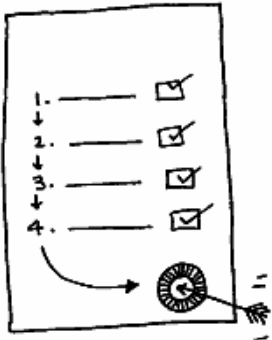


PROGRESS REPORT 12 MARCH 2007

LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

This report is about progress with plans



It mostly covers progress on the areas that the Inspection said needed improving. There is a section about all the parts of Valuing People.

- Opportunities for disabled children
- 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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED CHILDREN



The Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Plan is being reviewed and will be revised by April 2007.

Further work is taking place at Willow Tree Resource Centre to provide single person units for children who need more space.

Work is being done between Children & Young People `s Department and Wirral Primary Care Trust on how we fund short break services.



The Direct Payments scheme is under review.

New Children's panel has been set up



The structure of Wirral Hospital Trust is under review for children with complex health needs.

A new multi agency Autistic Spectrum Disorder Team was launched in February 2007

A new Parent Forum is in place - a parent's information day is planned for 27 March 2007 to increase attendance. 3 Parent information and consultation events are planned for 2007 and during Inclusion week



A new Parent Support Co-ordinator is in post - Jo McCardle



TRANSITION INTO ADULT LIFE

A structure has been developed to collect accurate information and plan better services for young people with a learning disability. This consists of

- Transition Governance Group (heads of services from Department of Adult Social Services, PCT and other agencies),
- Transition Strategic Group (service managers) and
- Transitions Working Group (team managers).

The Governance Group has overall responsibility for making sure agencies work together to improve the process of moving from children's services to adult services. The Strategic Group sits underneath this to make sure work is done to make the transition smoother. The Working Group identifies young people in transition and what their needs will be as an adult. They pass the collected information to the Strategic Group. A new Transition Protocol is being developed between all the people who buy services.



Peter Burgess in Children & Young People Department has been appointed to improve the process of moving from children's services to adult services. He is based at Willow Tree Resource Centre.

An audit of Learning Disabilities services is being done. We are looking at:



- what services are provided across health and social care
- what they cost
- who provides them

This will give us information so that we can buy our services in a better way. This is particularly important for young people in transition.

A Transition information event is being planned for Inclusion Week in October 2007. Leaflet and web site information will be developed.



PCP

Person Centred Plans are being produced by Children with Disabilities team. "Learn about me" has been introduced by Foxfield School.



SUPPORTING CARERS

Short Break Services

There have been 691 short breaks from 31st March 2006 to 9th February 2007. 11 new people have been given short breaks for this year. 9 other new people are being introduced - 4 in emergencies and 5 gradually. Children's services are contributing to the Short Break Services Review.

In December 2006 family carers were asked about their preferences for different types of short breaks. Some carers preferred a holiday for their son or daughter. We are seeking to organise a one week holiday for a small number of people who use our services in the summer. Families recognise that there would be an additional cost for this.

A voucher scheme is being tried out.

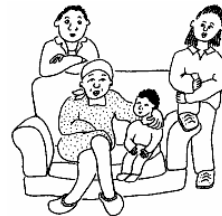
Involving family carers



People with learning disabilities who use our services, carers and staff from health and social care wrote a 5 year business plan for Learning Disabilities Day Services. 2 PATH days in October and November 2006 were held to do this.

Staff training on involvement will start in March 2007. People who use our services and carers participate in the training.

A parent carer was a Board member of the 'Involving People' policy board.



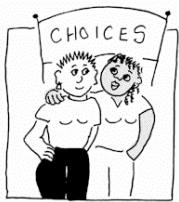
Care Management forms including the new Carers Assessments are all being looked at to see whether they need to change.

A Carer's Support Co-ordinator has been appointed by WIRED. Work has started on developing a list of carers that WIRED are in contact with. This list will then form the basis of a Wirral Carers Register.



The Carers Development Committee are finding out and writing down all the carers support services in Wirral.

They will then study the list, work out whether any services that should be there are missing. These gaps will then be sorted in order of importance. The Carers Development Committee will then make a plan to improve support services.



MORE CHOICE AND CONTROL

Developing Person Centred Planning

In the Business Plan developed by people who use our services and their carers each Learning

PCP

Disabilities Day Service will develop a Person Centred Planning Team. 30 people with learning disabilities are already designing their own Person Centred Plan with the team based at Riverside.

Promoting advocacy



Interviews for the individual advocacy service will be held in March 2007. The new service will be in place by April 1st. A successful tender for the 'Speaking Up' services has been awarded to Shaw Trust. They will help us involve people who use our services.

Involving people who use our services

Involvement training has commenced for people with learning disabilities who use our services. This is a 10 week course covering:

- committee skills,
- active listening,
- 'hear my voice' and
- making choices and decisions.



