



Joint Health and Social Care Commissioning Strategy for Adults and Young People (age 14+) with Learning Disabilities

Report of Tricia Reed, Strategic Commissioning Manager, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health and Donna Owens, Partnership Strategic Manager, NHS Durham, Darlington and Teesside Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to give an update on the development of a Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy for County Durham and circulate a version of the strategy for approval.

Executive Summary

- 2 A multi-agency Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy Group, chaired by the council's Head of Commissioning, is working collaboratively across Health and Social Care to develop and implement a County Durham Joint Health and Social Care Commissioning Strategy for people with learning disabilities, with an emphasis on moving towards more outcomes-focused provision, increased choice and control, and supporting people with learning disabilities to remain living in their communities.
- 3 The commissioning strategy is focused on adults with a learning disability and includes the needs of young people age 14+ making the transition to adult services.
- 4 Key data and information has been analysed and feedback sought from a range of stakeholders in order to produce the strategy for approval.
- 5 The strategy is included as Appendix 2 and has been circulated to other Durham County Council (DCC) and Clinical Commissioning

Group (CCG) management groups and stakeholders, including service users, carers, providers and the general public for feedback.

Recommendation(s)

- 6 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
- a) Consider the contents of the report and the commissioning strategy
 - b) Approve the strategy and the commencement of the implementation of the strategy.

Background

- 7 The most recent Joint Commissioning Strategy for Learning Disabilities in County Durham covers the period 2009 – 2013 and was published in August 2009.
- 8 It has been recognised by Commissioning Services that this strategy is no longer relevant, and that a new strategy is required which sets out the identified needs of our population and can then be used to inform commissioning intentions over the next 3 years.
- 9 The development of a Learning Disability commissioning strategy is also a recommendation from Durham County Council (DCC) Internal Audit following a review of Learning Disability commissioning within the council.
- 10 Peopletoo were commissioned by DCC in 2017/18 to develop the key principles for a Learning Disability commissioning strategy and undertook information analysis and stakeholder engagement to produce a report of findings and recommendations for further consideration.
- 11 A multi-agency Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy Group, chaired by the Head of Commissioning, is working collaboratively across Health and Social Care to develop and implement a County Durham Learning Disability (LD) Joint Commissioning Strategy, with an emphasis on moving towards more outcomes-focused provision, increased choice and control, and supporting people with learning disabilities to remain living in their communities.
- 12 The group has worked through the process of collating key data/information and feedback from stakeholders in order to produce a strategy for implementation, building on the work undertaken by Peopletoo.

- 13 As part of this process an Integrated Needs Assessment (INA) for Learning Disability services has also been developed and this is contained with the Durham Insight website. A link to Durham Insight is included in the strategy.

Stakeholder Engagement

- 14 Previous engagement was carried out by Peopletoo. Members of the Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy Group have since undertaken some further engagement work with Learning Disability in-house and external providers/stakeholders, service user engagement leads, carer representatives and operational teams. They were asked to identify 3 key messages for commissioners to be prioritised within the strategy and also contribute to an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), which have been incorporated into the strategy.
- 15 The most common key messages identified by the providers were that there should be more robust communication systems, which can be easily understood by service users and care staff and that providers should be supported with service-specific training for service users based on their needs.
- 16 The information collated was used alongside information on the national and local policy context, needs analysis, financial information, evidence and best practice to contribute to the draft strategy.

Key Principles

- 17 Building on the work co-ordinated by Peopletoo, the Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy Group, in collaboration with the local Learning Disability Provider and Stakeholder Forum, agreed the following key principles for the strategy:
- Co-production – through appropriate service user, carer and provider representatives/mechanisms
 - Taking a whole-life approach including young people in transition and people who are ageing
 - A focus on early help, timely intervention and prevention
 - Promoting personalisation and progression
 - Improving outcomes such as increased independence and employment
 - Improving outcomes such as increased wellbeing, choice and control with shared responsibilities and community resilience
 - Delivering a co-ordinated approach to supporting individuals to achieve their goals

- Promoting and developing provider resilience and responsiveness to local needs
- Increasing efficiency, cost-effectiveness and value for money
- Ensuring services are safe and of high quality

Vision

- 18 The commissioning strategy includes a proposed shared vision for County Durham, which is *“for all people with a learning disability in County Durham to have a good life in their community with the right support from the right people at the right time”*.

