

Adults and Health Committee

Date of Meeting:	26 September 2022
Report Title:	Cheshire East Learning Disability Conference - Actions to be taken forward in 2022/23
Report of:	Jill Broomhall, Director of Adult Social Care
Report Reference No:	AH/41/2022-23
Ward(s) Affected:	All wards

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Delegates who attended the Cheshire East Learning Disability Conference were asked what 3 key actions should partners in Cheshire East look at taking forward over the next year.
- 1.2 Based on what people have told us, 3 key actions have been formulated and an Action Plan has been developed to take this work forward.
- 1.3 This report will detail the steps taken to develop the key actions and how these actions will be taken forward by partners over the next 12 months.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Cheshire East Learning Disability Conference was held on 20 June 2022. Over 200 delegates attended, including partners from across social care, health, care providers, people with learning disabilities and carers.
- 2.2. People who attended were asked what 3 actions should partners in Cheshire East look at prioritising over the next 12 months.
- 2.3. The findings and feedback from the conference were discussed by members of the Learning Disability Partnership board in July 2022.
- 2.4. Based on what people had told us, 3 key actions were formulated, these were as follows

- **Action 1 - Make things better for people who want to stay up late**
- **Action 2 - Give people more chance to have their say on services and what they want to do**
- **Action 3 - Provide better access to information for people with learning disabilities and carers**

2.5. From this an Action Plan has been developed to take this forward. This will consider the tasks needed to be undertaken, the partners involved and how we will measure success.

3. Recommendations

3.1. Adults and Health committee to endorse the recommended actions and action plan.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

4.1. The recommendation to approve the actions within the report also aligns with the following aims and objectives within the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-25 and will produce the following benefits for local people.

- **Increase opportunities for all children and young adults with additional needs** – We will seek to work with providers from across health and social care to ensure that flexible support is delivered across services, which enables individuals with learning disabilities to access more person-centred support and wider opportunities across the community.
- **Reduce health inequalities across the borough**– There will be a focus on tackling the differences in healthcare and health outcomes between people with a learning disability and those without. This will focus on improving the provision and uptake of annual health checks, improving the experience of health checks, and providing better access to information around health provision for people with learning disabilities across the borough.
- **Promote and develop the services of the council through regular communication and engagement with all residents.** – By obtaining this feedback from the conference the wider views of stakeholders have been considered in determining the actions that people would most like to see in regards to changes and improvements, to help people with learning disabilities live better lives.

5. Other Options Considered

5.1. By not having a dedicated action plan there is a risk that either priorities are not taken forward and delivered accordingly, or organisations take forward these priorities individually, leading to potential duplication.

- 5.2. This may result in a lack of co-ordinated partnership working. By identifying lead organisations and involving a range of stakeholders with agreed outcomes and measurements of success, we will ensure that delivery of the priorities has the support from all stakeholders and progress can be tracked the LD Partnership Board and delivered through the Sub Groups.
- 5.3. By focusing on three key actions, we will be best placed to ensure that we deliver on the priorities that people with learning disabilities have told us are most important to them, rather than over promising and under delivering.

6. Background

- 6.1. The Cheshire East Learning Disability Conference took place on 20 June 2022 at the De Vere Hotel, Cranage.
- 6.2. The conference was titled ‘The Past, the Present and the Future’ and the day consisted of presentations and music from staff, providers, self-advocates and carers.
- 6.3. Over 200 delegates attended including partners from across social care, health, care providers, people with learning disabilities and carers/family members.
- 6.4. As part of the conference, people who attended were asked what 3 actions should partners in Cheshire East look at prioritising over the next 12 months.
- 6.5. The findings and feedback from the conference were discussed by members of the Learning Disability Partnership Board in July 2022.
- 6.6. From this an Action Plan (Appendix 1) has been developed and agreed by the Learning Disability Partnership Board.
- 6.7. Based on the feedback, 3 key actions were formulated. Against each key action a series of activities are identified, along with the key leads/partners who will help to deliver these and how success will be measured.

