

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 23.09.2021**

**LEARNING DISABILITY CONSULTATION SUMMARY AND STRATEGY  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR ANDY BURFORD**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

- 1.1. Across all services in Telford and Wrekin we want to promote independence of adults with learning disabilities to be aspirational and achieve what matters to them in their lives. People with learning disabilities, and their families, in Telford and Wrekin should be able to access advice, information, care and support that is aspirational, modern and supports opportunities for more independent lives.
- 1.2. There is good support for people with learning disabilities across Telford and Wrekin but we should always strive for further improvements. All services want to make these improvements over the next four years. To ensure the focus is on the most important things to people with learning disabilities, and that available resources are deployed effectively, it was important that prioritisation of these improvement areas was co-produced – the outcome of which is the Telford and Wrekin Learning Disability Strategy 2021-2025.
- 1.3. The development of the Learning Disability Strategy over the past year has included a wide range of engagement, consultation and co-production with people with lived experience, parents, carers, family members and people who work with or support people with learning disabilities. Despite the impact of Covid, the development of the strategy has continued and has enabled a rich amount of feedback to be gathered through both the Pre-Consultation Engagement period and the Consultation.
- 1.4. Across the consultation activity held in Spring 2021 301 responses were received. This built on the engagement activity held in Autumn 2020 where over 160 responses were received. **The findings of the most recent consultation demonstrate that the majority of people are supportive of the areas of improvement outlined in the draft Strategy.**
- 1.5. The following images show some of the key headline results and quotes from people with learning disabilities and parent carers.



"Our disability doesn't change" (depending on the time of day)

"We should be supported and educated the same as someone without a disability"

"One size does not fit all"

"Their lifestyle should not be restricted by the care providers' opening hours"

1.6. The purpose of the report is to present a summary of the feedback received during this consultation as well as outlining recommended changes to the strategy to reflect this feedback. Please refer to:

- Appendix A for a copy of the Learning Disability Consultation Summary Report;
- Appendix B for a copy of the Draft Learning Disability Action Plan; and
- Appendix C for the draft Learning Disability Strategy (please note that this will be amended following being presented to Cabinet).

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

### Cabinet is asked to:

- Note the content of the report and appendices; and
- To approve proposals for the draft Learning Disability Strategy and Action Plan within this report, noting the specific changes following consultation (Page 9, point 6.5)
- To grant delegated authority to the Director: Adult Social Care in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Telford and Wrekin Learning Disability Partnership Board to take the necessary steps to implement these recommendations.

### 3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-operative Council priorities?	
	Yes	Ensuring every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	The Learning Disability Strategy will impact on all residents who have a learning disability, their families and carers.
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE</b>	The strategy is scheduled to be implemented in 2021, depending on approval by Cabinet and any impact from Covid.	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	The current action plan does not yet contain sufficient detail to be able to identify financial implications at this time. .As more detailed proposals are developed a full evaluation of the expenditure commitment and funding options will need to be completed. These will then need to be considered as part of the formulation of the budget modelling and strategy in the relevant years.  <i>RP 13.08.2021</i>
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	The Learning Disability Strategy is required to comply with The Care Act 2014 and the promotion of personal well-being in care and support. The Equality Act 2010 details protected characteristics protected from discrimination, the prevention of disadvantage to classes of individuals including those with learning disabilities and necessary reasonable adjustments which are accounted for within this report. The Human Rights Act 1998 and the included right to be free from discrimination are noted and remain good law pending review in 2021. These legislative requirements and protections are met in the attached report.  <i>ON 13.08.2021</i>
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Yes	There are opportunities relating to improved outcomes for people, sustainability and improved efficiencies through delivering on the learning disability strategy.
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	No	N/A

### PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## 4. BACKGROUND

4.1. “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. There are different types of learning disability, which can be mild, moderate, severe or profound”<sup>i</sup>.



4.2. Using learning disability prevalence rates from Public Health England (2016) and population data from the Office for National Statistics (2019) MENCAP<sup>i</sup> have calculated that there are 1.5million people with a learning disability in the UK. This equates to 2.16% of all adults in the UK and 2.5% of all children in the UK.



