



**LUTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

**DRAFT STRATEGY FOR THE COMMISSIONING
OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING
DISABILITY**

2008– 2013

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR PUBLIC
CONSULTATION**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of The Draft Strategy

1.1.1 This draft commissioning strategy relates to and is one of a series of four commissioning strategies covering the whole of adult social care services that the Council has produced and is simultaneously consulting on. (Services for People with a Learning Disability, Older Persons Services, Services for People with a Physical Disability or Sensory Impairment and Services for People with a Mental Health Problem)

1.1.2 An Overview Report has also been drafted, drawing out the common themes underpinning all of the commissioning strategies. If you would like to see how the vision presented here relating to services for people with a learning disability fits into this broader strategic picture, please contact:

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or visit the consultation website to view other versions at

www.luton.gov.uk/currentconsultations

1.1.3 This Executive Summary of the Strategy, for the purposes of public consultation, presents the primary proposals for the development of these services, summarized through a series of commissioning proposals, with key questions posed to facilitate the process of consultation.

1.1.4 The full draft strategy provides greater detail. A copy of the full strategy can be obtained by contacting Bernie Middlehurst, Service Manager

1.1.5 Public consultation on the strategy will take place from July to September 2008. Feedback from consultation and any amendments to the draft strategy suggested by this feedback will be presented to the Council's Executive in November 2008 and the final version of the strategy will be published after this.

1.2 The Modernisation of Learning Disability Services

1.2.1 Although a good start has been made in modernising local services for people with a learning disability, in line with the 2001 national strategy, Valuing People, further major change is needed to make them fully compliant with the latest guidance from central government.

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- 1.2.2 This strategy is strongly influenced by the national “Transforming Social Care” programme, through which the Government expects all local authorities to have put in place, by March 2011, the different structures and processes required for delivering self directed care and individualised budgets and for a significant proportion of those eligible for social care support to be benefiting from this.
- 1.2.3 The Government themselves, however, recognise that such a large-scale transformation, which will require a major change in culture and the development of a very different social care market, will not happen overnight. This strategy therefore includes proposals for improving the current range and quality of commissioned services, which will continue to be required by people whilst the new self directed care arrangements are being developed and rolled out to all.

2 IMPACT OF THIS STRATEGY

- 2.1 What will this ten-year vision mean for people with a learning disability and their carers living in Luton?
- Increased range of support options for people to choose from, increasingly through the use of an individual budget
 - More information about support options will be readily available in formats that are easy to understand.
 - Increased access to advocates and personal brokers
 - People with a learning disability and family carers as full partners in shaping the allocation of resources to meet their needs
 - Full protection from discrimination.
 - Reduction in the number of young adults with complex needs being placed outside of the Borough
 - There will be more opportunities for people with a learning disability to move into paid employment, part and full-time, with the Council setting the example for other employers.
 - The range of supported living schemes will be increased (including shared ownership) .

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- Day services will cease to be provided through large institutional settings
- Short breaks will be made available in a more flexible and responsive way.
- Full provision will be made for the cultural needs of the increasing numbers of people with a learning disability coming from the expanding ethnic minority communities.
- People with a learning disability will be helped to access the full range of health services, especially if they have a combination of health needs.
- Over this time period, there will be a significant transfer of resources from residential to non-residential services, the better to support people with a learning disability within their local communities.

Consultation Question 1 : Do you agree that the impacts of the strategy described above will be achievable and will be sufficient to bring about the transformation in the lives of people with a learning disability called for by the national Valuing People Strategy ?

3 COMMISSIONING PROPOSALS

In this Section, all of the Commissioning Proposals are drawn together and related to the seven Outcome Headings, against which the Commission for Social Care Inspection will be evaluating services.

3.1 Improving Health and Emotional Well-Being

- Establish with practice-based commissioning groups the priority of health action planning for people with a disability.
- Complete the PCT-led review of the Bedfordshire and Luton NHS Partnership Trust's provision of specialist assessment, treatment and therapy services and implement the recommendations arising from this review
- Complete the roll out of health planning to all people with a learning disability in the Borough

Consultation Question 2 : Do you agree that these are the right priorities for improving the general health of people with a learning disability ?

3.2 Improved Quality of Life

- Undertake a review of all out-of-borough residential placements with a view to identifying those who would prefer or benefit from a more local specialist service, if the appropriate alternative provision were commissioned.
- Enter into dialogue with existing service providers within the Borough to identify their capacity to develop the required alternative provision, opening up the tendering process to new providers, as required, and entering into collaborative commissioning with Bedfordshire County Council and other neighbouring authorities to address service gaps in common.
- Commission specialist assessment and rehabilitative home support services for those with a learning disability living in the community, who have complex needs.
- Complete and implement plans for the modernisation of current day services managed by the Council.
- Identify within any review of sheltered housing stock and new extra care schemes the scope for providing for people with a learning disability with either complex needs and/or challenging behaviour, whether through building, adaptation or demolition of existing buildings.
- Commission from Registered Social Landlords a year-on-year allocation of supported tenancies for those with a learning disability, alongside securing a regular supply of Council housing tenancies.

