

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

It is valuable to see what progress has been made over the years but there must be concerns that this will now be jeopardised by the current financial climate squeezing budgets and public goodwill across the piece. Cuts in LA services are already impacting on our services with an increased seriousness in Health related presentations.

There is an increased emphasis on our services becoming reactive to need as opposed to enabling healthy living, coping and building resilience etc.

In terms of the evaluation I was surprised at the low number of participants interviewed. This means that only 18 women with LD were interviewed. How representative were they?

Further only 4 areas of Scotland were used. I hope this was representative in terms of rurality.

Several client groups were mentioned but without great detail, including ASD, mental health, those involved with the Criminal Justice system.

I have concerns that with the strengthening voice of those with LD who are able to speak that those less able will not have their needs heard.

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

- Innovative community projects to enhance or replace traditional Day Services eg In Moray Greenfingers and Lochpark, both gardening/outdoor projects, TEAM, a recycling project.

In Shetland COPE which includes wholefood and petfood packing, soap making and retailing.

- Core and cluster supported housing which enables flexibility in terms of support and socialisation.

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

Transition between child and adult services is still far from acceptable. Some issues include awareness, communication between all agencies, agreed processes which take all parties into account, time and manpower to carry out this work.

Issues around complex cases often involving restriction/detention in hospital so that discharge from hospital is able to take place quicker to packages of support that meet individual needs. This had improved but currently seems to be slipping again due to financial pressures.

Improved access to housing,

Better work opportunities,

Mental health issues in LD awareness is still variable across settings,

Services for those perceived as challenging are still problematic. While advances have been made in our understanding and best practice putting this in place remains a difficult task.

Services for those with LD involved with Criminal justice processes has advanced greatly in the last few years but remains full of issues partly due to the number of agencies involved who are newly aware of this client group.

Awareness of parents with LD has increased over the last few years but there remains work to be continued again often on communication between different agencies.

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

- Locally until recently close integrated working between LA and Health within the CLDT to provide as integrated and holistic a service as possible for those with LD.

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

Worked around closure of local hospitals towards moving people from hospital to community settings.
Currently continuing to do this for some with very complex/ forensic needs.
More recently work within community settings to support people to avoid admission to hospital (for either psychiatric or general health).

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

Awareness of LD issues in Primary care and hospital settings has improved but still has a way to go.
Poor understanding of AWIA and ASP issues in these settings.
Continued need for accessible information.

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

Has been an improvement in access to education but this has been static for some time.
Courses provided seem limited and recently has been cut due to ?college financial pressures.
Some support from college is excellent but this varies with some parts of the system showing no awareness.
It appears that management may not support it's teaching staff in their endeavours.
Needs to be better understanding of impact health and physical disability issues on ability to take part in courses eg ramps, meds etc.
Needs better links between college and work.

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

Variety of housing
Flexible support
People may need emotional support which is not always rated as a need when compared to physical needs.
Opportunities and support to socialise.
Access to meaningful activities.
Work opportunities.

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

Review of rules and issues relating to benefits and work.
Public awareness of work potential of people with LD.
Improved scoping for potential jobs.
Improved assessment/ identification of strengths for people with LD prior to job placement to reduce failures.
Continuing support including emotional while in the 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

Continued increase in awareness
Communication in all its aspects between all parties
Continued improvements taking current financial climate into consideration
Continued work on delayed discharges – this is not simple
Continued work around provision of services for those perceived as challenging services - again not simple
Carer issues
Work issues
Meaningful activity
Social isolation

Thank you for taking the time to read the consultation document and taking the time to respond to the question. Your continued input and support is vital in ensuring that we continue to close the inequality gap that people with a learning disability face daily.

All completed questionnaires should be returned to Sarah Grant either by e-mail or at the address below. The closing date for responses is 30th September 2012.

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