

TITLE	Update on Learning Disability Services
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 March 2017
WARD	None Specific
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OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

People with learning disabilities have only recently become a focus for Central Government resulting in 2 major policy initiatives. "Valuing People" (Department of Health 2001) set out the government's commitment to improving the lives of people with learning disabilities. Valuing People Now (2009) is an update setting out the government's strategy for people with learning disability.

In addition, the national 'Transforming Care Programme', set up in 2015, is led jointly by NHS England, the Association of Adult Social Services (ADASS), the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Local Government Association (LGA), Health Education England (HEE) and the Department of Health (DH). The Transforming Care programme focuses on the five key areas of; empowering individuals, right care, right place, workforce, regulation and data.

The Berkshire Transforming Care Partnership Board hold a shared vision and commitment to support the implementation of the national service model to ensure that children, young people and adults with learning disabilities, behaviour that challenges and those with mental health and autism receive services to lead meaningful lives through tailored care plans and subsequent bespoke services to meet individual needs.

Berkshire Transforming Care Joint Health and Social Care Plan, May 2016 sets out 7 workstreams; joint commissioning and integration, communication and engagement, workforce development and culture, children and young people, autism, service reconfiguration and risk management. However, each local authority retains local autonomy to deliver the main objectives listed above within the resources they have available to them.

All of the above plans and strategies are focused on improving the life chances, independence and outcomes for people with learning disabilities, with commitment from the principal health and social care agencies working alongside people with learning disabilities.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note this report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report provides HOSC with information about the range of services that can be accessed by people with learning disabilities living in Wokingham Borough. It also highlights some of the challenges at this time and in the future that will need to be addressed to ensure that there is better access to services and better outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

BACKGROUND

Current Activity and Services

Wokingham is fortunate to have a range of services supporting the learning disability community:

User Engagement

Wokingham has an active [Learning Disability Partnership Board](#), which was set up in 2001 as a requirement of Valuing People. The Partnership Board works together with the learning disability community to break down barriers to achieve positive outcomes for people with learning disabilities. The Partnership Board runs a broad range of activities including regular meetings and self-advocate workshops, campaigns, events, and consultations. The Partnership Board is chaired by a service user with a learning disability, with a co-chair to support.

Social Care Support

People with a learning disability are referred to the [Adult Assessment Team](#) to discuss their care and support needs. If the person meets the eligibility criteria, a Personal Budget will be set so that a bespoke package of care can be arranged. For young adults who transition into the service an Adult Social Care Transitions Team is in place to help the move from children's services to adults services. The care pathway between children's and adults is a focus for improvement.

We offer a peer support scheme run by people with Personal Budgets, who have been trained to help other people understand what it is like to have self-directed support.

For people with learning disabilities who are not eligible for support from Social Services, there are a range of services in the community that can provide support to help people develop their independent living skills (see 'Support in the Community' below).

Health and Well-being

The [Community Team for People with Learning Disabilities](#) provide advice, support, assessment, treatment and therapies to support adults with learning disabilities.

All GP surgeries in the Wokingham borough provide [Annual Health Checks](#) for people with learning disabilities.

Royal Berkshire Hospital has a [Learning Disability Co-ordinator](#) who will ensure that people with learning disabilities are supported with all aspects of their hospital visit.

The [Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Board](#) has a Good Health Sub Group, which brings together professionals, self-advocates and carers to ensure people with learning disabilities have fair and equal access to health services, and are supported to stay healthy and well.

Wokingham Borough Council's [Sports Team](#) provides a range of activities for people with additional needs and long-term conditions.

Housing

Wokingham has specialist supported living accommodation for people with learning

disabilities, including [Oakfield Court and Hillside Supported Living](#) and [Beeches Manor. Loddon Court](#) provide a short break service for people with learning disabilities.

A number of organisations provide supported living services and some also provide residential care, including:

[Anthony Toby Homes Trust](#)

[Dimensions](#)

[Gabriel's Angels](#)

[Helping Hands](#)

[Jigsaw Creative Care](#)

[Norwood](#)

[Support Horizons](#)

[Voyage Care](#)



[Transform Housing & Support](#) provide housing related support for vulnerable adults living in the Wokingham Borough.

[Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Board](#) has a Housing Sub Group, which brings together professionals and self-advocates to improve housing options for people with learning disabilities in the Wokingham borough.

Employment

Employment support for people with learning disabilities is provided by [Optalis Supported Employment Service](#). The service also works in partnership with [Wokingham Volunteer Centre](#) and [Elevate](#) (a service for young people).



Advocacy

[Just Advocacy](#) provide independent advocacy support for all vulnerable groups in the Wokingham borough.

