

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Integration Joint Board		
Held on	16 February 2021		
Agenda Item:	Item 9		
Title:	Adult Learning Disability Strategy		
Summary:			
The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the progress of refreshing the Adult Learning Disability Strategy.			
Author:	Danielle Rae, Coordinator – Planning and Performance Sandra Rae, Service Manager – Learning Disability and Sensory Impairment		
It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the progress made in refreshing the Adult Learning Disability Strategy and the considerable engagement that has taken place to date ii. Agree that a briefing session for IJB members, open to all Councillors and Health Board members be arranged during the formal consultation period to hear from the Strategy Development Group and Champions Board; and, iii. Agree that a draft Strategy is published for consultation within two weeks of the IJB meeting on 16th February; iv. Note that the final Strategy will be endorsed by the IJB. 			
Route to meeting:			
A report was presented to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on 24 March 2021. Regular progress reports were presented to SPAG on 20 April 2021, 15 June 2021, 31 August 2021, 27 October 2021 and 14 December 2021.			
Directions:		Implications:	
1. No Directions Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran	<input type="checkbox"/>	HR	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equalities	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		ICT	<input type="checkbox"/>

ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the progress of refreshing the Adult Learning Disability Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

- i. Note the progress made in refreshing the Adult Learning Disability Strategy and the considerable engagement that has taken place to date
- ii. Agree that a briefing session for IJB members, open to all Councillors and Health Board members be arranged during the formal consultation period to hear from the Strategy Development Group and Champions Board; and,
- iii. Agree that a draft Strategy is published for consultation within two weeks of the IJB meeting on 16th February;
- iv. Note that the final Strategy will be endorsed by the IJB.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 South Ayrshire IJB holds delegated authority for all adult learning disability services within South Ayrshire, currently working under the existing [Adult Learning Disability Strategy](#) which runs to 2022. The existing strategy applies to all adults with learning disabilities, including those aged from 16 years onwards who are in transition into adult services. The Strategy sought to signal a change in what people can expect with a shift to being supported within the community and details how communities can support this shift. It was developed with a clear reference to the 2013 Keys to Life national strategy for learning disability.
- 3.2 People with a learning disability, their families and carers have the right to be valued as individuals and lead fulfilling lives. They have the right to access and participate in their communities and benefit from a fair and inclusive society as well as contributing to the local economy.
- 3.3 South Ayrshire HSCP has made good progress on delivering the extant Learning Disability Strategy (progress reported to the Performance and Audit Committee) but with the policy landscape changing (e.g. the recent publication of a refreshed national learning disability strategy 'Keys to Life' and the implications of the Review of Adult Social Care), and our services having to adapt to the impact of COVID-19, the time is now right to draft a new strategy. This follows the publication of the IJB Strategic Plan, allowing for alignment to the HSCP's overall strategic objectives.
- 3.4 At its meeting on 24 March 2021, the IJB agreed that work will begin to develop a revised Adult Learning Disability Strategy for the HSCP; that the drafting should

be taken forward by officers in close collaboration with a range of partners (including the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability) and be overseen by the IJB's Strategic Planning Advisory Group. The revised strategy will be brought to the IJB for approval by May 2022.

- 3.5 To develop the strategy, the HSCP has formalised a strategic partnership with the **Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (SCLD)** to support us through the drafting process with their expertise, knowledge of best practice and engagement capabilities.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 To develop the strategy, a Strategy Development Group was established and continues to meet monthly. The Development Group continues to be well attended with a wide range of representatives from various service areas (such as Health and Social Work, Housing, Employability and Skills, Champions Board, Third Sector, Ayrshire College and SCLD) as well as a person who receives support and parents. The Group agreed to theme each meeting around specific areas of focus for the Strategy, the first of which centred on Employability. Recent themes have included Housing, Health and Social Care, Community Safety, Equalities and Carers.
- 4.2 A Steering Group was also established for people with learning disabilities and carers to have direct input into the development of the strategy. The Steering Group has tended to discuss the themes prior to the Strategy Development Group meeting so their views can be shared to inform discussions at the Strategy Development Group meeting. The Steering Group continues to meet monthly. This group will remain in place for the duration of strategy development for those with a particular interest in this.
- 4.3 A Champions Board, consisting of people with learning disabilities, parents, carers and providers was established to ensure the strategy is shaped by those it is designed for. A staff member has been seconded to focus solely on participation and oversee the Champions Board ensuring we have dedicated resource to understand the needs and aspirations of people with learning disabilities. The Champions Board has continued to meet monthly and supports the development of the Strategy. The Champions Board is intended to remain in place to ensure continuous engagement and give those with learning disabilities a forum for making their views known beyond the launch of the Strategy.
- 4.4 Engagement took place to inform the refreshed strategy from August to November 2021. Engagement took place through a variety of methods including a paper and online survey, online and in-person focus groups, interviews with Managers and a wider staff survey. The Group, alongside the Steering Group and Champions Board, agreed upon questions for a survey which was distributed to all service users. The survey was also made available online and was promoted through online channels. A total of 90 people with learning disabilities in South Ayrshire completed the survey. This is around 1 in every 6 people in South Ayrshire who are known to the local authority to be accessing services on the basis of a learning disability.