There is also an art project running alongside it mapping their journey through art.

Involvement training for staff will start in March 2007. People who use our services and carers are part of the training team.



Team Managers are writing new Easy read leaflets for learning disability services. They will write them with the advice and support of people who use our services and their families.

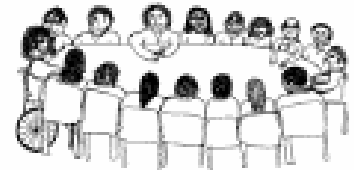
Direct Payments

There are currently 48 people who use our learning disabilities services on Direct Payments.



GOOD HEALTH

The Health Action Group is now meeting regularly. The 2 main things they think are the most important are:



- Looking at what the needs of people with learning disabilities are by working with the GP practices to build a local picture of their needs.
- Making health care better for people with learning disabilities and their families.

19 GP practices will be offering detailed health checks to people with learning disabilities. People will receive letters from their doctors asking them to call in for a check.



The work with GP practices will start in March 2007. The work will not be finished until all people with learning disabilities are recorded at their GP surgery. The anticipatory care calendar will be tried out with 6 GP practices. A training pack and feedback sheets will be put together to help everyone involved.

Sure Start are asking for some money to provide additional help for parents with a learning disability.



The Obesity Strategy will be looked at again soon. Next year it will look at obesity and people with learning disability.



HOUSING

A Joint Commissioning Manager for Supporting People schemes has been appointed.



12 people moved into a purpose built scheme of 6 houses and 6 flats in Birkenhead. This has gated access to improve security.

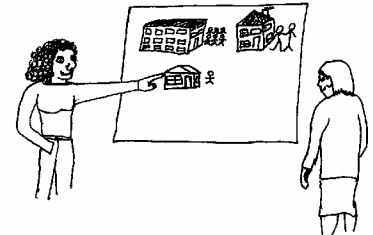
4 people who use our services have now moved into a scheme developed with Wirral Methodist Housing Association. They are now being supported in their own

tenancies.

90 people with learning disabilities live in supported living schemes managed by Adult Social Services. The housing is provided by Registered Social Landlords.

139 people with learning disabilities live in supported living schemes managed by the independent sector.

The Housing Needs Survey has given us clearer information around people's needs. This will help us plan for the future.



There are over 20 providers in the Supported Living Accreditation Scheme.



11 units for people with complex needs are now being built by Wirral Methodist Housing Association. There is now also a bungalow coming on stream.

6 self contained units will be decorated and improved later in 2007. 'Housing Initiatives' are our partners.



FULFILLING LIVES

Children's services are contributing to Reviews of Day Services.

People who use our services, family carers and staff from health and social care wrote a 5 year business plan for Learning Disabilities Day Services. 2 PATH days in October and November 2006 were held to do this.



They decided that each Day Service will develop in 2007:

- 3 local access points.(like Wallasey Central Park)
- 1 Inclusive People Centre. (Like Riverside)
- 1 Person Centred Planning Team



The advisory groups would

- Hold consultation evening / events and coffee mornings etc.
- Design 'progress' newsletters etc.
- Agree 3 groups of people to meet regularly each week to explore and cost small local access points
- Agree who will manage and make up Person Centred planning team.
- Agree joint 'people centre' development team.
- Report progress to Enabling Fulfilling Lives group
- Finish capacity analysis.

In 2008 the Day services will:

- Work with Health Authority in developing Health and Social Care Service (Pensby Wood + 2 other sites)
- Develop further 2 local access points in each area.
- Pass control of 'People Centres' to local area groups.

QUALITY



Buying our services in a better way

An updated version of the commissioning strategy is complete and we have started to buy services differently (and different services). An event will be organised for May 2007 for health and adult social services to talk about (and agree) how we can spend the money differently when we buy services.

Providing services for everybody

The Wirral Ethnic Health User Group was relaunched in partnership with Wirral Multicultural Organisation during November 2006.



The 'Valuing All People' task group needs restarting. Improving ethnic monitoring will part of the work for this team. The task group are finding it difficult to recruit people who use our services and their carers to this group which has limited the work it can do.

Exploring pooled budgets

A joint care panel continues to fund packages of care for individuals with complex needs. This brings the benefits of a pooled budget.

The event in May 2007 will look at pooled budgets and their scope.

Health



Social
Services

Finding out what each service costs

We are working with the Northwest Centre of Excellence on various topics. We are looking at how high cost placements are priced by providers. This is to develop a shared way of pricing across the Northwest.



We will soon have a common framework contract for use with providers across the Northwest. This has been led by the Northwest Centre of Excellence

We now have an accredited list of providers of supported living and a brokerage system to buy those services. We are beginning work on costs for residential care for people under 65 years. It is becoming easier to know the costs of services we are purchasing.

