



Learning Disability Strategy Consultation Review

To support the development of a meaningful and ambitious Learning Disability Strategy a variety of engagement and consultation activities took place across a wide spectrum of stakeholder groups.

A summary of this activity follows:

Engagement

A series of engagement activity with key groups and individuals took place to inform the development of a draft strategy.

- Sub-Group meeting involving representatives from Public, Third and Independent sector organisations
- The development of an accessible communication toolkit on the strategy development including a training session for those wishing to use toolkit (10 people)
- A survey was developed and disseminated in order to capture views on what matters most to people with Learning Disabilities, their families, and organisations/professionals who work in the Health & Social Care field. Over 150 people can completed this survey to date with the majority of responses (73%) from people with a Learning Disability (with support provided as required)
- Discussions took place with group of people with Learning Disabilities or their families/carers (9 separate sessions)
- One to One conversations took place with Senior Management and Team Managers of the Learning Disability Service in order to gain organisational and operational view points
- A regular slot at the local provider forum was utilised to gauge views of organisations, with an additional specific engagement session also hosted
- Regular updates were also given with Social Work and Health Team Meetings, again with an additional specific engagement session for staff also hosted
- A development session was also convened comprising of members of the Strategic Steering Group and 6 additional Sub-Groups in order to build connections between the component strands of the strategy development to date

Consultation

A 2-week consultation period was initiated to more formally capture views on the draft strategy as a follow on from engagement work

- A consultation survey was created to capture views, made available online and in paper format



- 2 drop-in sessions were hosted for stakeholders to further discuss the strategy & consultation
- Discussion sessions were arranged with groups of people with Learning Disabilities, families/carers and staff within our own services (3 sessions)
- Information on the strategy consultation was disseminated widely through a mailing list comprising of Public, Third Sector and Independent sector organisations as well as other interested parties
- Consultation information was placed on 2 websites/web platforms (including the Partnership Website)
- Information on the consultation was made available through internal and external e-bulletins
- A interview on the strategy consultation was aired by SHMU Radio

Key Emerging Themes

- Health – ranging from the information people need to understand any health conditions better (including promotion of health screening) to the ways in which complex physical health conditions can really impact people’s ability to connect in with and access community activities or resources. Health eating and cooking lessons came across as a particular area of interest for a couple of groups
- Housing – fully understanding what is available and how it can be accessed, processes/criteria
- Inclusion and involvement in community life
- Being listened to/heard and respected
- There are many groups/activities in the city but knowledge of these could be improved
- Transitions from child to adulthood as well as general life transitions (e.g. moving house, getting older)
- Signposting or gaining information and support to understand what happens next
- Friendships and relationships are important to people regardless of ability
- Communication is key – particular examples were given where if people communicated more appropriately (at the person’s level) things would have felt more positive
- Safety was highlighted as a concern, with people feeling more could be done to help people feel safe in different situations. The Keep Safe scheme (or similar schemes) were mentioned by a few groups
- Better public awareness and acceptance, including people/communities being general kinder to people
- Having more accessible communication and information



- People highlighted that they generally wanted to be involved in discussions and decision making that might affect them and welcomed the opportunity to shape the strategy
- Training and employment opportunities
- A central 'hub'/information resource for people and professionals

The main challenges noted through engagement and consultation were in relation to:

- Resource implications – in terms of staffing and money in order to make change happen and to sustain change
- Measuring progress towards delivering on the outcomes
- Not letting this be a 'tick box exercise' – actually delivering on and being accountable for what the strategy states

Overall the draft strategy was viewed as being easy to read and understand. People appreciated the focus on outcomes and viewed the outcomes as very relevant. The document was viewed as forward thinking, aspirational and clearly linked to the national position. Comments were received highlighting that people wanted further details on the actions (including how these will be measured) which will support the achievement of the outcomes. Some people did not see how the focus of the strategy could be achieved within the current resources available and wanted more detail in the strategy document as to the current position. A more explicit focus on topics including employment and safety/protection was requested.