4.3. Looking specifically at the prevalence within England it is estimated that there are 951,000 adults with a learning disability, of which 731,000 are of working age (18-64)<sup>ii</sup>.

4.4. In January 2020, Public Health England<sup>iii</sup> provided more detailed data in relation to adults with learning disabilities. They reported that “in total, the number of adults with learning disabilities getting some form of long-term social care increased from 139,555 people in the period 2014 to 2015 to 147,915 people in 2017 to 2018”. This increasing number of people receiving long term social care continues to be seen nationally and locally and is important to recognise the impact the increasing population has on the provision of services, including statutory ones.

4.5. Locally, the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Integrated Care System (ICS) has a role in developing and running services in a more coordinated way, agreeing priorities and planning collectively how to improve local residents’ day to day health. It seeks to address the key aims of the NHS Long Term Plan<sup>iv</sup> to “give everyone the best start in life, deliver world-class care for major health problems, and help people age well”. The ICS’s key area of work over the next five years is to reduce the inequality for people with learning disabilities and increase their quality of life. This includes:

- Implementing the national programme for Learning Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder;
- Continue to undertake LeDeRs to review the deaths of people who have a learning disability and implement any learning;
- Increasing the number of annual health checks (with a target of 80%);
- Stopping over medication of people with a learning disability and supporting treatment and appropriate medication in paediatrics; and
- Upskilling the workforce and improving recruitment and retention in all services.

4.6. According to data available from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in 2017 there was an estimated total of 4,100 people over 15 with a learning disability in Telford and Wrekin. This is 2.3% of the total population of Telford and Wrekin. Over the next 12 years it is estimated that the number of people with a learning disability will increase by 6%. This equates to 200 more people over 15 with a learning disability.

4.7. As at 31 March 2021 Adult Social Care were supporting 521 adults with learning disabilities, this represents 29% of all the adults supported by Adult Social Care.

4.8. The Learning Disability strategy is set in the context of the above, national legislation and quality developments relating to the care and support of people with a learning disability. This includes:

- The Care Act 2014
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Human Rights Act, 2000
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Mental Health Act 2007
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Autism Act 2009
- Transforming Care Programme (TCP)
- Think Local Act Personal
- British Association of Social Workers Professional Capability Framework

## **5. METHODOLOGY**

5.1. The development of the Borough-wide strategy has been undertaken using a co-production approach and the consultation was undertaken with due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty of the S149 Equality Act 2010 and in accordance with Telford & Wrekin Council's values and principles.

### **Consultation co-production through Telford & Wrekin Learning Disability Partnership Board and Telford Voices**

5.2. The Telford & Wrekin Learning Disability Partnership Board was set up in October 2020. The purpose of the Partnership Board is to make sure that adults with a learning disability who live in Telford and Wrekin have the same chances in life as everybody else. The Board is also responsible for:

- Developing a strategy and action plan – and through doing so will hold professional people to account for improving the design and delivery of services for adults with learning disabilities;
- Making sure that the resources are used to enable adults with learning disabilities to have aspirations; and
- Being involved, influence, collaborate and co-produce the offer for adults with learning disabilities and their families/carers.

5.3. The Board has met monthly since its launch and is co-chaired by a Person with Lived Experience and the Director of Adult Social Care from Telford & Wrekin Council. The Board is made up of the following organisations:

- People with Lived Experience
- Parent/Carer representatives
- Taking Part
- Telford & Wrekin Council (adults and children's representatives)
- Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group
- Midlands Foundation Partnership Trust
- Shropshire Partners in Care
- Other organisations/people co-opted onto the Board for specific items – e.g. Healthwatch, Public Health, Education and Skills

- 5.4. The Board reports to the Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership (TWIPP)<sup>v</sup>. This enables the Learning Disability Partnership Board to:
- Influence and engage senior leaders on issues of concern for people with learning disabilities in Telford and Wrekin; and
  - Make sure senior leaders are aware of these issues, and that they can get behind the changes needed to make life better for adults with learning disabilities in Telford and Wrekin.

5.5. For more information on the Learning Disability Partnership Board, including copies of its minutes, please refer to its [webpage](#).

