

REPORT TO CABINET - 21 SEPTEMBER 2005-09-12

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT, COMMUNITY AND HOUSING SERVICES

A STRATEGY FOR LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES IN DUDLEY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 To seek approval from Cabinet for the draft Strategy for Learning Disability Services in Dudley.
- 2 Following a period of consultation, the Strategy has been approved by the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The Strategy will also be presented for approval to the Board of the Primary Care Trust.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The Dudley Learning Disability Strategy sets out a vision and direction for the development of Learning Disability Services over the period 2005 to 2008.
- 4 The Strategy has been developed in consultation with users, carers and the agencies which are represented on the Learning Disability Partnership Board.
- 5 The Strategy has been driven by the following factors:
 - In 2001 the Government published the White Paper 'Valuing People' which provided guidance to Councils on how to improve the lives of people with a learning disability, for example housing, day services, health, and employment.
 - Dudley has made considerable progress with the implementation of Valuing People, but the previous Strategy for Learning Disability Services in Dudley was written in 1994. It is now time for a new one, which pulls together the Plans we have developed for different areas of the Service since the publication of Valuing People.
 - In 2003 we carried out a Best Value Review of services for Learning Disability. The Review considered the effectiveness of existing services in meeting the needs of service users and their family carers and the effectiveness of organisational structures and partnership arrangements. The Review made important recommendations, which have been included in the Strategy.

- The Council and the PCTs have recently established an integrated Service for Mental Health. An integrated service for learning disability has operated successfully for several years in Dudley at community team level, but higher management structures have not been joined up. With the proposed merger of the PCTs, it is anticipated that during the next year there may be further progress towards a fully integrated Learning Disability Service, which should result in improved outcomes for people with learning disability and their family carers.
 - The Strategy also reflects recent Government thinking about Services as set out in the Cabinet Office report “Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People” (January 2005) and the Adult Social Care Green Paper, together with new legislation such as the Mental Capacity Act.
- 6 The Strategy has been developed in partnership with people with a learning disability and has been produced in an accessible format.
- 7 The main aims of the Strategy are as follows:
- Too many people with learning disabilities are living in residential care. This costs a lot of money. Residential care is right for some people, but we want to find different ways for people with a learning disability to live. One way is Supported Housing. People can have a tenancy and more choice about their care.
 - We want to make the transition process for parents and young people much better.
 - We want to make sure that people from the black and ethnic minority community have better services and support.
 - We want to continue to modernise day services and provide more paid work.
 - We want to improve services to carers of people with learning disabilities should be helped when needed.
 - We want to find and keep more good staff to work in Learning Disability Services

- 8 The Strategy will be implemented through the work of the sub-groups of the Learning Disability Partnership Boards, and robust performance management against each of the key areas

FINANCE

- 9 The Strategy will be resourced through existing and planned investments in the Council's budget for Social Services and the PCT's Local Delivery Plan

LAW

- 10 The Council have powers and duties to support persons with learning disabilities under its welfare function contained in a number of statutes including the National Assistance Act 1948, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and the Mental Health Acts and may do anything incidental to conducive to or which facilitates the discharge of its functions under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 11 The content of this report is consistent with the Equal Opportunities policy of the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12 Cabinet is asked to approve the draft Strategy.



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