

## SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 4 October 2018
<b>Report Subject</b>	North Wales Learning Disability Strategy
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Social Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer, Social Services
<b>Type of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Learning Disability Strategy sets out the vision for health and social services for people with learning disabilities in North Wales. It includes information about the needs of the population and what matters to them, what we want to see change and how we will put the strategy into action. Many people have been involved in writing the strategy including people with learning disabilities; parents/carers; local authority and health staff from children's and adults' services across the region; and, third and independent sector providers of learning disability services. The strategy is due to go to the Regional Partnership Board for approval in November after which it will go through the approval processes of the six local authorities and the health board.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To consider and comment on the North Wales Learning Disability Strategy.
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## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE NORTH WALES LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY
1.01	<p>The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 includes a statutory duty for Regional Partnership Boards to prioritise the development of services in relation to people with learning disabilities. This is a priority in the North Wales Regional Plan (Area Plan) produced by the Regional Partnership Board.</p>
1.02	<p>The North Wales Learning Disability Strategy will set out how we will work towards integrated learning disability services in North Wales. It is being developed jointly by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and the six North Wales councils.</p>
1.03	<p>Our vision for North Wales is that people with learning disabilities will have a better quality of life; living locally where they feel 'safe and well', where they are valued and included in their communities and have access to effective personal support that promotes independence, choice and control. The strategy is based around what people have told us matters to them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• having a good place to live</li><li>• having something meaningful to do</li><li>• friends, family and relationships</li><li>• being safe</li><li>• being healthy</li><li>• having the right support</li></ul> <p>Within each of these areas we include: the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities; and, support through changes in life from early years to ageing well, including the needs of older carers and the transition from children's to adult's services. We are committed to strengthening Welsh language services and providing an active offer through the Mwy na geiriau/More than just words framework.</p>
1.04	<p>The strategy includes information about what we know about the population, current services and what we want to see change. Some of the key findings of the needs assessment are that there around 810 children with a severe or profound learning difficulty and 2,900 adults with learning disabilities receiving services in North Wales. 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. There are also an increasing number of older carers (including parents and family) providing care and support for people with learning disabilities. 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.</p>
1.05	<p>To achieve our vision and provide services based on what matters to people (a good place to live, something meaningful to do and so on) we have planned five work packages that will set out <i>how</i> we will change things in order to achieve good lives for people with learning disabilities. The work packages will take an asset-based approach to build on the skills, networks and community resources that people with learning disabilities already have. They will be co-produced with people with learning disabilities and their</p>

	<p>parents/carers so we share power and responsibility for making the changes. We will also work closely with staff in the six local authorities and the health board to improve communication and understanding of the reasonable adjustments that people with learning disabilities may need to access health care and other public services. The key to achieving our vision will be to work with local communities to make sure people with learning disabilities are truly valued and included in their communities.</p>
1.06	<p>The five work packages proposed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated structures: making sure health and social services work better together to support people with learning disabilities.</li> <li>• Workforce development: making sure staff know how to communicate well with people with learning disabilities in Welsh or English and can make changes to support them well. This will help people get the health care they need.</li> <li>• Commissioning and procurement: work with other organisations to make sure we have the types of housing and support people need.</li> <li>• Community and culture change: work with the local community to make sure people with learning disabilities can access lots of different activities and meet new people if they want to. Help more people with learning disabilities to get paid jobs.</li> <li>• Assistive technology: Find ways to use technology like alarms and mobile phones to help people be more independent.</li> </ul>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	<p>Putting the strategy into action has staff and financial resource implications for the six local authorities and BCUHB. The aim of the strategy to improve the way we use our resources but there is likely to be a need for additional resources initially to manage the project and to deliver the work packages. These resource implications will be prepared in detail as part of the development of the five work packages. We have submitted a bid to the Welsh Government transformation fund to ask for support with these additional costs.</p>