Action 1 – Make things better for people who want to stay up late		
What would we do to improve things?	Who will help to deliver this?	How will we measure success?
Recruit Stay Up Late Ambassadors and Gig Buddies in Cheshire East	Community Sub Group	Number of ambassadors recruited Number of gig buddies recruited
Make sure flexible support is written into future care contracts	Commissioning Team	Number of new providers who have signed up to new contracts

Provide more evening events in Cheshire East for people to attend	Community Subgroup	Number of evening events in different parts of Cheshire East
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Action 2 – Give people more chance to have their say on services and what they want to do

What would we do to improve things?	Who will help to deliver this?	How will we measure success?
Get more people with learning disabilities to attend the partnership board, sub groups and self-advocates group	Self-Advocates Group	Number of self advocates attending meetings
Involve people with learning disabilities more in future service planning	Commissioning and Operations Teams	Co-Production of new All Age LD Strategy Examples of when people have had their say on services Feedback on self-evaluation

Action 3 - Provide better access to information for people with learning disabilities and carers

What would we do to improve things?	Who will help to deliver this?	How will we measure success?
New Learning Disabilities Partnership Board Website	Live Well Team	Website in place Website hits Feedback survey on Live Well Pages
Better information and access to health services for people with learning disabilities	ICB and Health Sub-group	Annual Health Checks Satisfaction levels (from survey) Annual Health Checks Update

6.8. Key to the success of the identified actions will be the ability to engage with key stakeholders and enabling services including care providers, voluntary sector organisations, local forums and groups and residents of the borough.

6.9. Regular monitoring will be undertaken to track progress, identify barriers for escalation and key achievements. Updates will be provided on a quarterly basis to the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1. These actions have been shaped at the conference by a wide range of stakeholder groups who attended the conference including people who use learning disability services, families, carers, providers, local ward members and the wider population.
- 7.2. To ensure we deliver on these actions further consultation and engagement activities will be undertaken with carers and people who access services by a variety of methods including face to face meetings, and surveys (including easy read material). Throughout this process we will ensure that appropriate reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that all stakeholders can fully participate in the consultation process.
- 7.3. This work will be closely aligned to the consultation and engagement for the new placed based All Age Learning Disability Strategy and the evaluation of the Supporting People with Learning Disabilities to Lead Better Lives Framework.

8. Implications

8.1. Legal

- 8.1.1 As part of its duties under the Care Act (2014), the Council must meet assessed eligible needs for those people eligible for care and support. The Council has a duty to provide support by way of direct provision or direct payment where care and support is set out in an adult's care and support plan.
- 8.1.2 Paragraph 10.27 of the Care and support statutory guidance updated 27 August 2021 issued by the Department of Health and Social Care provides as follows-
- 8.1.3 In determining how to meet needs, the local authority has also take into reasonable consideration its own finances and budgetary position, and must comply with its related public law duties. This includes the importance of ensuring that the funding available to the local authority is sufficient to meet the needs of the entire local population. The local authority has also reasonably considered how to balance that requirement with the duty to meet the eligible needs of an individual in determining how an individual's needs should be met (but not whether those needs are met).
- 8.1.4 Any recommendation which results in a change to the way in which services are currently provided has included widespread engagement with stakeholders including people who access learning disabilities services.
- 8.1.5 If there are any procurement related issues that arise from this work, officers will be expected to conduct any subsequent procurement of these services in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

8.2. Finance

- 8.2.1 There are no financial implications or changes needed to the councils Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). All work that is carried out will be met by existing staffing resources.
- 8.2.2 If the decision to hold another Learning Disability Conference, or any other large stakeholder events in 2023 is agreed, then additional budgetary provision would be required.

