

Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 08 November 2018

Report Title: My Life, My Choice. A strategy for people with learning disabilities in Cheshire East

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Janet Clowes, Adult Social Care and Integration

Cllr Jos Saunders, Children and Families

Cllr Liz Wardlaw, Health

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Senior Officer: Mark Palethorpe, Acting Executive Director of People

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. The main aim of the My Life, My Choice strategy is to ensure that all individuals with learning disabilities can live a healthy, happy and independent life with choice and control over the care that they receive. It will mean a shift in the way we do things here at Cheshire East, from a professionally led model of care and support which sees the individual and their families as recipients of service, to a truly collaborative model where the professional is an equal partner to the individual and their carer. We will take a 'whole life' approach to the strategy and will focus upon ten key areas: Community Inclusion, Early Help, Life Changes (Transition), Education & Employment, Short Breaks, Assistive Technology, Housing, Workforce Development and Mortality, Health and Transforming Care and Autism.
- 1.2. This strategy therefore sets out what we are already doing in Cheshire East and what we plan to do for these priority areas and suggests recommendations for improving the lives for individuals with learning disabilities across the borough.

2. Recommendation/s

- 2.1. That the Overview and Scrutiny consider and comment on the draft Strategy.

3. Reasons for Recommendation/s

- 3.1. With an increase in demand and a reduction in budgets, the need for delivering services differently is essential. By encouraging independence and working with our residents more creatively to deliver services we will enable individuals to live fulfilled and ordinary lives like the rest of us, whilst allowing Cheshire East Council to effectively support our most vulnerable residents with learning disabilities.
- 3.2. Priorities within the strategy came from co-production with a range of stakeholders including two focus groups, so publishing the strategy, working on the priorities and putting recommendations into practice will be meeting the needs of our residents.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. To continue without a strategy for individuals with learning disabilities and carry on delivering services as usual. However, it is crucial that we move forward with our approach and utilise modern technology and new ways of working to allow people to live independently. Without a strategy in place, our residents are unclear on the aims of Cheshire East Council and what we intend to do in the future.
- 4.2. To focus on fewer priorities. However, the priorities set out in the strategy have been put forward by partners and service users and so this will mean we are not meeting the needs of our local residents. Autism has been made a priority following a recent Ofsted inspection of SEND.

5. Background

- 5.1. By placing an emphasis on early help and intervention and promoting access to universal services for all, we would enable individuals to live independently for as long as possible with equal opportunities to everybody else. With an aging population, an increase in demand for services and a reduction in budgets, we need to be creative about how we care for people and provide a number of options to meet the needs of the individual. We recognise that there is no 'one size fits all' and will ensure that the person with learning disabilities remains at the centre of everything we do.
- 5.2. We want to be open and transparent to our residents and ensure that they are consulted every step of the way. The strategy has been co-produced and the service user input will remain a vital aspect of the proposed recommendations.

- 5.3. Understanding this need and how it may change by involving service users could help to forecast spending.
- 5.4. There has been engagement from the CCGs and the strategy will be an integrated strategy with health in order to ensure that all partners are on board with the proposed priorities and vision.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

- 6.1.1. If in the course of implementing the strategy it is proposed to procure goods or services (solely or jointly with others), those procurements should be carried out in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (where the council is leading on the procurement) in accordance with the Council's own Contract Procurement Rules.

6.2. Finance Implications

- 6.2.1. This report has no direct financial implications. However if the strategy is adopted, and changes are proposed to CEC services in the future, then decision papers with the relevant financial information will be written and subject to governance and approval processes as usual.
- 6.2.2. The strategy aims to encourage system wide work in order to improve the lives of people with Learning Disabilities in the Cheshire East area. This has the potential to deliver a reduction in the Councils LD spending which costs the authority around £47m per year gross for Adults and Older People.
- 6.2.3. In Children and Families the funding for the services mentioned in the strategy is provided through base budget and through dedicated schools grant – high needs. The base contribution to Children's Social Care and Prevention and Support is £43.3m, and the High Needs DSG funding is £34.1m - including payments to providers of £29.7m and the balance on provision of SEN services.

6.3. Policy Implications

- 6.3.1. The strategy mentions a number of key national policies it is aligned with, along with a number of more local strategies. These include:
- The Care Act
 - The Children and Families Act
 - The Mental Capacity Act
 - NICE Guidelines
 - Cheshire East Council Preparing for Adulthood Policy for Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

- Cheshire East Council Learning Disability Service: Team Operating Model , Service model vision statement
- Cheshire East Council Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Joint Strategy
- Cheshire East Council Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Written Statement of Action

6.4. Equality Implications

6.4.1. An Equality Impact Assessment has been drafted and is included as an appendix to this report.

6.5. Human Resources Implications

6.5.1. The strategy will be implemented through current resource.

6.6. Risk Management Implications

6.6.1. None.

6.7. Rural Communities Implications

6.7.1. The strategy will ensure that there is good access to service for those in rural communities, creating consistency across the borough.

6.8. Implications for Children & Young People

6.8.1. The strategy is all age so will ensure that individuals get the right support at the right time in the right place.

6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1 It is well established that people with a learning disability have poorer mental and physical health than the wider population and that their average age of death is significantly less than the general population. They can also be affected by poor access to good quality healthcare. The Strategy will bring about a more cohesive approach to the health and wellbeing of those with learning disabilities and help to reduce the health inequalities that currently impact upon them.

7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. All wards will be affected as the implications of the strategy will be borough wide.