[CLASP](#) is a user-led self-advocacy organisation for people with learning disabilities in Wokingham, encouraging members to speak up for their rights and live more independently.

[SeAp](#) provide a free, independent advocacy service that supports people to make a complaint about any aspect of their NHS care or treatment.

Support in the Community

There are a range of services providing information and advice as well as leisure and learning opportunities, including:

[ASD Family Help](#) - an independent voluntary group helping people with autism and their family and supporters.

[Golden Planet Project](#) - a social enterprise set up by people with learning disabilities to help provide training and employment opportunities.

[Norwood Life Skills and Learning](#) - offers a range of opportunities for people with learning disabilities including sports, arts and computer training.

[Number One Club](#) – a social group for people with learning disabilities

[Optalis Day Services and Out & About Service](#) - offers activities for people with learning disabilities in three community centres and in the local area.

[Reading College](#) - provide a range of courses for young people with learning disabilities.
[Rose Buddies Prevention Service](#) - support adults with a learning disability who receive little or no support from Social Care Services.

[Wokingham Bracknell & Districts Mencap](#) - provide a range of services including information, support and activities for people with learning disabilities and their families. They also run the Carers Sub Group on behalf of the Wokingham Learning Disability Partnership Board.

There are two [Changing Place](#) facilities (a fully-accessible toilet with hoist and changing bed) in Wokingham; at Dinton Pastures Country Park and in Alexandra Place in Wokingham town centre.

Wokingham also runs a [Safer Places](#) scheme, which identifies shops and businesses that will provide a 'safe place' for a vulnerable person if they feel unsafe when out in the community.

CLASP run a [Hate Crime Reporting Centre](#) where people with learning disabilities can report or find out more information about hate crime.

Transport

[Keep Mobile](#) and [Readibus](#) provide transport services for people with disabilities.

Analysis of Key Issues:

1. Demographics

We have 470 learning disability clients who are known to Adult Social Care and receive a service; 31.3% are receiving their personal budget as a direct payment.

Age	
18-64	437
65+	33
Total	470

Demographic information tells us that adults with learning disabilities are living longer, often with complex needs, and a large number are living at home with elderly parents. Packages of support can be expensive and will also be in place for longer and so puts significant pressure on the ASC budget.

We have anecdotal evidence that tells us that general health services are not difficult to access but specialist health services are. The LA and CCG often have robust discussions about funding expensive placements for people with complex needs; this sometimes takes too much time and is unsatisfactory for the client and their family. Discussions are taking place to improve how funding decisions are made across West Berkshire as well as managing the market.

2. Transitions

We know that there are 70+ young adults who will access ASC once they reach the age of 18+. We know the services that people with learning disabilities had when they were children are quite different to those they receive when they reach adulthood. Many parents are disappointed that the packages of care appear to be reduced. We need to improve our transitions work with families and to communicate that ASC services are

different and focus on supporting independence skills which will enable young adults to access housing support, education, employment and a positive social life where possible.

In addition, ASC will also deal with CAMHS and Here4U clients where there has been little preparation for transition and where challenging behaviour seems to be the main issue rather than learning disability.

People services staff are reviewing the transitions service to ensure that the care pathway is smoother and better communicated to families as well as making better and more creative use of our resources.

3. Variety and location of services

Although we provide a range of services, they are often out of borough incurring significant transport costs. This would include college placements, further education, residential and day placements. We also think there is not enough choice for some services such as respite care. Although more of our clients are receiving personal budgets, limited local resources means that truly imaginative and creative use of personal budgets is difficult.

4. Housing

It is difficult to find housing solutions in the local area due to the high cost of housing. We try to find best combination of clients for shared supported living which can be a challenge; this is due to variances in allocated budgets related to their assessed needs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Total Learning Disability budgets: **£18,931,030**

LD Registered Residential £7,914,050 underspent by £959k

LD Supported Housing £6,026,510 overspent by £900k

LD Day Services £3,616, 470 overspent

£156k	
LD Respite	£720,000 underspent by £147
LD Homecare and Support	£226,500
LD Nursing	£212,000 underspent by £34k
LD Shared Lives	£117,500
Supported Employment (predominantly LD clients)	£76,000
LD Other care and support	£22,000
TOTAL:	£18,931,030

Cross-Council Implications

The needs of people with learning disabilities range from support and advice to complex social care and health long-term provision.

Whilst we have some very good services in place, there is a need to review our commissioning of services, work more closely with our colleagues in Children's Services, Health, Housing and Voluntary Sector to ensure that we have more responsive and joined up services to deal with key issues mentioned above.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A.

List of Background Papers

Department of Health 'Valuing People' and 'Valuing People Now'
Berkshire Transforming Care Joint Health and Social Care Plan

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