

## Emerging Themes and Priorities

### 1. General Themes.

- a. The general profile and rights of people with Learning Disabilities needs to be raised within the wider community and general workforce.
- b. People need seamless services - agreements around funding (between Health and Social Care) are fundamentally important to breaking down the barriers to integrated working and Health and Social Care service structures need to support a smooth transition to adulthood.
- c. The profile and needs of people with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) need to be at the forefront of people minds as often their voices are not heard and the specific challenges are not recognized and responded to

### 2. Having the right support.

- a. People need to be supported to access local 'mainstream' activities & resources so that they can be active members of their local communities - community groups also need information, advice and support, so they can involve & enable people to be a part of their community
- b. Direct Payment support is required for individuals and families, to help them to meet their outcomes in person centred, imaginative and inclusive ways and to help with recruitment of staff
- c. Active Support and Positive Behaviour Support is required by carers and providers to ensure that individuals with complex needs can be appropriately supported.
- d. Progression approaches need to be embedded and extended to children's services
- e. We need to ensure that there is access to good advocacy support for people with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)
- f. Individuals and their families need to be supported to plan for the future
- g. The use of technology should complement and enhance support & promote independence
- h. There needs to be an appropriate range of short break options, including holiday provision, for individuals and their families – often options are limited
- i. Families need timely, coordinated and sensitive pre-diagnostic (and post-diagnostic) information, advice and support irrespective of whether or not an individual meets the criteria for statutory Learning Disability services. Some of this could come from other families

- j. Individuals & their families need crisis support & need to know where to go for support in a crisis
- k. The region needs to be fully prepared for the forthcoming changes re Additional Learning Needs, and this needs to include managing expectations
- l. People need integrated health and social care frontline information and assessments
- m. We need to develop and embed social prescribing across all age groups
- n. The provider market across children's services needs to be developed, and there needs to be a clear position statement for providers
- o. There needs to be a trained, experienced and skilled consistent workforce, with staff who know and understand the people they are supporting, are willing to try new approaches, and who have a positive person centred approach to risk

### **3. Having friendships and relationships.**

- a. Friendships and relationships are extremely important to people - individuals need to be supported and enabled to have meaningful friendships and relationships that stretch beyond service boundaries
- b. Statutory support should promote rather than inhibit friendships and relationships

### **4. Having a good place to live.**

- a. There is potential to develop jointly commissioned, sub regional supported housing
- b. There needs to be a wider range of accommodation and short break options for young people under 18
- c. Accommodation options for all ages need to include:-
  - ✓ step up, step down;
  - ✓ crisis/emergency responses;
  - ✓ forward planning;
  - ✓ support for people with complex needs;
  - ✓ support for parents who have a learning disability;
  - ✓ own front door shared support;
  - ✓ adult placements/shared lives;
  - ✓ cross border supported housing opportunities where appropriate

### **5. Being healthy**

- a. The uptake of health checks needs to be improved, particularly in areas where it is low
- b. People need access to information about healthy living, health screening and health checks
- c. People sometimes need support to access health screening and appointments.

### **6. Being safe.**

- a. Technology should be more widely available & used
- b. Phone and iPad Apps need to be developed, piloted and evaluated
- c. Positive approaches to risk need to be embedded

## **7. Having something meaningful to do**

- a. People want to work and volunteer – there need to be more opportunities offering a wider range of experiences
- b. The barriers to recruitment of people with learning disabilities in the workforce need to be explored & addressed
- c. People need timely and accurate information and advice around permitted work and therapeutic earnings and partially, temporary and fully supported work options need to be investigated.
- d. There should be increased use of Direct Payments (including pooled DPs) to facilitate work and volunteering for those who need support in the workplace
- e. Schemes such as Project Search need to be explored and possibly extended