

Update on Learning Disability Transformation

Health Select Commission

April 2023

Background

The foundations of a new Learning Disability Transformation Programme were formed following consultation in 2017.

The programme aims to:

- Provide high quality care and support to people with a learning disability and their families.
- Actively promote people's wellbeing, helping them have a good life and be as independent, healthy, and well as possible.
- Be more diverse so all people with a learning disability in Rotherham, whatever their age, background, or level of need, have more choice in their support.
- Move away from traditional building based or institutional form of support and focus on support, which is personalised, flexible and meets people's individual needs.
- Help people work together and pool their personal funds so they can share their support and sustain meaningful and rewarding relationships.
- Provide the best value for the people of Rotherham.

The transformation programme commenced in 2018 following Cabinet approval.

Progress

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic significantly impacted on the delivery timescales, the services referenced within the 2018 Cabinet report have now been decommissioned, with alternative support options provided for people with a learning disability.

The Council has:

- Opened a new residential respite service at Conway Crescent in January 2021 which can support people with a wide range of needs.
- Relocated the residential residents of Parkhill Lodge in Maltby to Lord Hardy Court in October 2020 during the height of the pandemic, to support safer infection control measures. The residents were then subsequently supported where appropriate to move into more independent accommodation, and for those that continue to live at Lord Hardy Court, personalised outcomes have been agreed with the person, their family members and /or advocates.
- Decommissioned Oaks and Addison Day Centre. People were supported or signposted to the newly created day opportunities facilitated by Community Catalysts.
- A Supported Living service and peer support services retendered in 2021.



Progress cont.

- The Cabinet approved the creation of a Flexible Purchasing System in September 2022. This is being 'stood up', and existing service providers will be encouraged to apply. Services will be 'relet' to ensure they work to a more up-to-date service specification and deliver Social Value.
- Commissioned Community Catalysts to co-ordinate the Community Options project on behalf of Rotherham Council, which led to the creation of over 20 enterprises that now provide quality, creative support for people with a learning disability who live in Rotherham. Far more people now accessing the services and they have more choice of activities.
- By the end of the project, enterprises had 555 opportunities being used by people across the week and provided 137 jobs for local people. Developed proposals for day opportunities for people with high support needs through a redesigned new build specialist day support provision at Castle View.
- Established the My Front Door Team on a permanent basis to support the learning disability pathway in Rotherham to optimise the consistency of approach and outcomes for Rotherham residents with a learning disability.

Next Steps

- Whilst there have been some notable successes, people with a learning disability do not generally enjoy equal life chances with the rest of the community.
- Cabinet gave approval on the 30th March 2023 for the co-production of a future Learning Disability Vision and Strategy.
- To build on the success and work undertaken so far, the Council will refresh the vision and strategy from 2023. The approach will be co-produced with people with a learning disability, young adults and their families, parents, and carers, as well as partners and providers who are delivering services and supporting people with a learning disability.
- It is anticipated that the strategy and vision will have a strong focus on how people with a learning disability are supported to be independent in all areas of life such as:
 - how and where to live,
 - employment and training opportunities,
 - travelling independently,
 - making their own decisions
 - being active members of their community.

Next Steps cont.

- Co-production will ensure that people's views shape the strategy.
- The Council will become a member of Learning Disability England where people with learning disabilities, families, friends, and people that work in services come together on an equal basis to share knowledge and create a movement for change together.
- Learning Disability England, as part of the membership will help to scope and support the co-production along with the engagement of Rotherham organisations who are eager to be involved.
- This refreshed and co-produced Learning Disability Strategy will provide the platform for delivery of further transformation of Learning Disability services in Rotherham from 2023 onwards.
- Develop a broad 'offer' to develop accommodation with support.

Timelines

- April 2023: Scope and design the co-production with advocacy and partners.
- May – July 2023: Co-production events.
- May – August 2023: Begin to consolidate the themes and outputs from co-production.
- August – Sept 2023: Write the Learning Disability Strategy.
- November 2023: Cabinet report for Learning Disability Strategy approval.

**Thank you and
happy to take any questions**