5.6. In January 2021 Telford Voices was set up by Telford & Wrekin Council, supported by Taking Part. This is a group of people with Learning Disabilities who want to get involved in making a difference in Telford and Wrekin. Telford Voices is a key part of the Learning Disability Partnership Board and the Co-chair is also a member of Telford Voices. The group have been instrumental in the learning disability consultation as outlined in the Consultation Summary Report.



### **Consultation Activity**

5.7. The consultation activity ran from 25 February to 07 May 2021 and included:

- Virtual consultation sessions for:
  - Adults with learning disabilities supported by Taking Part
  - Family and carers (unpaid)
  - Shared Lived Carers
  - People who work with, or support people with learning disabilities
- Easy Read questionnaire (available in paper form if needed)
- Online consultation questionnaire (also available in paper form if needed)
- Sessions with Telford Voices
- Sessions with the Telford and Wrekin Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Attendance at other stakeholder and partnership meetings (e.g. Carers Partnership Board, Health Scrutiny Committee, Integrated Care System Learning Disability & Autism Programme Board)
- Social Media (specific consultation questions asked)

5.8. Due to the Covid Government restrictions the consultation was unable to hold any face to face sessions. To ensure people with learning disabilities voices were heard if they were unable to engage directly, families, carers and staff were asked to support the person to tell us their views.

5.9. To further promote accessibility to the consultation, a copy of the easy read questionnaire (along with a covering letter and a copy of the draft Easy Read Strategy) was posted to every person with a Learning Disability (and their parent/carer) with care and support needs known to Adult Social Care. This was over 500 people.

5.10. The purpose of the consultation was to explore further people's views on specific sections of the original strategy themes:

- Being healthy and independent

- Support to access advice and information about healthy food
- Access to community leisure services
- Involvement in recruitment and training of paid health and social care staff
- Having friends and relationships
  - Access community activities with people who have similar interests
  - Support to understand love and sexual relationships
- Having choice
  - Support to make choices
- Getting out and about
  - Being active members of their community
  - Access to public transport
- Having a job
  - Importance of having a job
  - Breadth of employment opportunities
- Having the right support
  - Support in small groups or on a one to one basis
  - Flexibility of support
- Accessing respite
  - Flexibility of respite
  - Breadth of respite opportunities
- The impact of Covid.
  - Developing more services in the community

The consultation also asked two additional overarching questions relating to how the plans will affect people with a learning disability and how the consultation was run.

5.11. To promote the consultation a wide range of communication methods were used, including utilising promotion through partners' communication routes. The routes utilised directly include:

- Press Releases
- Social Media platforms – Telford & Wrekin Council, Live Well Telford and My Options
- Newsletters:
  - Shaun's Weekly Newsletter
  - Community News
  - Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership Newsletter
  - Safeguarding Partnership Newsletter
  - Shropshire Partner in Care Newsletter
  - Telford & Wrekin Council Staff News
  - Adult Social Care Newsletter
- Provider Forums
- Emails to partners, providers and Telford Interfaith Council
- Internal Telford & Wrekin Council Latest News

5.12. Please refer to the Consultation Summary Report, Section 2 in Appendix A for the full methodology for the Consultation.

## **6. CONSULTATION CONCLUSION**

6.1. The development of the Learning Disability Strategy over the past year has included a wide range of engagement, feedback and co-production with people with lived experience, parents, carers, family members and people who work with or support people with learning

disabilities. Despite the impact of Covid, the development of the strategy has continued and has enabled a rich amount of feedback to be gathered through both the Pre-Consultation Engagement period and the Consultation.

6.2. **The findings of the consultation demonstrate that the majority of people are supportive of the areas of improvement outlined in the draft Strategy.**

6.3. The following images show some of the key headline results and quotes from people with learning disabilities and parent carers.







6.4. Within the 8 areas of improvement that were consulted upon three of them stood out as being the ones that respondents were most concerned about:

- Getting out and about,
- Having the right support, and
- Accessing Respite.

It is recommended that the draft strategy is expanded to include more detail on these three areas and that these are areas that the Learning Disability Partnership Board monitor and scrutinise regularly.

