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NORTH WALES SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING
SERVICES IMPROVEMENT COLLABORATIVE

Population assessment update

July 2017 (Issue 8)

Easy read

Check out our website for an **easy read version** of the population assessment designed with and for people with learning disabilities.



We also worked with people with learning disabilities to produce an **audio-visual version** of the report. This includes animated versions of each chapter with a voice-over based on the easy read version of the report. They're available in Welsh and English.

We'd love to hear if you've found these versions useful and any feedback you have about how we can improve them in future.

Spotlight on... Learning disabilities



Coming soon...

Next month's newsletter will be about mental health. In September we will look at the carers chapter followed by a domestic abuse and sexual violence newsletter in October. If you have any related regional projects or events you'd like us to promote through these newsletters, please let us know.

Also, next month we hope to have an update on progress with the population assessment regional plan (also known as the 'area plan') - watch this space!



What we found out

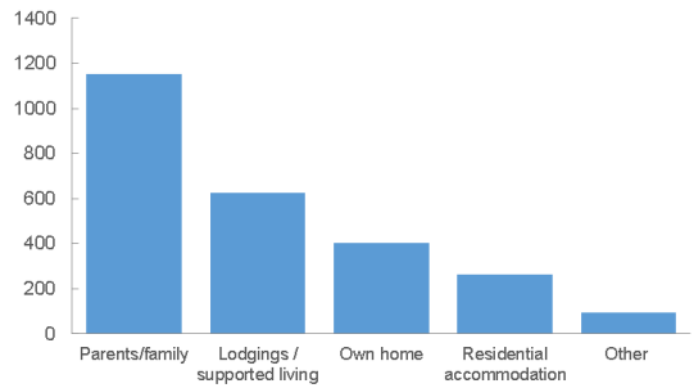
- There are around 2,700 people with learning disabilities on local council registers in North Wales. The actual number of people with learning disabilities may be higher.
- The number of people with learning disabilities needing support is increasing and people with learning disabilities are living longer. These trends are likely to continue.

Good news!

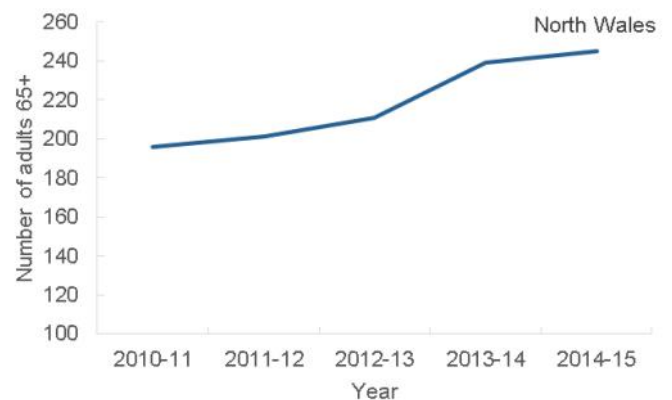
People with learning disabilities are living much longer thanks to improvements in health and social care. This is a huge achievement to celebrate while we work out how to make support even better.

- People with learning disabilities tend to experience worse health, have greater need of health care and are more at risk of dying early compared to the general population.
- There are likely to be more young people with complex needs needing support.
- There are increasing numbers of older carers (including parents and family) providing care for people with learning disabilities.

Living arrangements, adults with learning disabilities, North Wales



Number of people age 65+ who use learning disability services



“The change in life expectancy for people with Down’s Syndrome has been dramatic since the 1930s rising from age 10 to around age 50 over the course of 70 years”

What people told us...

People with learning disabilities told us that paid work was important. It makes people feel good about themselves and acknowledges their contribution to society.

Some people said they would like more friends and opportunities to join in socially with groups from all parts of society, not just those for disabled people.

There is not enough good transport to

access services - particularly in rural areas. A few people told us they wanted to learn to drive.

