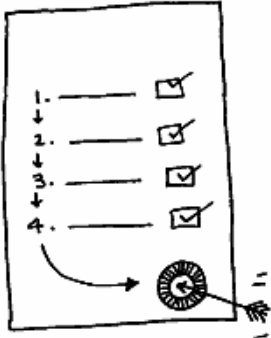


PROGRESS REPORT 11 SEPTEMBER 2006

LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

This report is about progress with plans



It is based on the report that went to Inspectors in July 2006. It covers progress on the areas that the Inspection said needed improving. There is a section about all the Adult Social Services parts of Valuing People.

- Transition into adult life
- Enabling people to have more control over their own lives
- Supporting carers
- Good health
- Housing
- Fulfilling lives
- Moving into employment
- Quality
- Workforce training and planning
- Partnership working

Pictures from
People FIRST
020 7485 6660



TRANSITION INTO ADULT LIFE

A Transition protocol has been developed. It is based on the following principles:

- All case transfers are done in a planned way with the young person involved in the decisions
- Family, carers and significant others should be part of and fully informed about the transition process.
- Adult service provision will stress the normal social role and developmental needs of the young person. It will promote independence and social inclusion.
- Assessments carried out by the named adult worker will take into account the vulnerability, life experiences, coping skills and support networks of the young person.
- Children and Adult Services will work together to provide a flexible, seamless transition process for the young person.
- Service Managers will promote joint working with other agencies.
- Assessments will be shared between Children and Adult Services based on the Fair Access to Care criteria framework.
- Joint funding must always be considered.
- Child Protection Plans will be passed to the Adult Protection Co-ordinator ensuring continuity of protection as an adult.

A new Transition Group has been set up between Adult and Children's Services. This group will be developing an information leaflet about transition. Detailed work is being carried out to forecast demand by young people for adult services.



SUPPORTING CARERS

Mapleholme's move to the former Birket House site in Beckwith Street is working well. The change of name went ahead from Birket House to Mapleholme successfully. There have been 439 short breaks from January to July 2006. 13 new people used the service.

Further work is taking place with carers to develop the short break services available to users and carers.



The Involvement Officer is now in post. Staff training on involvement will start in September 2006. Staff training on understanding carers needs will also start in September 2006. Training for people who use our services and carers is being planned and developed.



The development of an involvement strategy has started. It is hoped to complete it by the end of the year. A public consultation will be held in January 2007.

The Care Manager for Older Carers is still identifying the housing needs of people living with older carers. She has been piloting the new Carers Assessment form to identify other support needs.



Outreach workers funded through Supporting People liaise with the Wirral Multicultural Organisation about people with learning disabilities from minority communities who need their support. They also refer people for assessment to the care management teams.

WIRED have produced 2 Carers Newsletters. Social Services are working with WIRED on a Carers Register.

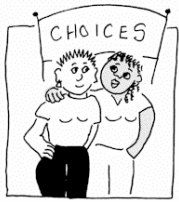


We now have a Carers Development committee. It will check that the Carers Strategy is carried out.

Councillor Jacqui McKelvie is now the Carers Champion.

Social Services, health and voluntary bodies held an information event in Carers Week 2006 which was very successful.





MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL

Developing Person Centred Planning

Our bid for neighbourhood renewal around Person Centred Planning was successful. We are now recruiting a health planner and person to develop plans for black people with learning disabilities.

PCP

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Person Centred Plans are being developed for 8 people. Up to 40 are planned over the next year by the Riverside Person Centred Planning team.

We will restart the person centred planning task group in autumn 2006.

Promoting advocacy

The advocacy group continues to meet. We are looking again at our advocacy services for people with learning disabilities.



GOOD HEALTH

The modernisation of day services includes Health Action Planning and works closely with the Primary Care Trusts to identify health needs. This work has been funded in part by Neighbourhood Renewal. Further work is taking place to identify those people using day centres who have nursing needs which will be met by more integration of services.

Learning Disability Awareness Training has recommenced with Wirral Hospital staff



There has been a successful bid for Neighbour Renewal Funding for 19 GP practices to provide in-depth health checks for people with learning disabilities

Lifestyle Awareness training is being delivered to service provider staff.

Work has begun on making sure people with learning disabilities are aware and involved in the new bowel cancer screening programme.

We have asked if people with learning disabilities can be targeted in the next Public Health Lifestyle survey

Links have been made and work begun with the Lifestyle and Weight Management service addressing how we include people with learning disabilities.