Strategic Aims and objectives

- 19 The main aims of the County Durham Joint Health and Social Care Commissioning Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities are:
- Joint commissioning** – Health and social care commissioners work collaboratively in partnership with other agencies to implement the commissioning strategy
 - Improve understanding of needs** – The health and social care needs of children (pre and post 18) and adults with a learning disability, including those who are ageing and those with dementia, are understood and used to inform commissioning decisions and service development activity, through improved information and data systems and engagement with stakeholders.
 - Improve understanding of service provision and develop the market to better meet needs** – Commissioners with the help of stakeholders will identify gaps in service provision and improve the availability, range, consistency and quality of learning disability services in the market. This will include the continuation of work with NHS commissioners in respect of the ongoing requirements of Transforming Care.
 - Improve outcomes and quality of life** – Commissioners with the help of stakeholders will develop new ways to deliver services to achieve better outcomes and improve the lives of people with a learning disability and their carers/families.
 - Deliver Transforming Care** – Commissioners will work with stakeholders to meet the vision and values agreed by County Durham’s Transforming Care Programme Board and deliver the Regional Community Model of Care in County Durham. Transforming Care is about improving health and care services so that more people can live in the community, with the right support, and close to home, including people with learning disabilities who have autism and/or mental health issues and behaviour that may challenge current services.

- 20 The aims have been presented as a plan on a page within the strategy and are supported by a number of objectives. Detailed commissioning plans will be co-produced with service users, carers, providers and other stakeholders to help implement the strategy and achieve the objectives.

Governance

- 21 There will be a Learning Disability Strategy Implementation Group to oversee progress towards the aims and objectives identified in the strategy with this group reporting to the County Durham Integrated Care Board.
- 22 A full description of the governance arrangements is shown in the governance chart in Appendix 1 of the strategy.

Consultation

- 23 The draft strategy was open for consultation on the DCC website during the period 4th – 30th June 2019 and links were also made with Durham County Carers Support for that provider to publicise the consultation to carers and provide a link to it via their own media.
- 24 Inclusion North also organised a specific event for service users and carers, including easy-read versions of the strategy, to collect feedback from people with learning disabilities, including service users. The council's Learning Disability engagement team have also supported the consultation.

Conclusion

- 25 After the consultation exercises were undertaken, feedback received, including from management groups, was evaluated and a final version of the Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy for Adults and Young People (age 14+) with Learning Disabilities was produced.

Contact: Paul McAdam
Tricia Reed

Tel: 03000 268407
Tel: 03000 269095

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Any potential legal implications will be considered as part of more detailed commissioning plans on the implementation of the strategy.

Finance

There is no extra longer term funding identified for the implementation of the strategy and commissioning activity will include remodelling or decommissioning services, prioritisation of services based on need and reducing higher cost packages, taking into account the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

Consultation

A consultation exercise with service users was facilitated by Inclusion North and the DCC website was used to consult widely on the strategy with carers, providers, other stakeholders and the general public.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Recommendations/actions contained within the learning disability commissioning strategy will ensure compliance in relation to people with learning disabilities and their families/carers, including those with autism and mental health issues (adults and young people). Equality Impact Assessments will be completed where necessary.

Human Rights

None highlighted

Crime and Disorder

None highlighted at this stage – needs in relation to criminal justice are included within the strategy

Staffing

There may be staffing implication and capacity issues in relation to fully implementing the strategy in addition to other competing priorities.

Accommodation

None highlighted at this stage – accommodation needs are included within the strategy

Risk

The main risks in relation to implementing the strategy are related to time pressures and financial constraints across health and social care.

Procurement

Potential procurements will be considered within commissioning plans as part of the implementation of the strategy.

Appendix 2: County Durham Joint Health and Social Care Commissioning Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities

Attached as a separate document