


<p align="center">Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee</p> <p align="center">08 March, 2022</p>	 <p align="center">TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Denise Radley, Health, Adult and Community</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Update on Adults Learning Disability Scrutiny recommendations, Action Plan and LD provision focusing on health outcomes, employment and accommodation</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Megan Clavier, Learning Disabilities Health Commissioning Manager
Wards affected	All wards

Summary

Tower Hamlets Council and its health partners are responsible for commissioning and delivering appropriate care, support, and assistance to people with learning disabilities that live in the borough. The council is committed to enabling people with learning disabilities to maintain their independence with services ranging from giving advice and information through to long-term residential care.

A Health scrutiny challenge session took place on the 10th March 2020 reviewing “How health and social care is supporting adults with a learning disability to live independent lives in Tower Hamlets”, focusing on three main areas of the Learning Disability Strategy: Health, Accommodation and Employment. Due to the impact of the pandemic, the committee were interested in revisiting the same three areas in 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.

On the 15th December 2021, a report was taken to Cabinet that included an update and action plan based on all recommendations from both the March 2020 and Feb 2021 Health & Adults Scrutiny subcommittee meetings. Work to take these forward has continued throughout the pandemic with progress made in these areas reflected within the action plan. The presentation is an update on progress made since Dec 2021.

Recommendations:

The Health & Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the progress made since March 2020 against the initial challenge session recommendations.

2. Note the presentation and updated action plan.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1.1 This is an update following the scrutiny challenge sessions held in March 2020 and February 2021, and the publication of an action plan in December 2021.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 Not applicable

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 In March 2020 it was reported Tower Hamlets has around 1359 people (0.4% of the population) registered to have a learning disability with their GP. Public Health England estimates that 7,413 people (2.17% of the population) have a learning disability (based on national projections) of which 4,848 people are aged 18 and over. This group of people will experience poorer life outcomes than the general population, including for physical health, mental health, employment, and life expectancy.

3.2 In the context of increasing demands on services and complex health needs the sub-committee agreed 'to examine how services in Tower Hamlets are supporting adults with Learning Disabilities to live independent lives and prevent people going into hospital, needing long-term support and high intensity social care intervention'.

3.3 A presentation by joint commissioners of local health and social care was used to develop Key Lines of Enquiry to explore with committee participants at the challenge session in March 2020.

3.4 The challenge session set out to provide the Sub-Committee with a clear understanding of the extent to which better outcomes were being delivered for adults with a learning disability in the following three areas, which are priorities in the Learning Disability Strategy 2017-2020:

- Physical health management of adults with LD;
- Adults with LD are supported into paid employment;
- Adults with LD are supported to live locally;

3.5 The challenge session report was compiled providing documentation of the sessions and including recommendations to be actioned upon, however sign

off of the report was delayed due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK.

- 3.6 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 held on 8 February 2021. Nineteen recommendations were made, including several new recommendations. An update on the recommendations is attached at Appendix 1.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 People who have a learning disability face a number of inequalities across the system from health to employment. Individuals experience a higher than average prevalence of a range of health conditions and have a much lower life expectancy than the general population. These inequalities are the result of the interaction of several factors including increased rates of exposure to common 'social determinants' of poorer health (e.g. poverty, social exclusion), experience of overt discrimination and barriers in accessing services.
- 4.2 Proposals will aim to improving the health and social care provisions for people with a learning disability with particular focus on improving the population's health, access to employment and increasing the range of accommodation options in Tower Hamlets.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- Living Well In Tower Hamlets - The Adult Learning Disability Strategy 2017-2020
- Learning Disability Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Challenge Session: Update and Action Plan – 15DEC2021
- Learning Disability Health Scrutiny Challenge Session Report - 08 February 2021

Appendices

- NONE

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Appendix One: Action Plan Updated February 2022