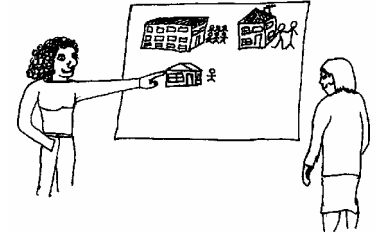


Work has started with the Cheshire and Wirral Cancer Network to begin to pilot an Anticipatory Care Calendar for carers to use with people with learning disabilities. This is an observation/assessment tool that picks up very quickly changes in health. It will help both carers and health professionals establish changes to health and how to deal with it.



HOUSING

We received 220 replies to our Housing Needs survey. This will help us plan for housing and other services in the future.



2 people with autism moved into bungalows in Bromborough in June 2006. Autism Initiatives support this project.

2 people with learning disabilities moved into shared ownership bungalows.



4 people now have houses with Wirral Methodist Housing Association. They will move in when the legal processes are completed.

A property was bought for an individual with complex needs. Adaptations are now completed and staff recruited. The person has started to move in.

12 people will move into a purpose built scheme of 6 houses and 6 bungalows during September 2006.

6 self contained units will be developed from an existing facility. It will be decorated and improved. 'Housing Initiatives' are our partners.

6 more self contained units are being developed from another existing scheme. Wirral Partnership Homes are our partners. People living a long way from their families will be the tenants.

11 Extra Care units are being developed. People with complex needs will be the tenants. Wirral Methodist Housing Association are our partners. This will be completed by July 2007.



FULFILLING LIVES

Work has been completed on mapping clusters of people who use our day services. This tells us where to start looking for small, community venues.

Carers, families and people who use services are working on changing services into small, local day opportunities.

18 people are now using Central Park community option.

A shop has been developed at Brotherton Park which is open Monday to Friday between 10 and 3. 8 People are currently using this service. The next step is to extend the service to open at weekend.



A successful bid to develop a Central Birkenhead Forum with Duke St Residents, Cavendish Centre and Livingston Street Young People's services has been made. A new post of Community Development Officer will roll it out.

Riverside is developing into a community venue. The Community Development Officer will identify other local places.

The group from Moreton Centre found a local community centre to use. People with learning disabilities can use all the activities there.

Costs for individualised day care support have been identified for some people with complex needs who require 1-to-1 support.



In partnership with Connexions and schools we are mapping where people live, how old they are and current needs for young people aged 11 -19. Further work needs to be done to extend this profiling to colleges and out of area placements

The enabling fulfilling lives task group now includes health, care management, transport and trade unions.

The research group is going to Conway to look at social firms and alternative provision.

Care Services are piloting the Equality Impact Assessment tool on behalf of the council. An action plan is being developed.

We will run a 'Steps to employment' course in partnership with Lifelong Learning. This course will start in September 2006. It will help 30 people attending day services into jobs in 3 areas of work (catering, administration /IT, domestic). This is being funded through the Single Regeneration Budget.

Working Life continues to find work placements for people with a learning disability and support them in work. Some provider projects actively support people who use their services into mainstream employment e.g. domestics in Arrowe Park Hospital.



An Employment Group has been set up between provider services and the Jobcentre Plus. It will find areas of good practice and act as an advisory group to projects.

The existing work projects continue to grow and expand. Projects will identify jobs that could be filled by people who use our services with support. We have asked the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for money to support the training and employment of people who use our services.

The Employment Group has identified a Project that can be extended and supported into an independent Social Enterprise. It will set this up during the year, with the help of an independent consultant.



The Employment Green paper and the amended Disability Discrimination Act says that public bodies must have a widely diverse workforce - that includes people who use our services.

QUALITY



Buying our services in a better way

The final report on people who live a long way from home will soon be ready. The report will identify those people who want move back to Wirral. It will identify groups sent out of Wirral such as people sent out of area as children or young people and people with autism.

Wirral Primary Care Trusts, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Trust and Adult Social Services have agreed to support a number of people currently living a long way from home needing secure and robust care plans.

There has been a high level of interest in the supported living accreditation scheme. Phase 1 is now complete with 19 providers. Interviews for a further group of providers will take place soon.

An updated version of the commissioning strategy is complete

A piece of research with our provider partners concerning people with learning disabilities placed and funded by other local authorities or Primary Care Trusts has been conducted. This will tell us

- how many people from other towns have moved here
- how old they are and
- what their needs are.

This will tell us whether or not we need to make additional arrangements for the future. There are 90 people known to be placed (not all providers responded) and their needs vary widely. Most (70) are people with autism who are taking up specialist services.

Providing services for everybody

We will progress the ORC International research with the Primary Care Trusts and Wirral Multicultural Organisation. This will involve re-launching the Wirral Ethnic Health User Group in partnership with Wirral Multicultural Organisation.



The national training programme 'Valuing all People' has now been completed by the Wirral multi-agency team. These 4 people will form the core of a new task group. Improving ethnic monitoring will part of the work for this team. We are finding it difficult to recruit people who use our services and their carers to this group which has limited progress.

