not a barrier to sustained and positive employment.
- As such a greater understanding of how to sustain individuals with learning disabilities in employment is needed and employers need to be given the skills in how to provide environments where staff have job coaching capabilities and disability awareness that will allow them to support individuals as well as the wider workforce.
- The vocational capacities, potentials and aspirations of individuals will be considered as part of future assessment and review activity in keeping with our own review of existing day service provision.
- As part of our consultation work with people with a learning disability more vocational orientated training was requested along with needing greater placement opportunities in the open labour market.
- Comments made by our parent carer (PiP) group highlighted the need to provide proper incentives to encourage access to better employment opportunities. Their comments extended to the need for dedicated projects like our own "Coalyard" (see Q4 answer); avoiding financial disincentives for people; incentives for

employers (financial and support) and the availability of on-going support to help people stay in work.

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

As part of our consultation work with people with a learning disability and their carers the following consistent themes emerged:-

- Improve public education to help them better understand and improve the consciousness of the needs of people with learning disabilities.
- Increase the availability of good social and recreational opportunities and make local service information easily available and accessible. This was complimented by the need for targeted public information campaigns to educate people on the needs of people with a learning disability.
- Ensure that the incremental welfare reforms do not have a regressive effect on the life chances of people with a learning disability or their carers.
- Ensure that public materials are written in accessible formats so that individuals can access and understand the opportunities and services that are available to them.