Learning Disability Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee Challenge Session: Update and Action Plan			
Recommendations	Actions & Progress	Assigned to	Timeline
<p>R1: Joint working between SEND, Children's and health services should aim to address the under representation of 14 -17-year olds on the learning disability primary care registers. This will ensure more effective coverage of primary care health checks for this group.</p>	<p>Efforts continue to identify individuals with a learning disability as the GP register sizes counts 1,498 individuals at present, an increase of over 300 individuals within 24 months with increases in both adults and children populations.</p> <p>Addressing the under representation of 14 - 17-year olds on the learning disability primary care registers remains a top priority in the SEND Improvement Plan. A strategy to address the under-representation of children and young people was agreed by the SEND Board in September 2020. This proposal outlined a series of actions to be undertaken to ensure identification was improved. While the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on the capacity of health systems, there is work underway across adult and children's services to increase representation.</p> <p>A protocol has been drafted to identify young people at 14 for inclusion on GP registers at the commencement of transition planning, where all year 9 students with a statement of special educational needs are reviewed regarding future eligibility for accessing CLDS and the transition is initiated. The protocol will also obtain parental consent to include young people on GP LD registers.</p> <p>For young people who are functioning in ranges at the boundaries of the learning disabilities diagnostic criteria, the number accessing learning disabilities diagnostic assessments whilst still in children's services will also be increased for them to be included on GP LD register with provisional LD coding.</p>	<p>Tony Parker, Head of Children's Integrated Commissioning (Interim) Children and Culture.</p>	<p>March 2023</p>
<p>R2: Effective transition planning is addressed through the new LD strategy</p>	<p>Children and adult services continue to prioritise a well-planned transition for young people, starting from age 14. Transitions pathways are the focus of the newly constituted Transitions Board jointly chaired by Mary Marcus</p>	<p>Transitions Board jointly chaired by Mary Marcus and Stewart</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p>and joined up with the Children and Families Strategy and CAMHS Transformation Plan. Identify and diagnose people with LD earlier and work with health provision to ensure that LD needs are being met effectively.</p>	<p>and Stuart Andrews.</p> <p>To ensure that young people have appropriate support at all stages of their development, CLDS assist in identifying young people with a possible learning disability diagnosis starting at age 14, but without assessment.</p>	<p>Andrews</p>	
<p>R3: Joint commissioners for Learning Disability services and Safeguarding Adults Teams must ensure that Safeguarding Adult Review's (SARs) recommendations are actioned and monitored and facilitate how learning of SARs is applied and embedded into service/action plans.</p>	<p>Strategic partnerships between health and social care partners attending the SAB have been strengthened in terms of meeting the needs of the Learning disability community by taking the learning from LeDeR reviews and implementing this into strategy using a place based approach.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Adults Board recently held a spotlight session on safeguarding concerns particular to those with a learning disabilities, designed to strengthen and facilitate local learning and accountability for SAR's actions across teams and services for this population.</p> <p>Additionally, there is a clear interface between CLDS, emergency care, secondary care health service providers and the SAB in the Learning Disabilities Health Subgroup where learning from SARs and the tracking of actions is undertaken.</p>	<p>Shohel Ahmed, Safeguarding Adults Board</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>R4: Raising awareness of LD and Mental Capacity Assessments (MCAs) amongst health practitioners and staff is a positive initiative, but it needs to be better coordinated. A training programme implemented in all health settings would improve LD patient experience.</p>	<p><u>Mental Capacity Assessments</u></p> <p>Improvements to Primary Care training and the annual health check process continue to be a priority. Training and awareness sessions open to all health and social care staff in Tower Hamlets have been offered throughout the year on key areas relating to learning disability such as annual health checks, care and treatment reviews and positive behaviour support.</p> <p>Learning disabilities link nurses within the Tower Hamlets Community Learning Disabilities Service and the Clinical Lead for Learning Disabilities for Tower Hamlets CCG continue to join GP network MDT meetings</p>	<p>Dr Jason Crabtree, Clinical Lead for Learning Disabilities, Tower Hamlets, NEL CCG and Belle Farnsworth, Designated Professional Safeguarding Adults, Tower Hamlets</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p>The LD work programme has a lack of trained reviewers (related to LeDeR) with majority based in the Community Learning Disability Service. There is a need for more trained reviewers' and funding for this would need to be further discussed.</p>	<p>focused on the health needs and inequalities experienced by people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>MCA awareness is included in statutory and mandatory safeguarding training for both ELFT and LBTH staff. Barts Health NHS Trust to recently completed an audit around MCA knowledge. Guidance from those findings will be distributed amongst health practitioners and staff.</p> <p>The Designated professional for Safeguarding Adults, is currently undertaking scoping with CHC teams and the Local Authority to identify the number of individuals likely to be impacted by the introduction of the liberty protection safeguards when implemented in April 2022. The CCG are currently awaiting the release of the Code of Practice document which is likely to provide further detail into how LPS will impact upon the care and support of people with learning disabilities who lack the relevant capacity. NEL wide and local LPS Implementation Groups are being held to discuss the impact and strategies to support the changes including training, communications, financial implications, workforce etc.</p> <p>The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Sub-Group for Community Engagement are currently producing an animation video on safeguarding adults, part of this animation involves co-production of service users including people with learning disabilities to ensure that the animation is accessible to people with impairments and/or physical disabilities and using accessible terminology.</p> <p><u>LeDeR</u></p> <p>The LeDeR programme continues to be overseen by the Tower Hamlets Learning Disability Health Sub-Group and ensures engagement from all key partners.</p> <p>LeDeR is frequently discussed at the Tower Hamlets SAB. The Designated professional for Safeguarding Adults, is a member of the board. November 2021 SAB focused on Learning Disabilities including presentations on Safeguarding Adult Reviews and learning/themes, host commissioner arrangements and what this means in terms of safeguarding, LeDeR annual report and learning disabilities and Primary</p>		
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	<p>Care.</p> <p>New LeDeR policy published in March 2021 requires that ICSs employ their own reviewers or contract independent reviewers to ensure the stability and continuity of the reviewing process. The new NEL structure has received this proposal and if approved, the proposed new LeDeR team including NEL-wide senior reviewer would be in place by April 2022.</p>		
<p>R5: The sub-committee is interested in further understanding how we support those people who show signs of LD but do not meet the initial CLDS threshold through assessment.</p>	<p>Supporting those people who show signs of LD and or autism but do not meet the initial CLDS or THAS threshold through assessment is a key priority area.</p> <p>A programme of on-going work within community mental health transformation is underway to ensure that the needs of individuals with mild and borderline learning disabilities are considered in the transformation planning.</p> <p>This is in addition to work undertaken with mainstream mental health services to support the access of individuals with mild learning disabilities and autism, including training, consultation and cross service working, this includes specific examples of training provided to Tower Hamlets Talking Therapies (THTT) the local NHS Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service on adapting interventions to support individuals with LD and/or autism and the ELFT Tower Hamlets no front door meetings which brings together representatives across adult mental health services to ensure that access to services for clients with complex needs are considered in one place - reflecting best practice.</p> <p>Extra contractual consultation is also provided to adult social care by specialist LD and autism services for clients presenting with complex needs who again don't meet traditional service eligibility criteria and there is the opportunity for such clients to access the wider NEL offer for individuals with complex behavioural support needs.</p> <p>Work with health services will be overseen by Tower Hamlets Together (THT). This is a partnership of health and care organisations that includes:</p>	<p>Carrie Kilpatrick Deputy Director Mental Health and Joint Commissioning</p>	<p>Complete</p>