8.3 Policy

- 8.3.1 The Care Act (2014) places people and their carers in greater control of their care and support needs. The Act is particularly pertinent to how learning disability services are commissioned and how support is arranged and aims to give greater control and influence on those in need of support. This includes encouraging people to think about what outcomes they want to achieve in their lives, with a greater emphasis on prevention and personalised support.
- 8.3.2 The actions also firmly align to several priorities within the Cheshire East Corporate Plan 2021-2025 (see 4.1).

8.4 Equality

- 8.4.1 As part of its decision-making process, the Council must have 'due regard' to its equality's duties. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council in exercise of its adult care and support functions ,must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination ,advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not ,foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not in order to tackle prejudice and understanding .The protected characteristics are age, gender reassignment ,disability ,pregnancy and maternity .race, religion or belief ,sex and sexual orientation.
- 8.4.2 Under the Equality Act (2010), the Council is required to identify the impacts of any decisions, policies etc. on certain protected groups to ensure equality is promoted, and inequality minimised. For example, there must be an assessment made of the impacts on groups or individuals who are disabled, including mental health problems, who belong to ethnic or racial groups, on the grounds of age or sex discrimination etc. An Equality Impact Assessment can both assist in evidencing that these equality duties are being met and inform decision making.
- 8.4.3 The Council is required to give serious, substantive, and advance consideration of what (if any) the proposals would have on the protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. This exercise must be carried out with rigour and an open mind and should not be a form of box ticking. These are mandatory considerations.

8.5 Human Resources

8.5.1 There are no human resources implications.

8.6 Risk Management

8.6.1 Any proposals to change the way that learning disability services are delivered because of the planned actions will present challenges and risks.

8.6.2 See below identified risks with mitigation.

Reluctance of care providers to engage

- Cheshire East Council has a significant provider market and strong working relationships with providers to work in partnership to improve services for people with learning disabilities
- Regular provider engagement with providers as part of development of new contracts which promote flexible support will be undertaken
- Learning Disability Partnership Board and Carers Forum offer platforms for people to provide feedback to providers on their experiences.

Impact of cost-of-living crisis on ability to offer opportunities to stay up late

- Partnership working between local authority, health, and voluntary sector to pool resources to create more opportunities for people to stay up late (accommodation and staff).
- Develop plan to ensure that opportunities to stay up late are available in different locations across the borough to reduce the need to travel

Resource implications across Cheshire East Council and partners to deliver actions

- Establishment of sub groups focusing on Health and Community to provide a co-ordinated response and promote the work to be carried out.
- Focus on three key actions to ensure that resources are not spread too wide and we under deliver in certain areas.
- Identified leads and stakeholders across the partnership board to take the agreed actions forward

8.7 Rural Communities

8.7.1 Individuals, carers living in the rural areas of Cheshire East could see enhanced support and provision as a result of the proposed actions which seek to enhance opportunities to access the community and a range of activities.

8.8 Children and Young People/Cared for Children

8.8.1 The actions to be taken forward will focus on an all-age approach and contribute to the development of better service provision for children and young people with learning disabilities.

8.9 Public Health

- 8.9.1 Through continued joint working with the Public Health Team and Primary Care, the future service provision for people with learning disabilities will promote healthy lifestyles.
- 8.9.2 Improved person-centred approaches can reduce the inequalities that arise from a standardised approach. Thorough consultation and intelligence on inequalities opportunities can be robustly evaluated to ensure that they do not risk widening inequalities.

8.10 Climate Change

- 8.10.1 The proposed actions will not have a negative impact on carbon reduction measures.
- 8.10.2 By focusing on developing services and activities in localities across the borough we will ensure that people with learning disabilities and their carers won't need to undertake longer journeys by road.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Mark Hughes Senior Commissioning Manager mark.hughes@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Appendix 1- Learning Disabilities Action Plan
Background Papers:	Cheshire East Corporate Plan 2021-2025 https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/corporate-plan.aspx