

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

We strongly endorse both the underpinning values and policy direction of the Evaluation Report.

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?*

The closure of Learning Disability Hospitals and the move to supported lives and living arrangements has made a massive difference to people's lives. People say that they have more choices about who they live with, feel more independent, and are more likely to live with people they like.

Good person centred and personal life planning has made a real difference for people and their families, provided that services and support have been built around the person. People who use services say that it is often the small things that make a difference. They like having a front door key, a small garden, making choices about how to spend their money, and being able to make a cup of tea when you want to. People also feel a lot closer to their local communities.

Adult Protection Arrangements and Adult Protection Committees have provided a good framework for services to work together to keep people safe supported by clear procedures and training.

People with a Learning Disability and their families, as well as Local Authority Care Managers, are very positive about the work of Local Area Coordination Services and the different approach they can offer. Families particularly appreciate this support for young people leaving school.

Much of the work to address Health Inequalities for people with a Learning Disability has been very effective. People think that anticipatory care plans and learning disability liaison nurses have made a real difference, but that there is still a lot to do.

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

Feeling Safe including Hate Crime, Community Safety, bullying, and safety in relationships remain significant areas for people. Internet Safety and staying safe on line and when using Social Media are areas where people need a lot more support and training.

Person Centred, evidence based, and cost effective support for people with complex needs relating to ASD and PMLD. There is a lot of good work to build on but still a lot to do to make sure that people get the right support to lead a good life.

Consistent and transparent joint commissioning of services and support for people with complex needs.

Effective, person centred and collaborative transition arrangements for young people leaving school. Parents and carers should feel involved in an equal partnership with professionals.

Advocacy for people with the most Complex Care needs.

More employment opportunities with the right level of support if this is needed.

Consequences of Welfare Reform including information and support. People feel worried about Welfare Reform and lack understanding about how it will affect them. They would like very clear and understandable information. They are also worried about charging for support services and other services and how it will affect them. Carers are worried about the impact on them.

Consistent and coordinated support for parents who have a Learning Disability including support around Child Protection issues.

Good support for carers and recognition of the different pressures and stresses that carers experience.

People with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their carers are very keen to see ASD diagnosed early. This avoids the wrong type of support that can lead to anxiety and failure.

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?

Implementation of Learning Disability Joint Planning structure with stakeholders including users and carers organisations.

Accessible meetings using specially developed guidance and Easy Read materials. People who use services say that they feel very much part of the planning process.

Closure of Learning Disability Hospital and move to Community Based living arrangements and individualised, supported lives.

Modernisation of Day Services including Day Centre closure and development of locality based services.

Joint Planning and development to address Health Inequality including Learning Disability Health Fairs, Shared staff training programme, Health Passports, and Local Area Co-ordination projects covering Mental Health and relationship issues.

Supported living and day opportunities for people with Complex Behavioural needs based on research and best practice.

Partnership arrangements with local business and Adult Education colleges to provide employment opportunities and certificated learning.

Development of 18 Disability Hate Crime Remote Reporting Centres including staff training, Easy Read reporting forms, and advertising campaign.

Development of individualised living arrangements for people with Complex Care needs who have been in hospital or out of area.

Schools, particularly mainstream schools, understand the needs of people with a learning disability better and get things right more often. Additional Support for learning and GIRFEC has made a difference to peoples' experience.

Quality assurance and benchmarking mechanisms have been good at defining what is a good service, what people can expect from their support and assurance about what to do if people are unhappy with a service.

Good Practice - Individuals

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

We are replying as a partnership.

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?

Health Management including diabetes management, weight management.

Programme of dental health advice and support.

Health Checks and Registration of Learning Disabled Patients and people with ASD and Asperger Syndrome.

Gaps in service for Older People with a Learning Disability.

Social Care staff training on Health Care Issues (including Diabetes, Respiratory Problems, Continence, Skin Care, Podiatry etc).

Well Woman and Well Man Clinics for people with Learning Disability.

Build on liaison between Community Learning Disability Specialist Teams, Primary Care, and GP Practices.