	the Council, local NHS trusts and commissioners, the GP Care Group and Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services.		
<p>R6: Utilise online platforms and develop (electronic) health passports for people with learning disabilities in Tower Hamlets and build into standard practice as part of Annual Health Check, initial assessments and annual reviews completed by CLDS.</p> <p>R7: Ensure those with complex health needs have a (electronic) hospital health passport in place.</p>	<p>Significant work was undertaken by multiple partners including CLDS, the CCG and GP surgeries to raise awareness of hospital passports. This work continues to ensure that those individuals with the most complex health needs have their views and information in place to support situations in which they require urgent hospital admission, without their usual carer network in place.</p> <p>A pilot project was initiated to use Coordinate my Care (CMC) for this purpose. CMC can be accessed by GPs, out of hours, GP services, 111, the London Ambulance Service and Accident and Emergency services.</p> <p>However, CMC, the current software programme chosen as an electronic health passport for people with learning disabilities in Tower Hamlets, is to be decommissioned in London in March 2022. A new system aims to avoid double entries which has been the biggest rate limiting step of utilising CMC. CMC data will be migrated onto the new platform.</p> <p>Work is underway to understand the transition period from one system to the next, ensuring all data is saved outside of CMC. Once confirmed we will be continuing with the use of these on online systems with targets to increase take up set during 2022-23. Training will be provided to day services and supported living/residential services to support them in transferring existing paper health passports to the digital health passport system in addition to individuals living more independently and with families being offered tailored support to generate digital health passports. Individuals with more complex health needs, i.e. CHC, long term conditions and regular A&E attendees will be targeted initially.</p>	Dr Jason Crabtree, Clinical Lead for Learning Disabilities, Tower Hamlets, NEL CCG	March 2023
R8: Healthwatch and LD commissioners/LD services should work together more closely to obtain views of LD service users and enhance the repository of information	The importance of coproduction in service design, monitoring and improvement led to the development of the Empowering Voices and Quality Checker services. The services aim to improve co-production and upskill service users into identifying and creating recommendations and actions that will address the health and social inequalities the population face. Despite the challenges of Covid-19, Empowering Voices and the	Megan Clavier, LD Health Commissioning Manager	March 2023