6.5. The findings also highlighted four overarching themes, these include:

- **Accessibility** – including information, advice and community resources;
- **Disability Awareness** – including in public and businesses
- **Communication** – including accessibility, timeliness and methods of communicating with hard to reach areas of the community;
- **Use of technology**– including using digital developments to improve independence at home, getting out and about and employment.

6.6. Whilst these themes were reflected in some of the initial engagement work undertaken, which shaped the draft strategy, they are important in enabling people with Learning Disabilities to live well and enjoy a full life, with as much independence as possible. It is recommended that these additional themes are added to the Learning Disability Strategy and associated actions considered within the Strategy action plan.

6.7. The Covid pandemic has impacted on the development of the strategy in that no face to face sessions were able to be held due to the Government restrictions in place and the increased risks for people. However, other types of engagement events were held, including virtual sessions, utilising social media and attending stakeholder virtual meetings.

The consultation was open to any other forms of engagement should they be requested as long as they were within the Government's guidelines at that time.

6.8. As outlined in the draft strategy, there are estimated to be over 4,000 adults with learning disabilities in the Borough, of which only 500 have Care and Support Needs and are therefore known to the Local Authority. This impacts on the ability to share information directly with people as they are not known to the Local Authority and are therefore reliant on other communication routes to share the information. Whilst the communications were wide ranging (please see Appendix A for a summary of these) it was also reliant on the sharing of information through various groups and services, including the Parent and Carer Forum (PODs), Carers Partnership Board and Carers Centre, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector, NHS partners, GPs, Healthwatch, Care Providers and word of mouth. Additionally, the natural communication that happens in community and peer support groups was not able to be fully utilised due to the Government restrictions in place.

#### **Improving engagement post Covid**

Several of the comments received in the consultation highlighted the difference providing information face to face, through already existing community/local groups and networks, would make to people with Learning Disabilities. This approach would also help to improve engagement with some of the harder to reach communities, reducing health inequalities, and improving outcomes for people.

6.9. As the Country moves out of the Covid-19 lockdowns the opportunities to address the additional overarching four themes is evident. Key to all of these themes is the ability to engage with people with lived experience in their communities, which due to Covid has not been possible through this process.

6.10. It is worth noting that the impact Covid has, and is continuing to have, on people with disabilities and their families and carers, cannot be underestimated. The recent report by Marmot 'Build Back Fairer'<sup>vi</sup> highlighted that the inequalities that were already present pre-covid have been exposed and amplified. The Marmot report goes into detail about the inequalities for people with disabilities as well as being at a higher risk of dying as a result of Covid, they are also more likely to be negatively impacted on in terms of, social isolation, mental and physical health, food poverty and future health inequalities. It is important that the work to implement the strategy also takes into account the specific health inequalities that people with learning disabilities in Telford and Wrekin face.

## **7. NEXT STEPS**

7.1. Subject to approval by Cabinet the draft strategy (and easy read version) will be amended accordingly, the findings from the consultation shared with people who have taken part and the detailed action plan finalised.

7.2. The Telford & Wrekin Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) will hold all organisations/services to account for delivery of the Strategy and Action Plan. The LDPB will be supported by the Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership and the Telford & Wrekin Health and Wellbeing Board.

7.3. In addition, the LDPB will continue to co-produce any actions and service developments with Telford Voices, and other groups of people with lived experience, to further develop the

actions so that they remain relevant and impactful over the period of the strategy. They will also regularly consult with them to ensure the actions being completed are delivering the required outcomes.

## **8. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

18.02.2021 – Cabinet – Draft Learning Disability Strategy and Consultation Proposals

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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<sup>i</sup> MENCAP, 2020 – [How common is learning disability?](#)

<sup>ii</sup> Images taken from MENCAP, Nov 2020

<sup>iii</sup> Public Health England: People with learning disabilities – [Adult Social Care \(Chapter 5\)](#)

<sup>iv</sup> [NHS Long Term Plan, 2019](#)

<sup>v</sup> The Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership is a meeting of senior leaders from a wide range of organisations in Telford and Wrekin, who work together to improve outcomes for local people by adopting a strengths based approach – focussing upon offering early help, targeted prevention and a joined up response at time of urgent need.

<sup>vi</sup> [Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review](#)