8. Consultation & Engagement

8.1. Engagement with partners and service users has taken place.

- 8.2. Focus group held at CVS on 17/05/18 with professionals from the following organisations:
- Ruby's Fund
 - Cheshire Buddies
 - The Rossendale Trust
 - Cheshire Down's Syndrome Support Group
 - Disability Information Bureau
 - Friends for Leisure
- 8.3. Engagement either face to face or via telephone with professionals and service users from The Acorn Centre, Valleywood, 1st Enable, Lifeways and United Response.
- 8.4. Focus group held at The Acorn Centre on 22/05/18 with service users.
- 8.5. Focus group held at SUSO on 23/05/18 with service users.
- 8.6. Attended numerous Learning Disability Partnership Board meetings
- 8.7. Presented at a service user team meeting at The Acorn Centre on 24/04/18
- 8.8. Held face-to-face interview session with a volunteer with learning disabilities from Dean Row on 25/05/18
- 8.9. Attended the Carer Respite Consultation event on 01/05/18

9. Access to Information

- 9.1. The following documents helped to inform the strategy:
- NICE Guidelines, Learning disabilities and behaviour that challenges: service design and delivery
 - Department of Health, Valuing People Now
 - Cheshire East Council Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Joint Strategy
 - Cheshire East Council Learning Disability Service: Team Operating Model, Service model vision statement
 - Live Well For Longer- The Commissioning Plan
 - JSNAs: Bowel cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, Children and young people with SEND

10. Contact Information

- 10.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

Name: Kadie Ratchford

Job Title: Graduate Management Trainee (Commissioning)

Email: kadie.ratchford@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Appendix

Equality Impact Assessment

Equality impact assessment is a requirement for all strategies, plans, functions, policies, procedures and services under the Equalities Act 2010. We are also required to publish assessments so that we can demonstrate how we have considered the impact of proposals.

Section 1: Description

Department	Peoples Directorate		Lead officer responsible for assessment		Kadie Ratchford	
Service	Commissioning		Other members of team undertaking assessment			
Date	01/08/18		Version 1.0			
Type of document (mark as appropriate)	Strategy	Plan	Function	Policy	Procedure	Service
Is this a new/existing/revision of an existing document (mark as appropriate)	New		Existing		Revision	
Title and subject of the impact assessment (include a brief description of the aims, outcomes , operational issues as appropriate and how it fits in with the wider aims of the organisation) Please attach a copy of the strategy/plan/function/policy/procedure/service	The 'My Life, My Choice' strategy is an all age strategy focusing on learning disabilities. It highlights the local need in Cheshire East and emphasises the importance of early help and intervention as well as focusing on an assets based approach and promoting independence. Through engagement with various partners including Council Officers, CCGs, CWP, CVS, providers and service users, ten overarching areas of priority were highlighted. This strategy fits into the council's wider aims of the Early Help Framework, the Housing Strategy, The Commissioning Plan and the Local Plan.					
Who are the main stakeholders? (eg general public, employees, Councillors, partners, specific audiences)	People's directorate, health partners and the general public.					

Section 2: Initial screening

Who is affected? (This may or may not include the stakeholders listed above)	Any individual who has a learning disability and lives in Cheshire East. Parents may also be affected as well as teams who work with people who have learning disabilities.										
Who is intended to benefit and how?	Any individual who has a learning disability, their families and carers as the strategy is aimed to improve lives, help people to live more independently and become a valued member of their community.										
Could there be a different impact or outcome for some groups?	The strategy will be applied across the whole of Cheshire East and so no specific groups should be disproportionately affected.										
Does it include making decisions based on individual characteristics, needs or circumstances?	The extent to which somebody is disadvantaged due to their learning disability will be factored in to decisions made as we have a commitment to support the most vulnerable people in our community.										
Are relations between different groups or communities likely to be affected? (eg will it favour one particular group or deny opportunities for others?)	No										
Is there any specific targeted action to promote equality? Is there a history of unequal outcomes (do you have enough evidence to prove otherwise)?	Currently there are unequal outcomes for people with learning disabilities, particularly in relation to health inequalities. The strategy will aim to address these inequalities and provide better health outcomes for people with learning disabilities.										
Is there an actual or potential negative impact on these specific characteristics? (Please tick)											
Age	Y	N	Marriage & civil partnership	Y	N	Religion & belief	Y	N	Carers	Y	N
Disability	Y	N	Pregnancy & maternity	Y	N	Sex	Y	N	Socio-economic status	Y	N

Gender reassignment	Y	N	Race	Y	N	Sexual orientation	Y	N			
What evidence do you have to support your findings? (quantitative and qualitative) Please provide additional information that you wish to include as appendices to this document, i.e., graphs, tables, charts									Consultation/involvement carried out		
									Yes	No	
Age	The strategy is an all age strategy so all age groups have the potential to benefit from it.						X				
Disability	The strategy will positively benefit those with a learning disability.						X				
Gender reassignment	No impact								X		
Marriage & civil partnership	No impact								X		
Pregnancy & maternity	The strategy will potentially benefit adults with learning disabilities who go on to have children- this is mentioned on page thirteen of the strategy.								X		
Race	No impact								X		
Religion & belief	No impact								X		
Sex	No impact								X		
Sexual orientation	No impact								X		
Carers	By promoting independence amongst individuals with learning disabilities, this should help to alleviate some of the pressures faced by carers and enable them to live a more fulfilled life too.						X				
Socio-economic status	No impact								X		
Proceed to full impact assessment? (Please tick)			Yes			No			Date: 01/08/18		

If yes, please proceed to Section 3. If no, please publish the initial screening as part of the suite of documents relating to this issue