Exploring pooled budgets

Health



Social
Services

Shared funding arrangements are in place for individuals with complex needs. A joint care panel meets on a monthly basis to implement this work. This has brought the benefits of a pooled budget for such cases.

Finding out what each service costs

This ties in with the Supported Living Accreditation process. We are part of a group of authorities being led by the North West Centre for Excellence on an audit of all high cost placements across the Northwest. This will allow us to more accurately ensure value for money.



We are working with the North West Centre for Excellence on common framework contracts with a number of providers across the region. This will establish a cohesive regional response.

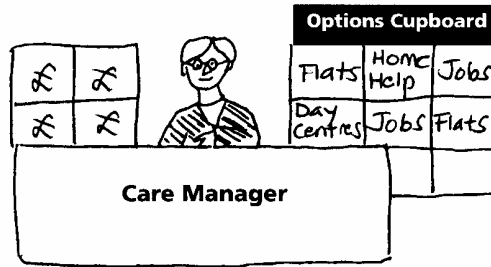
Making ways into service simple

Health and social services have agreed a single point of entry into services. This will be through the Central Advice and Duty Team only. This will be tried from September 2006 to January 2007. Then we will look at how it has worked and whether we should make it permanent.

We are developing new leaflets on learning disability services. These will be in easy read format along with other community languages.

Improving care management

Once the single point of entry pilot has been completed we will work on a single allocation process within the integrated teams.



An improved duty system has been put in place. 2 nominated care managers undertake duty. This ensures a consistent response. Priority is given to the most urgent need. Adult Protection referrals and carer breakdown are given the most urgent status.

The integrated assessment tool has been reviewed and changes implemented. This will greatly assist the streamlining of care management and joint care processes. Further discussions are needed with the Joint Commissioner as to outcomes.

Work is continuing to prioritise reviews. The priority focus is on out of borough and high cost care package reviews. The Care Manager for people with learning disabilities living with older carers continues to progress reviews with this group of people who use our services.



Reviewing targets are monitored on a monthly basis by the team manager, Service Manager and Head of Service at the Community Panel. Work on putting all the reviews into one single list continues.



WORKFORCE PLANNING

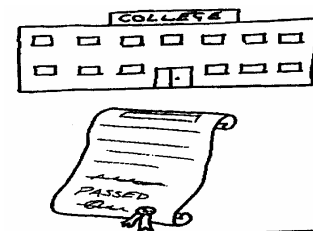
4 full time staff with a learning disability background continue to be NVQ assessors. We were able to support the numbers of staff from learning disability accessing an NVQ because of this. We are still working with managers to ensure that all staff have access to an NVQ.

Care workers in Adult Social Services Learning Disabilities Services

On 31 July 2006 there were 379 care staff. 128 were qualified (34% - a rise from 31% in December 2005). Another 88 staff were studying for an NVQ (23%).

Care staff work in 23 learning disability units. The target (50% staff qualified) has been met at 5: Balls Road, the Employment Project, Heswall Centre, the Horticultural Project and West Wirral Area. This is 22% of the units.

3 units have between 40% and 49% of their care staff qualified (Cambridge Rd/ Highcroft, Moreton Centre and Pensby Wood). This is 13% of the total number.



5 have between 30% and 39% of their staff qualified (Eastham Centre, Girtrell Court, North Road, Sylvandale and 26 Langdale Rd). This is 22% of the total.

2 units have no care staff qualified (Edgehill Road and 5 Cardigan Road). This is 9% of the total.

Care Services' Registered Managers

20 staff eligible for the Registered Manager's Award work with people who have learning disabilities. 6 people hold the award (30%)

Working with the Independent Sector Services

Alan Ging now attends the Learning Disabilities & Mental Health Provider Forum. This should result in the greater sharing of information within the Wirral.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Making sure social workers and nurses assess in the same way

An integration task group has started looking at how care managers and nurses assess people for services. The group will create integrated teams. The model being used is the Community Mental Health Team model.

Health



Social
Services

An executive group now oversees planning how to buy services in a better way across Primary Care Trusts and Adult Social Services.

The Joint Care Panels and Continuing Health Care Panels help with the funding of care packages for people with complex needs.

Making the services work together and plan together

The modernisation of day services includes Health Action Planning and works closely with the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust to identify health needs. This work has been funded in part by Neighbourhood Renewal. Further work is taking place to identify those people using day centres who have nursing needs which will be met by more integration of services.

Developing a common data system for caseload management

The Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust use the 'Carenotes' system across mental health and learning disability. Adult Social Services uses SWIFT.

There is active joint work across both agencies to ensure that information systems are

streamlined for ease of access. Part of the integration task group's focus is to examine the shared areas of data and performance management when determining caseloads.

