

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

Broadly speaking, yes. While some improvements have been made, some areas still need a lot of further work.

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

- The reduction in the number of people living in a hospital setting
- Increase in the variety of support available in accommodation, day activities, respite etc

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

- Employment – see later
- Transport – still a need for suitably adapted transport available at the right time to enable people to access the community/services themselves. Transport also needs to be able to manage the equipment that people with disabilities need, e.g. – walkers
- Loneliness/isolation – still a major issue for many people with LD and even more so now with people living in their own tenancies
- Comparison of LD with other care groups – LD is a lifelong condition which, in general, means that support package will be higher than other care groups and cannot be compared on a like for like basis
- Parenting support – where should it come from – LD services or child care services.
- Ability to respond in a crisis – flexible services available to respond in a crisis can waste resources e.g. having services on standby or keeping vacancies in case of emergencies. Need for better planning for the future with families to make them aware of what is achievable but also to try and avoid the crisis in the first place if possible e.g. people moving into their own accommodation before parents become too elderly.
- National response is required to meet the needs of the very small number of people with very high, specific needs as these cannot be managed locally

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

- Development of Transitions Panel to agree pathways
- Assessment of Need
- Commissioning of a range of services both as a response to hospital closure and ongoing since.
- The use of “Going to the Doctor” document which highlighted people’s “usual” state of health and enabled GP’s to respond more appropriately
- Involvement of parents and service users in developments etc
- Good working relationships between and with providers via established groups
- The integrated LD Team now replaced by the co-located Team

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

- Change to healthcare screening for people with LD to make it more relevant e.g. early screening for dementia
- Checklist for GP's to ensure they pick up on typical LD conditions which may not be typical in the general population
- Continue to improve appointment systems to allow more time, immediate access etc
- Increase use of "end of life" plans
- More training for staff in LD awareness and AWI issues

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

- Need commitment to invest in the long term future of people with LD. Level of resource currently does not meet the need and does not necessarily continue throughout life
- Need to keep up the specialist knowledge within education which is at risk of being lost due to integration
- Need to look at integration in schools – what works, what doesn't and amend accordingly
- Need to ensure people in schools with LD have access to appropriate specialist support and equipment, eg – physiotherapy and that pupils with specialist needs are given priority access when required, e.g. – to access trampolines
- Must have realistic expectations which are supported not encourage "fantasy" thinking
- Support needs to be individualised so that most benefit is gained, eg – some pupils will continue to require support to attain educational achievements, some will require support to maintain independence in self care skills and mobility

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

- Increased use of Telecare – open debate about restriction of freedom v's increased freedom, e.g. – use of tracking systems which may enable some people to go out independently.
- Flexibility of suitable housing/future planning, e.g. – use of voids to enable core and cluster developments which currently struggle due to PI's in housing which require a quick turn over of voids.
- Isolation and loneliness – how to improve that?
- Recognition that resources are required lifelong to enable independent living including social support.
- Increase community capacity to support people with LD.
- Self Directed Support

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

- How do we enable people with LD to gain employment realistically when able bodied people can't?
- Need to be realistic as to what is achievable but also what people with LD will find rewarding – simple repetitive jobs are still essential and should not be considered unacceptable including some more traditional occupations, e.g. – making cement slabs, so long as people's skills and efforts are appropriately rewarded and the individual benefits
- Reintroduce traditional supported employment where Government subsidised employer if the employee was unable to do 100% of work
- Co-workers need to be introduced that can remain for long period of time
- Comparison of costs between day service and above may show it is cost effective

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

- Political decision regarding the life people with LD should have. If "Same as You" life is supported, funds need to match
- Focus needs to be on the provision of the support by consolidating the paperwork, inspection regimes etc
- Quality staff required with appropriate training and pay to manage the complex challenges of working with people with all levels of LD
- Integration of NHS and LA service with joint responsibility
- How to better support people who require high levels of supervision so that freedom and liberty is not so negatively affected