

## JOINT STRATEGY FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY IN DEVON

Report of the Head of Adult Commissioning and Health in Devon County Council

**Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.**

**Recommendation:** That the Cabinet approve the joint strategy, *Living Well with a Learning Disability in Devon 2018-2022*, note the engagement undertaken and next steps.

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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 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 lead meaningful lives within their communities.
- 1.3 The strategy encompasses the geographical area of Devon, which includes Plymouth and Torbay, and spans the two Clinical Commissioning Groups and three Local Authority areas. It is informed by an understanding of the needs and experiences of people with learning disabilities and their families/carers both now and in the future.
- 1.4 This report follows on from the adoption by Cabinet of the Promoting Independence policy for Devon in June 2017 and also builds on recent discussions with both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.5 The joint strategy and impact assessment are 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 in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay require health and care support as adults. They tell us that the transition to adult services feels like a cliff edge and is an uncertain time.
- 2.5 Health and social care support across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay accounts for £130m of spend. Support to adults with disabilities makes up about 45% of Devon County Council's budget for adult social care.
- 2.6 Whilst this refreshed joint strategy focuses on adults with a learning disability, it is part of the Council's wider work to improve how people with disabilities are supported to be confident, resilient and connected. This includes people with a learning disability, physical disability, autism and/or sensory needs.

### **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 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 strategy and we will 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. The work also seeks to address health inequalities for people with disabilities, following the recent report of the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review Programme.
- 3.6 The 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 joint Devon, Plymouth and Torbay action plans.
- 3.8 Across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, the strategy will be supported by a performance framework. Through this framework we will review our progress in respect of the outcomes within the strategy that we have developed with people with learning disabilities and their families/carers.
- 3.9 Within the Devon care and health system, the refreshed strategy is part of a wider programme of work focused on adults with a range of disabilities in Devon that we are taking forward work both now and over the longer term. This work seeks to focus support on what matters to people and help them to achieve their goals, throughout their lives as adults and as they prepare for adulthood.
- 3.10 We will report regularly on progress to the Health and Wellbeing Boards in each Council area. The Learning Disability Partnerships Boards will also have an important role in the monitoring of any local action plans, ensuring the full involvement of people who have a learning disability and their families and/or carers.
- 4. Next steps**
- 4.1 Formal approval of the joint strategy is being sought from local statutory agencies across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay by the end of October.

Following that approval, we will formally publish the refreshed strategy and take work forward to deliver the identified outcomes for people.

- 4.2 We will regularly review the joint strategy, particularly in light of the Government's forthcoming Green Paper on adult social care, to ensure that it reflects both the national and local contexts.

**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. An impact assessment of the joint strategy is attached as an appendix to this report.

**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 Cabinet are asked to formally adopt the joint strategy and note the next steps.

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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Background papers

*Living well with a learning disability in Devon 2014-2017*

<https://www.newdevonccg.nhs.uk/file/?download=true&rid=107575>.