

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20TH APRIL 2021

LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025

Purpose:

For Scrutiny to have an opportunity to consider and comment on the Learning Disability Strategy (2020- 2025).

To consider and comment on the following issues:

On the 19th April, 2018 the Social Care & Health Scrutiny considered the draft Learning Disability Strategy.

In developing the final strategy, a series of engagement events were held in 2019. These were facilitated by both Mencap and Carmarthenshire People First, with support from Council officers. The strategy provides strong service user and parent/carer input into the direction of travel for learning disabilities in Carmarthenshire.

In March 2020 the strategy was programmed to come back to Scrutiny for endorsement, however, this did not happen due to the pandemic. This report provides a progress update of the work undertaken in the intervening period, together with the final strategy and draft action plan of implementation.

There were a number of reoccurring key themes raised during the engagement sessions which have shaped the strategy and are detailed within the report.

Reasons:

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 came into force in April 2016. Part 2 of The Act requires that Local Authorities must have robust arrangements in place which encourage and promote genuine involvement of people, which shifts the focus of service delivery to individual outcomes so that services are designed and led by those who need care and support and carers who need care and support.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

Cllr. J. Tremlett (Social Care & Health Portfolio Holder)

Directorate

Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Avril Bracy

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Designations:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE: 20th April 2021

SUBJECT:
LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY 2020-2025

National Context

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 came into force in April 2016.

It reforms and integrates social services law and emphasises improving wellbeing outcomes for people who need care and support, including carers. It introduces a common set of processes to ensure people receive the right support at the right time, strengthens collaboration and the integration of services, and provides for an increased focus on prevention and early intervention.

The Act fundamentally changes the way in which care and support services are delivered in Wales and is based on a number of principles:

- Voice and control- putting the individual and their needs at the centre of their care and giving them a voice in and control overreaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being.
- Prevention and early intervention-increasing preventative service with the community to reduce the need for on-going managed care.
- Wellbeing- supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of care and support.
- Co-production- encouraging individuals to become more involved in the design and delivery of services.

Regional context

Regional partners have previously developed a shared Statement of Intent for Learning Disability Services and a Model of Care and Support. Both documents contain clear commitments to improving learning disability services and describes the joined-up approach needed to positively transform services in West Wales.

The West Wales Population Assessment (2017) further committed partners to transforming services in a way that maximises independence and the potential of those using services.

A Regional Learning Disabilities Programme Board has been established to address the issues identified within the Population Assessment, meet the national requirements outlined above and lead the transformation of learning disabilities service across health and social care. The work of the Board is based on a shared vision to develop an integrated model of care for people with learning disabilities, their families and their carer's right across the region. It draws upon models being implemented through local Learning Disabilities strategies in each of the County areas.

Local Context

However, it is important whilst recognising the importance of the national and regional context the local voice of people who use and need services is captured and the landscape of local services is developed to reflect this.

In developing the final strategy, a series of engagement events were held in 2019. These were facilitated by both Mencap and Carmarthenshire People First, with support from Council officers. The strategy provides strong service user and parent/carer input into the direction of travel for learning disabilities in Carmarthenshire.

There were a number of reoccurring key themes raised during the engagement sessions which have shaped the strategy:

- Adopting a person centred approach is essential, seeing and hearing the person and what matters to them. This was particularly highlighted within the education system. Setting goals and measuring outcomes were particularly emphasised so that young people in the education system are supported to develop their talents and maximise their potential.
- The importance of consistency of communications, especially across all agencies. Easy read approach was particularly welcomed.
- The strategy should include a greater focus on people with complex needs.
- The importance and right to have independent advocacy services, whilst also recognising the importance of other forms of advocacy such as peer advocacy.
- The importance of health checks and people understanding what this entails.
- That the strategy should include a greater focus on transition from children's service to adults, but there was also support for an all age approach-including better awareness of options to support people from childhood to adulthood.
- Direct payments- the importance of consistency of advice regarding direct payments, the value of them when they work, but also recognising the challenges and the need to be more creative was welcomed.
- The importance of carers support and respite to support carers in their caring role.
- Better information regarding options and what services are available, the development of apps, social media and directories were cited as ideas.
- Developing more creative housing options to support people to maintain their independence.
- Development of education and pathways which support meaningful practical and educational support with a view to employment.

The final Learning Disability Strategy for Carmarthenshire embraces the principles of the Act and has been shaped by the feedback from the engagement activity undertaken with service users, carers/ parents and others.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Chris Harrison

Head of Joint Strategic Commissioning Pembrokeshire & Carmarthenshire County Council

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places further emphasis on planning for the future, joint working across public service organisations, and working better and more closely with people and communities.

Key outcome areas within the strategy are as follows:

- To improve community resilience and enablement through choice, self- direction and control over decisions that effects the lives of people with a learning disability in line with the Social Services and Well-being Act.
- Improved quality of life through improved choice for housing and accommodation for people with a learning disability, with majority being the same as for other people in the community.
- People with a learning disability, if given more opportunities for personal development and life experiences would have improved well-being and a better quality of life.
- The quality of life for people with learning disabilities would be improved when they are given every opportunity to be independent, exercise and enjoy their rights and meet their individual obligations.

2. Legal

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 provides the statutory framework for improving the well- being outcomes of adults and children who need care and support and carers who need support. It has a particular focus on voice and control so people have control over their own care and support and can make decisions about it as an equal partner.

3.Finance

This strategy is Carmarthenshire's commitment to support people with learning disabilities and incorporates services and activities provided and delivered through partner organisations including the voluntary sector, community groups and health.

Budgetary pressures will be a key challenge during the lifetime of the strategy. These pressures make it even more important for Carmarthenshire to have a clear strategic plan.

The resources required to implement this strategy will come from the redirection of current resources as services are modernised, and from the Integrated Care Fund which supports innovation and the transformation of services.

5. Risk Management Issues

Those who use services and their carers have raised concerns regarding the potential risks of compromising current services as new service models are developed.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Chris Harrison

Head of Joint Strategic Commissioning Pembrokeshire &
Carmarthenshire County Council

1.Local Member(s) - N/A

2.Community / Town Council – N/A

3.Relevant Partners

The strategy has been developed with key partners such as Hywel Dda University Health Board. It has also involved key stakeholders such as the third sector, service providers, service users and carers.

4.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection