

## PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE DISABILITY SERVICES

### Report of the Head of Adult Commissioning and Health

#### 1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Cabinet agreed the 'Promoting Independence' policy at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 <http://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s7773/ACH1767.pdf>  
We now wish to engage further with users, carers, providers and other relevant parties to consider implementation of the policy. The approach is particularly important for disability services as there are increasing numbers of individuals with disabilities (learning, physical, sensory and/or autism) who present to statutory services. There will be no change to the threshold (eligibility) for support from social care, but the engagement process we are commencing will be asking 'what matters to people' and can we meet those needs in a different way.

#### 2. Summary Information

- 2.1 *Living well with a learning disability in Devon 2014-2017*, <https://www.newdevonccg.nhs.uk/file/?download=true&rid=107575> sets out our commitment across the health and care system to improving outcomes for people who have a learning disability and their carers. Our approach is underpinned by these values:
- People with learning disabilities should have the same rights and choices as everyone else;
  - People with learning disabilities have the right to choice and control and to be treated with dignity and respect;
  - People with learning disabilities should have the same chances and responsibilities as everyone else; and
  - Family carers and families of people with learning disabilities have the right to the same hopes and choices as other families.
- 2.2 Over the last three years there have been improvements in the lives of people with disabilities, but there is still more work that we need to do in the areas of employment, support, transport, leisure and accommodation.
- 2.3 Improvements in care, medicine and assistive technology mean that people can live more independently with the right support. We also need to develop our provider and housing market to offer greater choice, including for people with the most complex needs, and those returning home from out of county placements.

- 2.4 We need to focus on helping people work out what they want from life and the range of options available to help them to maximise their independence and to participate fully in their community. We also need to make sure that we offer innovative support fairly across our community of people with disabilities.

### **Adults with a Learning Disability**

- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) estimates that there are approximately 14,885 estimated people with a Learning Disability in Devon.

2,494 adults with a Learning Disability currently receive social care services. 89% (2,218) of these are 18 to 64 years of age, and 11% (276) are aged 65 and over. This includes 713 adults who receive direct payments and spend this money themselves to meet their needs.

### **Adults with physical disabilities and/or sensory needs**

- Our most recent management information reports that 1,499 adults, aged 18 to 64 years, with physical disabilities or sensory needs, receive social care services in Devon. This includes 632 adults who receive direct payments.

### **Adults with Autism**

- A significant proportion of adults across the whole autistic spectrum experience social and economic exclusion. Their condition is often overlooked by healthcare, education and social care professionals which create barriers to accessing the support and services they need to live independently. In addition, people with autism are more likely to have coexisting conditions such as learning disabilities and mental and physical needs and other developmental disorders. Some may have contact with the criminal justice system, as either victims of crime or offenders, and it is important that their needs are recognised
- Our joint Commissioning Strategy '*Living Well with Autism*' 2015-2020 sets out how we intend to meet new statutory requirements and to promote the independence and personalised support for people with Autism and their carers.  
[https://devoncc.sharepoint.com/sites/PublicDocs/AdultSocialCare/\\_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?guestaccesstoken=ldJU5t2BiYDe%2bVwLxEyUOnIshgxwUPxekXkzB4xF03U%3d&docid=0792edd1099cf4ac5a7d9b418cf6c97f7&rev](https://devoncc.sharepoint.com/sites/PublicDocs/AdultSocialCare/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?guestaccesstoken=ldJU5t2BiYDe%2bVwLxEyUOnIshgxwUPxekXkzB4xF03U%3d&docid=0792edd1099cf4ac5a7d9b418cf6c97f7&rev)
- The National Autistic Society estimates that around 700,000 people may have autism in the UK, or more than 1 in 100 of the population. Based on the estimated national prevalence for autism this suggests that there are currently over 7,500 people in Devon with autism.
- The number of adults aged 18-64 with autistic spectrum disorders in Devon is predicted to increase by 0.4% over the next five years. *Source: PANSI, IPC online projection tool*
- Our management information reports 502 assessments were completed for adults with Autism from September 2016 to August 2017 and there were 773 adults with Autism receiving services at the end of July 2017.

### **Overall budget**

The Disabilities net budget in 17/18 for is as follows:

Physical Disabilities - £19M

Learning Disability - £64M

Autism – £1M

The total budget for Disabilities is £84M which is 46% of the total net budget for Adult Social Care (£185M)