4.5 Most people who answered the survey rated their happiness highly, were happy with the support they received and where they lived. There were also some important points to reflect on:

- The average happiness score of 7.48 was lower than a sample from across Scotland taken from before the Coronavirus pandemic; it will take a concerted effort to make sure that people's wellbeing returns to pre-pandemic levels.
- It will be important to build on the success of digital inclusion for people, making sure that people are supported to acquire skills to use technology.
- Relationships with friends and family are very important to people, and over a third of people currently don't see their loved ones as much as they like. Getting appropriate support in place to ensure people can make and maintain these relationships is pivotal. This will include supporting staff to feel confident to talk to people about these relationships, as well as intimate relationships
- Having the right support was also a prevalent theme in the survey, in particular to accommodate more varied and regular social activities. Over two thirds of people suggested they would like to be able to do more of the things they liked. Ensuring that support is flexible enough to allow people to do the things they want when they want will be an important focus going forward.

4.6 Online and in-person focus groups were also held to gather feedback. Focus groups were held in Ayr, Maybole, Girvan and Troon focusing on the facilities and opportunities available to people living in these areas. There were also five focus groups on Zoom focusing on the specific topics of employment, learning, housing, transitions and support for people with complex needs. SCLD also attended a learning disability service providers forum hosted by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire. SCLD also attended a meeting of some members of ENABLE Scotland's ACE group who are all from South Ayrshire. Both took place on Zoom. Over the course of the process, we recorded engagement with 34 parents/family carers, 23 people with learning disabilities, and 18 employees of voluntary sector service providers.

4.7 Some points raised in the focus group feedback included:

- The lack of information about the opportunities available
- Day activities and the opportunity to spend time with people
- More information on self-directed support
- Learning and employment opportunities
- The need to streamline the transitions process
- The need to provide a range of different housing models
- Awareness raising on hate crime

4.8 An online survey was issued internally to all staff in the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and to relevant third and private sector providers. The survey was also shared with members of the Learning Disability Strategy Development group to be cascaded to other relevant services through those involved in the group such as housing, education and employability. The survey covered three main sections:

1. What is good about the support your service offers
 2. What is not good about the support your service offers; and
 3. What would make life better for people with learning disabilities in South Ayrshire
- 4.9 Most felt that their service was good at offering person-centred support and helping to maximise independence. The COVID-19 pandemic was referenced to throughout the survey, particularly in relation to staffing shortages and reduction of services which are areas staff feel could be better. Training was also highlighted several times with a desire for not only staff training to be increased, but general awareness raising and education on learning disabilities to be carried out across all services and organisations. There was also reference to building-based services as a suggestion to improving the lives of people with learning disabilities, with most respondents stating that meaningful activity and choice being a key part of any building-based service. Some participants also wanted to see recognition of positive work being carried out by teams and a celebration of any improvements that take place.
- 4.10 The consultation feedback has been analysed and reports have been produced detailing the views of those who participated. These reports form the basis for the strategy and a full engagement report will be available as an appendix to the final strategy.
- 4.11 Recently, the main area of focus for the Strategy Development Group has been drafting the strategy. Rather than follow the traditional format and layout of strategy documents, the Group wanted to be inclusive and decided that the main strategy should be written in 'easy-read' format so that it's accessible for those it's written to support. The Group also felt it was important to demonstrate the importance of the Champions Board and have encouraged them to put their own message into the document.
- 4.12 After discussion of the consultation feedback, the Group felt the feedback reflected similar priorities to those contained in the national strategy 'Keys to Life' and decided our local objectives would reflect these, namely:
1. Health and Wellbeing
 2. Choice and Control
 3. Living Independently
 4. Active Citizenship
- 4.13 The strategy takes a closer look at each of these objectives detailing specific feedback on each objective, the key actions that will be taken to achieve the objective and the measures we will use to assess our performance.
- 4.14 A detailed policy context will be available as an appendix alongside the engagement report and the Equality Impact Assessment.

4.15 A draft strategy will be finalised by the end of February 2022 and will go out to public consultation for six weeks. The feedback will be considered then a final version will be submitted to IJB on 13 April 2022 for approval.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 Learning disability services are a core service for the HSCP and are vital to driving our strategic objectives and improving outcomes for the community. The IJB Strategic Plan outlines seven key objectives and the Learning Disability Strategy will align clearly with these particularly:

- We nurture and are part of communities that care for each other
- We work together to give you the right care in the right place
- We help build communities where people feel safe
- We are transparent and listen to you

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 There will ultimately be significant financial implications of the Learning Disability Strategy but these implications will be brought to the IJB as appropriate.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 There are no HR implications to agreeing this report.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no legal implications to agreeing this report.

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 A full equality impact assessment will be undertaken on the completed draft strategy.

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 There are no sustainability implications to agreeing this report.

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 The views of professional groups will be taken into close consideration as the strategy is developed.

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 Details on consultation and a partnership approach are set out above and will be further developed as the strategy is developed.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 There is no risk associated with agreeing this report.



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BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Coming Home Report, Scottish Government \(2018\)](#)

[Keys to Life, Scottish Government & COSLA \(2019 update\)](#)

[Independent Review of Adult Social Care, Scottish Government \(2021\)](#)

February 2022