

12 THEMES

Shape our
Joint Strategy
for Learning
Disability
Services

1. Communicating
with, and involving
everyone who uses
services

2. Housing and
independent living

3. Physical, mental
and spiritual
wellbeing

4. Making friends,
and enjoying a
social life

5. Staying safe in
the community and
online

6. Moving on from
school to adult life
' Transitions '

7. Further education
and training

8. Employability

9. Supporting carers
and families

10. Taking control
and making choices
' Personalisation '

11. A better life in
older age

12. Better lives for
people with a
learning disability
and autism

JOINT STRATEGY NEWSLETTER

Improving the lives of young people and adults with a learning disability and autism

APRIL 2014

Our local *Joint Strategy for Learning Disability Services*—making plans a reality...

Dear Reader,

The implementation of the Joint Strategy for Learning Disability Services (2012-2015) reached its mid-way point this Spring. We reported our progress to Perth & Kinross Council Housing and Health Committee on 12th March 2014.

Some eighteen months of partnership work has brought about a range of improvements to the lives of people in Perth & Kinross who live with the challenges of learning disability.

In this issue we report just some of the new initiatives and developments taken forward by the partnership through this period.

With our eyes set to the future and still much to do, we have also included our 'To Do List' for the remaining eighteen months of the Strategy.

As always we are keen to hear about your experience of services and any ideas you may have to improve the lives of people with a learning disability. Please share your thoughts with our Planning Officer. The contact details are on page 4

We look forward to hearing from you

Best wishes

Angie

and... Kenny

Joint Chairs of the Strategy Group

Angie McManus, Service Manager,
Learning Disability Services, NHS Tayside

Kenny Ogilvy, Service Manager,
Learning Disability Services, Perth &
Kinross Council



Our progress at half time



Today more people with a learning disability/ autism living in Perth & Kinross

- Stay in their own home
- Are in employment, volunteering or work placements
- Study at college
- Are activists; campaigning against stigma & bullying
- Play sports and win medals
- Live longer, healthier and happier lives
- Leave school with positive plans for the future
- Manage their own care through 'self-directed-support' (SDS)

To make sure our clients receive all the benefits they are entitled to, the Perth and Kinross Welfare Rights Team offer 'Income Maximisation Assessments'. Between May 2013 and August, some 281 were carried out.

The Community Care Employment Support Team assisted 88 clients in 2013. Of that group, 32 entered employment and 26 found volunteering opportunities. The remainder are continuing to work on their employability skills.

Parents, carers and families...

...can access support and help too

In 2013, the Short Breaks Bureau managed by Cornerstone helped 67 adults to access a range of holidays and short breaks of their choice in various locations throughout Scotland and overseas.

PAMIS 'Future Choices' project has provided a range of training and information events aimed at reducing family carers' concerns and stress by ensuring they hear about all the necessary information needed to form personal support plans for their sons or daughters. Training has been offered on transitional issues such as: Welfare and Financial Guardianship under the Adults with Incapacity, (Scotland) Act 2000, Self-Directed Support - the processes and implications, Welfare Reform and how this will affect family finances, amongst a host of other topics.

With regard to improving involvement of carers and parents in service planning and policy development, the Joint Strategy Group recently reviewed the approach with a view to increasing and widening participation across the various groups. A range of different approaches to involvement are now being implemented; i.e. a supported forum and a regular newsletter. Separate policy development workshops and events are to be held for carers and parents of people with a Profound and Multiple Learning Disability in recognition of their particular needs.

Highlights

The Joint Strategy Group has contributed to a range of developments:

- Personalisation and wider use of Self-Directed Support
- Formation of the new Transitions Team
- A Shared Lives Service (adult fostering)
- Friends Unlimited (FUN) A social club with support
- Employability Services
- Wider access to further education with Perth College UHI

The new Transitions Service delivered by the Adult Learning Disability Fieldwork Team works in partnership with schools, Children's Services and family support services such as PAMIS. This is to ensure that young people with a learning disability receive personalised, self-directed support packages to help them achieve their goals and dreams when they leave school. Planning for this can begin as early as Primary 6.

In September 2013, Perth College UHI, PAMIS and HCC launched a 'pilot' training course 'off-campus' at Gleneagles Day Opportunities in Perth; mainly for students with more complex needs. The site at Gleneagles provides all the necessary equipment and support on hand. This has proven successful—further courses will be offered in 2014.



The Keys to Life—Scotland's 10 Year Strategy



This new Strategy produced by the Scottish Government sets out the policy direction for all agencies who support people with a learning disability. It contains 52 recommendations within a range of themes such as healthcare, transitions, employability, independent living and housing. Other topics such as criminal justice, personalisation and accessible information are also featured.

The Joint Strategy Group is working on the local response which include plans to address:

- Human rights issues
- Mitigating the effects of welfare reform
- Correcting health inequities
- Complex care
- Criminal justice and much more...

Better Health and Wellbeing

The Keys to Life contains several health recommendations. We tackle some of these already through 'early intervention'

- Down's Syndrome Health Screening Clinic
- Specialist Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinic
- Bridge to Vision Tayside Initiative with RNIB ensuring everyone has eye regular tests
- Specialist Learning Disability Falls Service
- Autism Intervention Group—helping people to develop personal skills



And other initiatives:

- Learning Disability Acute Liaison Nurse Service—ensuring people with a learning disability are well supported in general hospitals
- Social Passports for people with complex needs—to ensure that staff who don't know the individual get all the important information about their personal needs and preferences



Priorities for the 'second half' (2014-2015)

The Joint Strategy Group will work together on this 'To Do List'

- Continue the process of 'Personalisation' - Self Directed Support
- Making Choices Keeping Safe training for staff who advise on sexual health & relationships
- Better lives in older age - planning for the increasing number of older people with a learning disability
- The Keys to Life—responding to Scotland's national strategy
- Improving communication through translation of information into Easy Read
- And much more.....



For further information about the Joint Strategy please contact:

Lorna McCurrach Planning Officer on 01738 476780 or email at lmccurrach@pkc.gov.uk

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