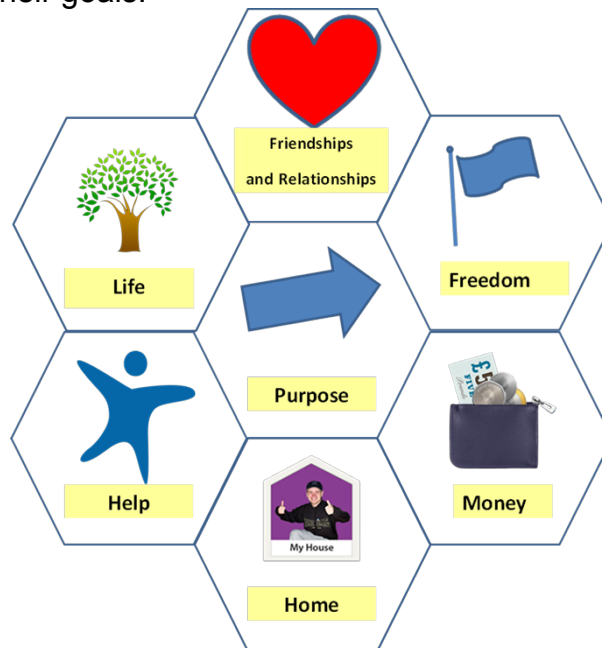
### **3. What we know**

- 3.1 We know that people with disabilities and their carers do not generally want to be dependent on public services or be placed in a care setting if this can possibly be avoided. Instead, they tell us that they want to live with and/or be supported by their family and friends at home in the community, and remain connected to their interests.
- 3.2 We know that in Devon we still have significantly more people using statutory services than other local authorities across England and the way we support people with disabilities is not always focused on supporting them to live as independently as possible.
- 3.3 We know that a system of support for people with disabilities in Devon that promotes independence and uses short-term enabling support where appropriate and is community based is important. Features will likely include:
- Empowering the professional practice of our social care staff so that they can support people with disabilities to become more independent and self-reliant;
  - Improve how we prepare children and young people with disabilities for adulthood;
  - Develop more community opportunities
  - Review people regularly and quickly so that we are responsive to changes in their needs and aspirations.

### **4. Focussing on what matters to people**

- 4.1 We want to support people to build on their strengths and to help them to regain or develop independent life skills. We are working with communities to ensure there are opportunities for people with disabilities to live as independently as possible. This means being able to meet friends, join social groups, benefit from leisure and community facilities, access education and training, or find a job.

- 4.2 Focusing on what matters to people is best exemplified through the model below, which sets out the seven keys to citizenship. It was developed by the Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) earlier this year and shows how we want to focus our support to enable people with disabilities to achieve or work towards their goals.



- Purpose is about having goals, hopes and dreams and having a plan to make these things happen.
  - Freedom is about having control over your life and being able to speak up to be heard.
  - Money is about having enough money to live a good life and control over how your money is spent
  - Home is about having a place that belongs to you and having control over everything that happens there.
  - Help is about having good help that empowers you to use your gifts and talents (things you are good at and enjoy doing). Good help will you to use your rights and carry out your responsibilities.
  - Life is about being active in your community. Sharing your gifts and talents with others, taking risks and having fun.
  - Friendships and relationships is about making real friends, having loving relationships, enjoying life, respecting yourself and the rights of others.
- 4.3 It is really important to recognise that people with disabilities have a range and varying complexity of needs. We will not always be able to work towards independent living for some people with disabilities, but our support should be focussed on what matters to them.
- 4.4 We want to develop a model of support for people with disabilities that is focused on enabling progression and the development of skills to support people into employment where appropriate and towards more independent living. We want our services to support people to maximise their independence and to play a significant part in supporting adults with disabilities to participate fully in their community.

4.5 This is likely to require a strong community offer to support individuals to live more independently in their communities

- We will make greater use of community held resources, such as care and support delivered by carers in family homes, which will have an increasingly important role to play in improving the health and social care offer within communities.
- We are changing our short term offer for people with disabilities so that all support is short term in the first instance, linked to achievement of goals and the use of assistive technology. We will support people to regain their independence as quickly as possible.
- Through discussion with the LDPB, leaders across the Council have committed to improving the accessibility and support to 'promoting independence' across all council areas to support integration into community settings.
- We are creating more opportunities for (unpaid) friendships and peer support in communities. We are aiming to establish a friendship group model across market towns in Devon, which will also introduce a bank of volunteers and a matching service for people interested in the same type of activities.
- Focus groups are influencing the development of the Accessible Website, which aims to better connect people with one another and their communities. It will be available in March 2018.
- A strategic approach to supporting people with disabilities to access employment opportunities is being developed with JobCentrePlus, the DCC employment team, leads for education and local colleges. This sets out to address the known barriers to employment and increase the opportunities for volunteering, apprenticeships, internships and employment for people with disabilities, including young people. Key to achieving this is making sure employers are confident and able to do this sustainably (including statutory services like DCC).

## **5. Process of engagement**

5.1 To ensure our future planning is well informed, we are embarking on a series of meetings with a variety of people who have an interest in promoting independence for those with a Disability. We cannot speak to everyone so we are working with sub groups including:

- Partnership Boards
- Users of both commissioned and in-house provision;
- Carers of these service users;
- Young people with a disability and their families;
- Council staff;
- Community and voluntary sector organisations;
- Council members and MPs;
- Strategic Partners and particularly the NHS
- Health and Adult Care Scrutiny.

- 5.2 We are asking those who use our services and their carers about what matters to them and how we can help them to achieve their aspirations. We are also talking to those who provide support to service users and their carers, and who have a role in achieving our promoting independence approach.
- 5.3 The method of sharing and listening will vary based on the audience and will be structured around the seven keys to citizenship. We will ensure all are able to fully participate in the meetings. The sessions will all follow the same theme of asking.
- What matters to them?
  - What do they value doing?
  - What else would they like to do?
- 5.4 There are nine listening events taking place across the County during November and early December. A DCC members briefing session was also held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

## **6. Next Steps**

- 6.1 The findings from the listening events will be summarised to inform future planning in this area and support the implementation of 'promoting independence' in the disability area.
- 6.2 The easy read consultation materials are attached as an appendix to this report.

Tim Golby  
Head of Adult Commissioning and Health

### **Electoral Divisions: All**

Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health: Councillor Andrew Leadbetter

Chief Officer for Adult Care and Health: Jennie Stephens

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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