

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 22 January 2019

Lead Member / Officer: Bobby Feeley / Phil Gilroy

Report Author: Alaw Pierce

Title: **North Wales Learning Disability Strategy**

1. What is the report about?

The North Wales Learning Disability Strategy sets out how we will work towards integrated learning disability services in North Wales.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To request that Cabinet approves the involvement of Denbighshire in the regional strategy.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Cabinet approves the involvement of Denbighshire in the Regional Learning Disability Strategy.

4. Report details

4.1 The North Wales Learning Disability Strategy sets out how we will work towards integrated learning disability services in North Wales. It was developed jointly by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and the six North Wales councils and supported by Public Health Wales. It is informed by what people with a learning disability and their carers told us about what matters to them, i.e.:

- having a good place to live
- having something meaningful to do
- friends, family and relationships
- being safe
- being healthy
- having the right support

4.2 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.

4.3 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 includes a statutory duty for Regional Partnership Boards to prioritise the integration 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.

- 4.4 To achieve our vision and provide services based on what matters to people we have planned five work packages to set out how we will achieve good lives for people with learning disabilities.
 - 4.4.1 Integrated structures: We will make sure health and social services work together better to support people with learning disabilities through replicating the existing, effective integrated structures across North Wales to create a consistent, seamless model of service.
 - 4.4.2 Workforce development: We will make sure staff know how to communicate well with people with learning disabilities. We will make reasonable adjustments to services so they are easier to use so that people get the health and social care they need in their language of choice. This strand links closely with the assistive technology strand, such as supporting carers and staff to help people to use the internet and social media safely.
 - 4.4.3 Commissioning and procurement: We will work with other organisations to make sure we have the types of housing and support people need. We will deliver pooled budgets across health and social care in the region. We will look at creative ways of developing the services including direct payments/support budgets and pooled direct payments. Working with and supporting the provider market to develop new ways of working including social enterprises.
 - 4.4.4 Community and culture change: - We will 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. In this strand we will build on the work of community navigators, local area coordinators and social prescribing models to develop a co-productive, scalable structure for community inclusion. This includes working with local employers to develop employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities as well as other day opportunities.
 - 4.4.5 Assistive technology: We will find ways to use technology such as alarms and mobile phones to support people to be more independent.
- 4.5 Within each of these areas we include the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and support for people through changes in life from early years to ageing well. We are committed to strengthening Welsh language services and providing an active offer through the Mwy na geiriau/More than just words framework.
- 4.6 The strategy includes information about the population, current services and what we want to see change. Some of the key findings are that there are around 810 children and 2,900 adults with learning disabilities who receive services in North Wales although the actual number may be higher. The number of people who need support is increasing because people with learning disabilities are living longer and there are more young people with complex needs needing support. 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.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

- 5.1 The Learning Disability Strategy and planned five work packages are in line with Denbighshire's Corporate Priorities in particular the priorities relating to housing and connected and resilient communities.
- 5.2 The Strategy aims to ensure people with learning disabilities are supported to live in homes that meet their needs within communities that value them and where they can contribute and be part of building the independence and resilience of those communities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

- 6.1 This strategy is focussed on delivering more effective use of current resources in order to sustain service provision and improve outcomes.
- 6.2 Putting the strategy into action through delivery of the 5 work packages has staff and financial resource implications for the six local authorities and BCUHB. The North Wales Social Care and Well-being Improvement Collaborative have successfully submitted a bid to the Welsh Government transformation fund and secured £1.7 million for the region to fund these additional costs.
- 6.3 The funding is available over the two financial years 2018-19 and 2019-20. The purpose of the funding is to make rapid progress towards new seamless models of health and social care that are sustainable in the long term. It will be used to fund a transformation project team; fund change projects, particularly projects focussed on reducing costs in the medium to long term; and, an evaluation. For example, funding assistive technologies to support people to live independently and reduce long-term costs of providing care and support.
- 6.4 The 'invest to save' funding secured is around 1% of the total investment in learning disability services in the region. Through implementing the Strategy current investment in learning disability services will be able to contain future demand.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A well-being impact assessment has been written for the strategy which includes anti-poverty, environment and equalities issues. There are potential negative impacts which may result, particularly from difficult choices about where to prioritise investment which may disadvantage some groups over others. There are also potential positive and negative impacts from the way we will commission, procure and use and develop physical assets in the region to meet care and support needs. Further Equality Impact Assessments will need to be carried out as detailed plans are developed under each of the work packages.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The strategy was based initially on findings from the consultation carried out as part of the population assessment and regional plan (see Appendix 3: Consultation Report). In addition Engagement has taken place with the following partners/stakeholder in the following ways:

- 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.
- 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.
- Consultation events for service providers and local authority and health staff. We had around 60 providers and over 100 staff attend the events.
- Worked with the North Wales Learning Disability Participation Group to write the Easy Read version of the strategy alongside the detailed version.
- Shared the draft strategy widely for comments.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

Involvement in the regional strategy will help the council to deliver its responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and should help to manage service demand in the longer term. The costs of delivery of the development and implementation strategy are supported by grant and should not therefore create an additional cost pressure locally.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.

11. Power to make the Decision

11.1 The Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires Local Authorities and Health Boards to integrate their functions for the provision of community based services.

11.2 Key executive strategic decisions shall be decided by Cabinet collectively and in accordance with Denbighshire County Council Constitution Section 13.