Consultation Question 3 : Do you believe that these proposed actions will secure the improvement in the quality of peoples' lives required ? If not, which other measures do you think the Council and Luton tPCT need to take ?

3.3 Making a Positive Contribution

- Contribute to the establishment of a virtual Transitions Team for all young people, aged 14-25 years with a learning disability, bringing together staff from children's services and adult social care, education and leisure, supported employment, housing and transport to develop and implement through-life support plans.

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- As an integral part of the development of the Service Improvement Programme, ensure that feedback from service users and carers at care plan reviews are fed back into the commissioning process and that representative groups of users and carers are given regular opportunities to meet with members and senior managers.
- Review the terms of reference and arrangements for the Learning Disability Partnership Board in the light of the Valuing People Now strategy, with the aim of strengthening the voice of the Board and integrating it more fully into the wider decision-making process through the Health and well Being Board.

Consultation Question 4 : Are there other specific ways in which people with a learning disability can be supported to make a positive contribution in their community ?

3.4 Increased Choice and Control

- Work towards the re-provision of more socially inclusive day opportunities
- Re-provide the interim day service at the Stopsley Centre
- Examine ways of making more cost-effective use of supported living units, with the aid of TeleCare and TeleHealth assistive technology and more flexibly deploying staff in support of more dispersed day opportunities.
- Contribute to the development across adult social care of the systems and cultural changes necessary to deliver self directed care and individualised budgets
- Commission a 'buddy service' to recruit, train and support volunteers to accompany people, especially young adults, with long term impairments to mainstream community services, seeking to match together those with similar interests.
- Draw up a specification for a localised, specialist transport service to facilitate access to more dispersed community activities.

Consultation Question 5 : Do the proposals in this section make sense ? Are there other priorities for development you believe should be included under this broad heading of increasing choice and control

Consultation Question 6 : The aim of personal budgets is to enable people who can, have maximum choice, control and power over the support services they receive. Would you be willing to shape and commission your own service?

3.5 Freedom from Discrimination

- Use the Learning Disability Development Fund to create a Development Worker to work within the minority ethnic communities in Luton to ensure that members of these communities share equal access to services that meet their cultural needs.
- Use the Learning Disability Development Fund to fund a programme of training for people with a learning disability in how to deal with harassment and bullying in the community.

Consultation Question 7 : Are there other measures you think the Council could consider to ensure that people with a learning disability are freed from discrimination?

3.6 Economic Well-Being

- Contribute to the development of plans for a significant increase in the range and volume of support available for people to secure vocational training and paid employment
- Increase the number of people able to make use of supported living schemes instead of residential care, through which they will have access to a higher level of benefits.

Consultation Question 8 : Are there other specific measures the Council should be considering to help promote the economic well-being of people with a learning disability ?

3.7 Maintaining Personal Dignity and Respect

- Negotiate with Health and independent sector social care providers a comprehensive training programme for all care staff working with people with long term impairments to promote the appropriate skills.
- Implement a comprehensive quality monitoring system for all external service providers, to ensure that the services being provided

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place the individuals' dignity and respect at the centre of all that they do.

- Build into the new systems for self directed care sufficient safeguards to ensure that people choosing non-commissioned support packages remain protected.

Consultation Question 9 : Taking account of all the other proposals above that might contribute to achieving this outcome objective, do you believe there are any other measures that should be taken over the next 5 years to help ensure dignity and respect for people with a learning disability ?

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Both the Council and Luton Primary Care Trust have responded positively over the last 5 years to the growth in demand for specialist learning disability services by providing substantial above-inflation budget growth, at a time when other service areas have faced significant cuts.
- 4.2 However, it is very unlikely that this exponential rate of growth can be sustained and, as a result, the majority of the service improvements in this commissioning strategy will have to come from both efficiency savings and from the commissioning of ever more creative and cost-effective services.
- 4.3 In particular, at present over 40% of the learning disability commissioning budget is spend on residential care for individuals, much of it outside of the Borough. A significant aim of this strategy is to release up to at least 15% of this funding in favour of community-based support options.
- 4.4 In the development of more socially inclusive services, it will also be essential to secure targeted funding from other mainstream local authority departments and government agencies responsible for training, employment, housing, transport and leisure.

Consultation Question 10 : Do you agree that a high priority should be given to reducing the current reliance on high cost residential care provision outside of Luton ?

----- End of Executive Summary -----

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Please send your comments to: -

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