<p>which can help service improvement and monitoring.</p>	<p>Quality Checker services have continued to meet regularly, attend trainings, and organise events.</p> <p><u>Quality Checker Service</u> 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. The Quality Checker Service plans to identify and recruit six more service users to be trained by Skilled for People, bringing the total of Quality Checkers to 10. The training received will add to the prospect of service users to gain further employment and support employment providers.</p> <p>The reports produced from each check will support services to understand what they are doing well, and what ways they can further become learning disability friendly environments that provide reasonable adjustments and improve outcomes.</p> <p>The current Quality Checker team are planning the next stages of the project, including further training to become quality checker champions, so that they can provide scenario training for new checkers. They aim to conduct 4-6 checks before the end of 2022. Plans are also underway to complete a check of Shared Lives: person centred, family based care in the community by the community.</p> <p><u>Empowering Voices</u> Empowering Voices have distributed communications to external organisations in order to invite more service-users to join the team, and to broaden the reach and experience of the group. The service plans to expand on the success they have had with local organisations thus far, aiming to distribute videos that were created during the pandemic on service user experiences more widely through ELFT/LBTH communications platforms.</p> <p>Your Say, Your Day events now take place quarterly and will begin happening in person now that restrictions have eased.</p>		
<p>R9: Given the variability of</p>	<p>Primary Care adapted during the pandemic to ensure learning disability</p>	<p>Megan Clavier, LD</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p>annual health check (AHC) completion rates across network areas, more targeted support should be offered to networks where rates are low.</p>	<p>annual health checks could still be received. This was mainly achieved through the identification and prioritisation of ‘at-risk’ individuals and providing a virtual offer to those not required to come into a practice.</p> <p>Figures for health checks over the last three years indicate uptake continues to improve. As of September 2021 72% of adults had received a check exceeding NHS England target of 67%. The number of LD patients with a Health Action Plan increased from 38% in March 2017 to 95% in September 2021.</p> <p>A service-user informed GP endorsement model around bowel cancer screening continues to be piloted. Best practices and insights gained from the pilot will be applied as a model for future cancer screening programmes for people with LD.</p> <p>Quality Checkers will begin in-person GP surgery quality checks in 2022, providing 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.</p>	<p>Health Commissioning Manager</p>	
<p>R10: Tower Hamlets Council should lead by example and create more paid job opportunities for people with LD and set aspirational targets.</p>	<p>Increasing the number of paid job opportunities in Tower Hamlets Council remains an important objective. The pandemic caused considerable employment challenges that affected the Council’s ability to develop more opportunities.</p> <p>Continued delivery of employment support and skills programmes will increase the number of individuals with learning disability looking for paid employment. More work will be completed to facilitate the creation of paid jobs in TH Council and aspirational targets will be set and measured.</p> <p>Further work on this area will continue during 2022.</p>	<p>Eleea Islam, Senior Learning Disability Commissioning Manager</p>	<p>March 2023</p>
<p>R11: To ensure charter to get commitment from member organisations to employ more adults with a learning disability</p>	<p>The number of employers employing people with a learning disability has steadily increased throughout 2019-2020 from 27 employers in quarter 1 to 46 in quarter 4. The decline throughout 2020-2021 has been overwhelmingly due to the pandemic. There has been enhanced employer engagement with new organisations</p>	<p>Eleea Islam, Senior Learning Disability Commissioning Manager</p>	<p>March 2023</p>