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	<p>The strategy was based initially on findings from the consultation carried out as part of the population assessment and regional plan. In addition we consulted using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An online questionnaire and easy read questionnaire circulated widely to staff, partner organisations, the citizen's panel, service users and other members of the public between April and July 2018. We received 175 responses.</li> <li>• Discussion groups and interviews with children, young people and adults with learning disabilities, parents/carers and parents with learning disabilities. This element was led by the North Wales Citizen's Panel.</li> <li>• Consultation events for service providers and local authority and health</li> </ul>

	<p>staff. We had around 60 providers and over 100 staff attend the events. A full consultation report is available.</p>
3.02	<p>The strategy has been written based on the findings of the consultation and the draft strategy is now being shared widely for further comments. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A joint meeting of members of the North Wales Learning Disability Partnership, Managers of Services for Disabled Children Group, representatives from BCUHB from children’s and adults services and representatives from Additional Learning Needs Education services.</li> <li>• Consultation with representatives from Public Health Wales, North Wales Regional Equality Network, Supporting People, Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, Welsh Government’s Improving Lives Programme and a lead for primary care services in BCUHB.</li> <li>• Around 280 people on the mailing list for the project including service providers, staff and members of the public.</li> </ul>
3.03	<p>The draft strategy has also been or will be going to the following regional groups before approval by the six local authorities and the health board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCUHB Strategy, Partnerships &amp; Population Health Committee</li> <li>• BCUHB Stakeholder Reference Group</li> <li>• North Wales Adult Services Heads (NWASH)</li> <li>• North Wales Heads of Children’s Services (NWHoCS)</li> <li>• North Wales Leadership Group</li> <li>• Regional Partnership Board</li> </ul> <p>The final draft of the strategy is due to go to the Regional Partnership Board for approval in November 2018 after which it will go through the approval processes of the six local authorities and the health board.</p>

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	<p>The risk that the level of integration will not meet Welsh Government requirements under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. To mitigate we will take a partnership approach to the project.</p>
4.02	<p>The risk that the process won’t involve service users, parents and carers in a meaningful and co-productive way. To mitigate we will embed participation in the process and consider commissioning a specialist organisation to support. Documents will be produced in easy-read format where possible.</p>
4.03	<p>A well-being impact assessment has been written for the strategy which includes anti-poverty, environment and equalities issues.</p>

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
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5.01	Appendix 1 - Draft North Wales Learning Disability Strategy
5.02	Appendix 2 - Draft North Wales Learning Disability Strategy Consultation Report

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p><a href="#">North Wales Population Assessment</a>  <a href="#">North Wales Regional Plan</a></p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Neil Ayling  <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704511  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:neil.j.ayling@flintshire.gov.uk">neil.j.ayling@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p>(1) <b>Active offer:</b> providing a service in Welsh without someone having to ask for it.</p> <p>(2) <b>Asset-based approach:</b> bringing people and communities together to achieve positive change using their own knowledge, skills and lived experience around the issues they encounter in their own lives. It is about recognising the strengths in individuals and a community and using those to solve problems instead of focussing on the deficits or problems in a community.</p> <p>(3) <b>Co-production:</b> An asset-based approach that enables people providing and people receiving services to share power and responsibility, and work together in equal, reciprocal and caring relationships.</p> <p>(4) <b>Integrated services:</b> for example, social services and health services working more closely together so that people receive a 'seamless service', where they don't experience delays or fall through the gaps between services because of the way the services are set up.</p> <p>(5) <b>Learning Disability:</b> The term is used to describe an individual who has a significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, or to learn new skills (impaired intelligence); and / or a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired adaptive functioning); which started before adulthood and has a lasting effect on development.</p> <p>(6) <b>Regional Partnership Board:</b> Regional Partnership Boards were set up in each region by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 to drive the strategic regional delivery of social services in close collaboration with health. In North Wales the board currently meets monthly and membership includes the local authorities, the health board, third sector representatives, service user and carer representative as well as co-opted members from the North Wales Police, Welsh Ambulance Services Trust, and North Wales Fire Service. More information is available at:</p>

<https://www.northwalescollaborative.wales/regional-partnership-board/>

(7) **Statutory duty:** this is something the council must do by law.

(8) **Work package:** this is a list of tasks that need to be carried out as part of a larger project. The work package includes details of what needs to be done, who will do it and by when.