

DRAFT JOINT STRATEGY FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY IN DEVON

Report of the Head of Adult Commissioning and Health in Devon County Council and Senior Commissioning Manager in the Clinical Commissioning Group

Recommendation: That the Health and Wellbeing Board be asked to comment on the draft joint strategy, *Living Well with a Learning Disability in Devon 2018-2022*, note the engagement undertaken and that formal sign off by each of the statutory agencies will follow in October.

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### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay we want to promote the independence of people with learning disabilities and help people to achieve what matters to them.
- 1.2 Our draft joint strategy, *Living Well with a Learning Disability in Devon 2018-2022*, builds on the progress made since the publication of our 2014-2017 joint strategy. It sets out our refreshed approach to improve the lives of adults with a learning disability across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay; to support them to be as independent as possible and to lead meaningful lives within their communities.
- 1.3 The draft strategy encompasses the geographical area of Devon, which includes Plymouth and Torbay, and spans the work undertaken by the two Clinical Commissioning Groups and three Local Authority areas.
- 1.4 It has been informed by an understanding of the needs and experiences of people with learning disabilities and their families/carers both now and in the future. The draft joint strategy is attached as an appendix, and Easy Read versions of both this report and the strategy are published alongside.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 A learning disability is a reduced intellectual ability and difficulty with everyday activities - for example, household tasks, socialising or managing money - which affects someone for their whole life.
- 2.2 There are around 20,586 adults with a learning disability across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, and 3,530 of these receive adult social care services. Significantly more people with a learning disability across Devon use statutory services than the England average and support is not always focused on enabling people to live as independently as possible.
- 2.3 People with learning disabilities have markedly poorer physical and mental health than their non-disabled peers in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. Alongside this, only 7% of adults with a learning disability across Devon were in paid employment in 2017.

- 2.4 Many young people with learning disabilities require health and care support as adults and tell us that the transition to adult services feels like a cliff edge and something they dread.
- 2.5 Health and social care support across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay accounts for £130m of spend.

### **3. Key areas of focus across the health and care system**

- 3.1 People with learning disabilities and their families/carers tell us that they do not generally want to be dependent on public services or placed in a care setting if this can be avoided. Instead, they want to live with and/or be supported by their family and friends at home in the community, have a job and remain connected to their interests.
- 3.2 The draft strategy sets out our vision for adults with learning disabilities across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay. It includes where we are now, our key areas of focus and how we will measure the impact of our actions.
- 3.3 It is part of a programme of work across the health and social care system to improve the lives and address health inequalities of people with learning disabilities. It will support Local Authorities and the NHS to commission quality support that promotes the independence of people with learning disabilities, within the context of significant financial challenges.
- 3.4 In developing this refreshed strategy, we have listened to a wide range of people with learning disabilities and their families/carers about what matters to them. We have also talked with our partners, including providers of care, support and housing, and our Learning Disability Partnership Boards. What matters to people is highlighted throughout the draft strategy and it is important that we continue to listen to people as we develop our work.
- 3.5 The refreshed strategy sets out what we will do together across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay that is best enabled by working at scale.
- We will work together to have more appropriate housing that meets the range of needs of people with learning disabilities. We will work with Housing Authorities, District Councils and local communities to understand how people are currently supported. This will enable us to have a joint understanding of what is needed in the future to help people achieve what matters to them.
  - We will support more people with a learning disability in Devon to have a job, helping people to develop their skills and also increasing the number of opportunities for employment across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.
  - We will work together to improve access to healthcare for people with learning disabilities, so that they have improved physical and mental health outcomes and live longer as a result.
- 3.6 The refreshed strategy also sets out what we will commit to in our local areas to improve how people with learning disabilities live their lives.

- We will increase the opportunities in communities for people to live as independently as possible, which means that a wide range of services need to be easy to use for people with a learning disability.
- We will support young people to develop independent life skills, so that they can lead fulfilling lives as adults.
- We want people with learning disabilities to be safe in their communities and to make sure that we always listen to people and their families/carers about their care and what matters to them.
- We will support carers to be able to care throughout the different stages of their lives.

3.7 The refreshed strategy will be underpinned by both local and wider Devon action plans.

#### **4. Next steps**

4.1 The draft strategy will be discussed by the Programme Delivery Executive Group on 21<sup>st</sup> September, and we will seek formal approval from local statutory agencies across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay by the end of October. Following that, we will formally publish the refreshed strategy and take work forward to deliver the identified outcomes for people.

#### **5. Financial Considerations**

This work is being taken forward within the Adult Care and Health budgets across Devon, Torbay and Plymouth.

#### **6. Sustainability Considerations**

We want people with learning disabilities to lead meaningful lives within their communities. There are clear social and economic benefits in supporting adults with learning disabilities to live as independently as possible.

#### **7. Equality Considerations**

It is intended that this approach will promote the equality of opportunity for people with learning disabilities in Devon. We want people with learning disabilities to have the same opportunities as everyone else and to lead meaningful lives in their communities. A full impact assessment of the draft joint strategy will accompany the strategy.

#### **8. Legal Considerations**

There are no specific legal considerations in our approach.

#### **9. Risk Management Considerations**

No risks have been identified.

#### **10. Public Health Impact**

Public Health are taking forward actions developed across the wider Council to support people with disabilities to live as independently as possible within their communities and to reduce health inequalities for this group.

**11. Conclusion**

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to comment on the draft joint strategy and note the next steps.

Tim Golby, Head of Adult Commissioning and Health  
Shona Charlton, Senior Commissioning Manager, Joint Commissioning

**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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