<p>incorporates concept of supporting each other to develop a truly inclusive culture in their respective organisations.</p> <p>R12: The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), Partnership Executive Group and health organisations should create more job opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.</p>	<p>recruiting and supporting people with learning disabilities to access employment and employment related benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Airbnb, Coders for Covid and a FTSE100 company, the Compass Group. • Gaining support from the Forbes Charitable Foundation and the DWP to broker kickstart employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities. • ANZ Bank funded over 50 laptops and tablets to enhance remote service provision during the lockdown. • The British Association for Supported Employment developed opportunities for people with learning disabilities at Microsoft sites in London. <p>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.</p> <p>Further work on this area will continue during 2022.</p>		
<p>R13: To ensure the supported employment programme set ambitious recruitment targets that are based on national benchmarking figures and population growth.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Employment Support contract are that each year, 110 new individuals (different to those from the previous year), are supported to find employment, and then supported during their period of employment.</p> <p>In 2019-2020, a total of 126 people with learning disabilities were supported into employment. This exceeded the target of 110 people per year. This included support to 58 new service users throughout the year, which exceeded the annual target of 55 new service users per year.</p> <p>In 2020-2021, the service provided employment support to a total of 121 individuals (as of quarter 3), which has already exceeded the annual target despite not including the stats for quarter 4. As part of phase one of the day services budget recovery plan, 34 people have been identified to transition onto the employment contracts between quarter 1 and 2 of 2021-22.</p>	<p>Eleea Islam, Senior Learning Disability Commissioning Manager</p>	<p>March 2023</p>

	Further work on this area will continue during 2022.		
R14: To ensure the supported employment programme is mindful of job retention and incorporates career development as part of suitable offer to people with a learning disability.	<p>Tower Project run a number of social enterprises and training programmes that provide real-life work and training opportunities for people with a learning disability, sensory disability, autism, physical disability or health related issue. The transferable employability skills prepare individuals for the world of work and independent living and equip them with an understanding of their rights in the work place as well as support to address any concerns in this are.</p> <p>Young people with learning disabilities continue to benefit from delivery of JET's Employment First supported internship programme, a ten month programme that aims to progress students with learning disabilities into employment in the hospitality sector.</p>	Eleea Islam, Senior Learning Disability Commissioning Manager	Complete
<p>R15: The Tower Hamlets Accommodation Plan for people with LD should set ambitious targets for the development of local accommodation opportunities for people with a learning disability.</p> <p>R16: To secure funding and resources to support development of new supported accommodation schemes.</p> <p>R19: To work with Housing Providers and Housing Options and consider ways to increase supported accommodation capacity through capital programme</p>	<p>The borough has been working intensively with all individuals placed out of area to assess and review housing requirements and to offer a local option where this is needed and desired. As a result, a number of adults have moved back into borough over the last two-year period, with more scheduled to move during 2022.</p> <p>Work continues with our Community Learning Disability Services to ensure transition-planning addresses the needs for those young people who also wish to stay close to home.</p> <p>The development of local housing options and strengthening of services for those with more needs that are complex will continue; with new schemes scheduled to open in August 2022 and October 2023. In addition to these purpose built schemes we continue to work with the market to build capacity in this area and will focus on the development of bespoke local packages to meet individual needs.</p> <p>Accommodation remains a key priority area for 2022</p>	Eleea Islam, Senior Learning Disability Commissioning Manager	March 2023

/HRA funding.			
<p>R17: The last LD JSNA Factsheet was updated in 2016. In light of Covid-19 and the impact it has had on LD services it is recommended that the factsheet is updated.</p>	<p>Discussions are underway with health intelligence colleagues in our Public Health Teams to build an updated Learning Disability JSNA Factsheet into the work programme.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>April 2023</p>