Making ways into service simple

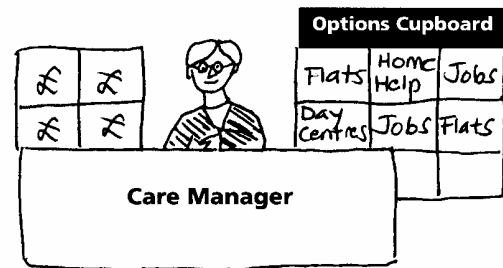
Team Managers are working on new leaflets for learning disability services. Easy read versions along with other community languages will be developed.

Wirral specialist health and social care services for people with learning disabilities both have the same rules to decide whether or not people have services. The new rules are being tried out. The rules will be looked at again after they have been tried out for a while.

Improving care management

We are recruiting 2 additional care managers as well as filling the vacancies in the team.

Wirral Department of Adult Social Services was successful in becoming a 'micro site' for the Department of Health Care Services Efficiency Delivery (CSED) project.



CSED did a major review of referral, assessment and care management. The aim is to become more efficient without affecting the service to vulnerable adults who need care. This is done by reducing paperwork, shortening processes, and solving problems. CSED is also about developing a model of care that places the individual at the centre of the social care process. Learning Disabilities Care Management will use any advice from CSED to make services better.

Reviews

2 new reviewing officers will start work in the near future.



A number of high cost placement reviews have been completed. The information on needs will be collated to link in with buying local services in a better way.

A small number of people living away from Wirral in high cost placements would prefer to live in Wirral. Local services will be commissioned to meet their needs.

Wirral PCT has appointed 2 complex case workers to undertake out of borough and high cost placement reviews.

Reviewing targets continue to be looked at on a monthly basis at the Community Care Panel.

Work on putting all the reviews into one single list continues. This will be greatly assisted by the additional reviewing officers and complex case officers.

Adult Protection

Adult Protection for people with learning disabilities is still an issue which takes up a large proportion of care managers' time. Working with a person with a learning disability takes more social work time than other people who use our services. They need extra help to say what has happened to them. This is because we take very seriously our work with people who may have been abused by other people. This means that other work (assessments or reviews) is not done.

528 Adult Protection contacts were made between 1st January and 31st December 2006. Of these, 114 people were people with a learning disability (22%).



WORKFORCE PLANNING

4 full time staff with a learning disability background continue to be NVQ assessors. Each has a workload of 25 candidates across the Department of Adult Social Services. Of the 100 candidates 60 are from Learning Disabilities services.

Care Managers

All 9 Assessment Care Managers at Ashton House hold DipSW or equivalent. This means that they are all qualified.

Care workers in Adult Social Services Learning Disabilities Services

In Disability Day Services

- 61% of staff are qualified to NVQ level 2;
- 50% to NVQ level 3;
- 29% to NVQ level 4.

In Disability Residential Services

- 34% of staff are qualified to NVQ level 2;
- 40% to NVQ level 3;

Care Services' Registered Managers

There are 20 staff who can hold the Registered Manager's Award in Wirral Department of Adult Social Services. 9 Learning Disabilities residential managers could take it. 6 (67%) of these have it and another 2 will complete the course very soon.

Working with the Independent Sector Services

Wirral Department of Adult Social Services has worked with the local independent sector firms to record staff qualifications. 40 Wirral firms have recorded them already. This is way ahead of most neighbouring councils. This work has been done in the Wirral Learning Partnership which has some Learning Disabilities members. The Wirral Learning Partnership will be looking to grow in 2007-08. This is helping to build a clearer picture of the social care economy in Wirral and enhance partnership working.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Making sure social workers and nurses assess in the same way

The Integration Task Group continues to meet. Any advice by the Care Services Efficiency Delivery group will be used in the integration plan.

The event in May 2007 will help us decide the direction of integration for health and social care in Wirral.

There is greater partnership between Wirral Department of Adult Social Services and Wirral PCT around commissioning, contracting and purchasing. We are looking at changing arrangements with providers. We are discussing with Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Trust a Service Level

Health



**Social
Services**

Agreement for the dedicated Learning Disabilities services. This will have an effect upon social workers and nurses work.

Making the services work together and plan together

The integrated assessment tool is still being used and updated as required.

We are developing a points system which will help in deciding priorities for allocation. This information could then be shared with staff and the families concerned.

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 services. Adult Social Services uses SWIFT. The Carenotes system is available to all staff (both Trust & Council) in mental health teams who are based at health sites. A project to make this available for mental health teams based at Council buildings has been started. A solution to connect Council sites has been implemented (January 2007) using the link at Arrowe Park Hospital.



During 2007/08 learning disability services will be connected to Carenotes. This will not be straightforward technically but solutions will be found.

Wirral Department of Adult Social Services has now been given permission to use the NHS National Strategic Tracing Service to obtain NHS numbers for people who use our services. This will enable the Department to accurately link records on SWIFT with patient records held on the Carenotes system (and other NHS systems).