Services for people with Learning Disability and Mental Health issues, and Learning Disability and dementia.

Some of the letters and communication from Health Services and professionals is very difficult for people to read and understand. They would like to see things written in simple language.

Future Priorities - Education

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

We think that people who have learning disabilities have benefited from going to college. It would be good if colleges could maintain and increase the number of places for people with a Learning Disability and not reduce college courses or hours. We believe that college courses are important in helping students to find meaningful employment.

People who use services are keen to get the opportunity to get qualifications. They think that there should be different ways of getting qualifications. They need the right kind of support to help and think that not having this is a barrier to getting jobs.

People need the opportunity to attend college and not be too reliant on Day Centres or family carers. People also enjoy the opportunity to meet people and make new friends at college,

Colleges should acknowledge needs of individual people with Learning Disability and the design of courses and movement between courses should be differently designed for people with a learning disability.

We think there should be improved links between Further Education Colleges and Employers to ensure that development and training can be linked to work and qualifications. There are some very good examples of this locally.

We think there needs to be robust and cost effective arrangements for personal care and support for people at college.

Future Priorities – Independent Living

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

Measures to ensure the recruitment and retention of appropriately skilled, qualified, and motivated Care and Support staff.

Identification and building of fit for purpose living arrangements for people with more complex needs including core and cluster as appropriate for cost effective support.

Training and Education of workforce including eLearning.

Range of accessible and cost effective transport options.

People benefit from flexible support and want to feel safe at home and in

their community. They want to be supported by people who like them and who help improve their self esteem. They want feel the right balance of staying safe but being as independent as possible.

Future Priorities – Employment

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

Statutory organisations could take a lead in employing and promoting the employment of people with disabilities. There are already several good examples, particularly in local businesses and industries.

Community Benefit Clauses could be used at commissioning stage to ensure that contracted organisations offer opportunities to people with disabilities including employment and training.

New funding streams need to be identified to support specialist employment intermediaries for people with a learning disability. Organisations are being squeezed by Welfare reform, restricted access to Big Lottery funding, and uncertainty about ESF.

We think that good IT training is important for people with a Learning Disability to be able to access the job market.

People with Learning Disabilities could be involved in awareness raising and training for colleagues.

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)

The biggest priority for people with a learning disability in Midlothian at present is feeling safe in their community. Feeling safe to go out, particularly in the evening, feeling safe on transport, and feeling safe at home. People would like to see Community Safety Partnerships ensuring that the needs of people with a Learning Disability are fully recognised in their planning.

Another big priority for people is friendship, relationships and the opportunity to meet old friends from the past and meet new people. People also want to stay safe in relationships and have the same opportunities as other people to have relationships. There is also scope for a better range of opportunities for older people with a learning disability and people with profound learning disability to meet old friends and make new ones.

Staying Healthy is still a big area for people. There have been a lot of improvements to both mainstream and specialist services but there is still a lot to do. Local Health Inequality Action Plans and money including Equally Well money have really helped.

Services can still improve their support for parents with a learning disability and their children. This includes increasing the chances of the children of parents with a learning disability continuing to live with their parents in a positive and supportive environment that meets the children's needs.

Planning for young people leaving school has improved, but could still be a lot better. Local families of people who have Autism Spectrum Disorder would also like to see better planning for their relatives. They think that planning should start earlier than it does and that there should be good information for people and more choices. There are some good examples of planning for young people where Local Area Coordinators have been involved and where good person centred planning like 'The Big Plan' has started in plenty of time.

People from Local Authority, NHS and Voluntary Organisations should continue to work together to develop good services for people with complex care needs. These services need to be both good quality and cost effective. There are a lot of very good examples and research to build on. The issue of financial pressures and resourcing of packages of care for people with the most complex care needs should be acknowledged and addressed as a matter of urgency.

There should be clear responsibility for resourcing people's Health Care needs particularly for people with Learning Disability and complex care needs.

More information from statutory bodies that is user friendly, and easy to read and understand.

Transport has got better and local transport companies have made real strides to accessible transport but people say that they would like to see more flexible transport options.