

Learning Disability Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Challenge Session: Update and Action Plan

Cabinet – 15th December 2021



HOSC Challenge Session: Update and Action Plan - Timeline



10th March 2020

- A Health Scrutiny challenge session reviewed “*How health and social care is supporting adults with a learning disability to live independent lives in Tower Hamlets*”.
- Focused on three main areas of the Learning Disability Strategy
 - Health
 - Accommodation
 - Employment
- The challenge session report was compiled providing documentation of the sessions and included recommendations to be acted upon, however sign-off of the report was delayed due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK.
- Due to the impact of the pandemic, the committee were interested in revisiting the same three areas in February 2021



HOSC Challenge Session: Update and Action Plan - Timeline



08 February 2021

- An updated report that included an impact assessment of the pandemic for the learning disability population was discussed at the Health & Adults Scrutiny subcommittee meeting.
- The sub-committee considered several new recommendations.

Currently

- This report includes an update and action plan based on all recommendations from both the March 2020 and Feb 2021 Health & Adults Scrutiny subcommittee meetings.
- For the most part, recommendations within the report reflect priorities already identified within the Tower Hamlets Learning Disability Strategy 2017-2020.
- Work to take these forward has continued throughout the pandemic with progress made in these areas reflected within the action plan.



Happy & Healthy in the Community



- Efforts continue to **identify individuals with a learning disability**
 - GP register size counts 1,498 individuals at present, an increase of over 300 individuals within 24 months with increases in both adults and children populations.
- **Mental Capacity Assessment awareness** remains a priority
 - MCA is included in statutory and mandatory safeguarding training for both ELFT and LBTH staff to ensure people are supported to make decisions for themselves or remain at the centre of the decision-making process.
 - Barts Health NHS Trust recently completed an audit around MCA knowledge. Guidance from those findings will be distributed amongst health practitioners and staff.
- Children and adult services continue to **prioritise a well-planned transition** for young people, starting from age 14.
 - The LD approach going forward will align with the Children and Families Strategy and CAMHS Transformation Plan.



Work or Volunteer



- During the pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the service managed to ensure 61 individuals were furloughed, and that an additional 14 were **supported to sustain their employment**, instead of their contracts being terminated.
- In 2020-2021, employment services provided employment **support to a total of 121 individuals** (as of quarter 3), which has already exceeded the annual target despite not including the numbers for quarter 4.
- Employment **services have adapted** to the virtual world and started new programmes designed to upskill and improve employability, while at home.
 - They've acquired tablets and laptops and provided in-house IT support so that service users could continue accessing online sessions.
 - The services have maintained and expanded links with organisations and companies to secure employment opportunities in other industries.



Safeguarding & Future Plans



- The Safeguarding Adults Board will have a spotlight on learning disabilities, designed to **strengthen and facilitate local learning and accountability** for SAR's actions across teams and services for this population.
 - LeDeR is incorporated often into discussions at the Tower Hamlets Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). Strategic partnerships between health and social care partners attending the SAB can be strengthened in terms of meeting the needs of the LD community by taking the **learning from LeDeR reviews** and implementing this into strategy using a place based approach.
- The LD JSNA Factsheet was last updated in 2016. Discussions are underway with health intelligence colleagues in our Public Health Teams to **build an updated LD JSNA Factsheet** into the work programme.



Coproduction – Views from the learning disability population



- The **importance of coproduction** in service design, monitoring and improvement led to the development of the Empowering Voices and Quality Checker services.
 - Despite the challenges of the pandemic, both services continued to meet regularly, attend trainings, and organise events virtually, and have recently begun meeting in person again.
- Quality Checkers will complete their first GP surgery check in October 2021. Their reports will provide **support for services to become more accessible** and offer adjustments and improvements to how services can become friendly and suitable environments for people with a learning disability.
- Ten service users joined the Empowering Voices team with six meeting regularly.
 - Since the project began, they have worked with 5 organisations producing a video and an article for the newspaper on the experiences of service-users through lock down, a learning disabilities focused training (securing an EV member a theatre acting role), and consulted on a 400 page service-user experience report.