Some people told us that they didn’t feel safe out and about or when using the internet.

People also told us that there needs to be more support for autistic people - we will look at this in detail in a future newsletter.

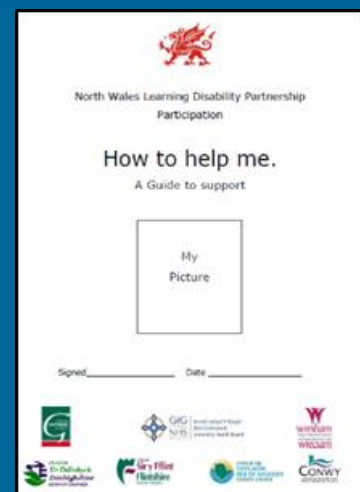
What we think should happen

- Support older carers. Make sure they have the support and respite services they need including 'planning ahead' services for families, identifying hidden carers and assessing need for support.
- Health and social services to work better together to support for the health issues of older people with learning disabilities, including people with dementia.
- Continue to support people with learning disabilities to access health care through the Learning Disability Health Liaison Services. Develop accessible information for people with learning disabilities to improve communication. Support healthcare providers to better identify people with learning disabilities so they can make 'reasonable adjustments' to their care. Promote access to health promotion and early treatment services.
- Provide sustainable models of support jointly by health and social care to meet the needs of individuals with complex needs. Including the unmet need for high end jointly funded nursing placements for adults with severe learning disabilities who have health related needs.
- Support staff to manage changing expectations of support for people with learning disabilities, including changes required by the new act.
- Recruit more Welsh speaking support staff.
- Provide more support for people with staying safe when using the internet.
- Encourage more informal, unpaid support, to reduce reliance on formal paid support. This would help facilitate wider friendships and social lives for people with learning disabilities beyond paid carers.
- Increase recruitment to the shared lives / adult placements scheme.
- Develop the provision of assistive technology for people with learning disabilities.
- Continue to explore and develop housing options to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities in partnership with other organisations.

The Regional Learning Disability Partnership

The Regional Learning Disability Partnership focuses on driving forward improved services based on mutual understanding across the six North Wales local authorities and health.

Learning disability participation is coordinated across the six councils. Each county has its own local participation network/ forum supported by advocacy. The local forums take part, plan events and come together to influence the learning disability services across North Wales. Topics the group have worked on include leisure, places people live and health, including mental health.



Themes

- Children & young people
- Older people
- Health, physical disabilities & sensory impairment
- Learning disability & autism
- Mental health
- Carers
- Violence against women, domestic abuse & sexual violence
- Homelessness
- Veterans
- People in the secure estate

More information

Population assessment and area plan toolkits:

www.socialcare.wales/hub/hub-resource-sub-categories/planning-and-promoting

Part 2 Code of Practice:

www.socialcare.wales/hub/sswbact-codes

Area plan guidance:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/170206statutory-guidanceen.pdf>

Dewis Cymru (services available to meet the needs identified in the assessment):

<https://www.dewis.wales/>

Contact us

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Background to the population assessment

The population assessment pulls together information about people's care and support needs and the support needs of carers in North Wales. It aims to show how well people's needs are being met and the services we will need to meet them in future. Local authorities in North Wales worked together with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), supported by Public Health Wales, to produce the assessment which is a requirement of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014).

The population assessment will be used to make decisions about the services we need to provide in North Wales to meet people's care and support needs and the support needs of carers. It will help us make decisions about where to use our resources, meet other requirements of the act and inform the work of the Regional Partnership Board.

We have used all kinds of evidence to identify what's needed and asked people what they think is important including people who currently use care and support services, the North Wales citizen's panel, and staff who deliver services in the local authorities, health, private and voluntary sectors.

Next, we will write a regional area plan setting out the range and level of services councils and local health boards propose to provide or arrange in response to the population assessment. This has to be finished by 1 April 2018.

