Lincolnshire JSNA: Learning Disabilities

Why is it an issue?

People with learning disabilities are among the most vulnerable in our society. Many have multiple conditions such as mental illness and physical disabilities that contribute to the difficulties they face in leading fulfilling lives and maintaining good health, to the extent that the average life expectancy among this group is much lower than the general population. In addition people with Learning Disabilities can experience problems in accessing mainstream services and employment. This has a further impact on quality of life.

However, medical advances and improved diagnostics also means that the number of people identified with learning disabilities will increase, with some people living longer (particularly in the 65+ age group). The complexity of needs is also expected to increase with more young people expected to enter adulthood with challenging behaviour and/or mental health being a key consideration.

A number of people with Learning Disability with complex needs are still cared for in in-patient provision. The Winterbourne View review has highlighted concerns in relation to both the appropriateness and quality of some of this care and therefore there is a national drive for more people to be cared for in the community.

The increase in numbers of adults with learning disabilities as well as the complexity of needs will put considerable pressure on health and social care provision at a time when national funding is being reduced.

It will be necessary to transform the existing system of care and support with an increased focus on personalisation. Preventing needs of this group of people escalating particularly at a time of crisis will be an important. A wider contribution from universal services for example GP’s and Learning Disability Annual Health Checks, improved access to crisis support services, wellbeing and community networks will also be important to improve and maintain health and wellbeing but also to minimise the demand on higher cost services.

This also includes enabling people to:

- Utilise Personal Health budgets and/or Integrated Personal Budgets;
- Take and manage their personal budgets by direct payments;
- Access improved support to carers;
- have the means to take care of themselves and to look after their own health;
- find employment and be less reliant on benefits, and manage their own finances;
- live in self supported or supported accommodation in the community.

Policy and Guidance

In December 2012 the Department of Health published “Winterbourne View Review Concordat: Programme of Action” following the shocking revelations of abuse at Winterbourne View. This document, aimed at providers of health and social care, local authorities and regulators, is a commitment to improve the quality of care of children, young people and adults with learning disabilities and autism, and to ensure better outcomes for them.
In October 2015 the local Government Association, Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and NHS England published the following documents:

- Supporting people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition: service model for commissioners of health and care services

- Building the right support: a national plan to develop community services and close Inpatient facilities for people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition"  

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), NHS England and local authorities are developing Transforming Care Partnerships that will have the responsibility for the planning, development and implementation of the changes by the end of 2018. Lincolnshire is required to have their local TCP Plan agreed by April 2016.

**What is the picture locally & how do we compare?**

**What is the picture in Lincolnshire?**

Current estimates suggest an overall increase of around 3.3% of the population of adults with learning disabilities by 2020, with a more significant 11.1% rise in older people. The growth will primarily come from children with complex needs entering adulthood.

At the time of writing, there were 22 Lincolnshire people with a learning disability in inpatient or secure placements. These are funded by Lincolnshire CCG’s or NHS England.

Around 1,700 adults with a learning disability are supported by Adult Care and or Continuing Health Care, which is 12% of the estimated number in the county. These people are supported through a pooled fund managed by Lincolnshire County Council but also funded by the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's).

There are currently over 500 adults with learning disabilities that have their care needs met in long term residential or nursing care. The other people funded through the pooled fund are supported in the community. 35% of the people supported in the community choose to take their personal budget via direct payment and commission support to meet their assessed needs directly. This increases individual’s choice and control.

The most recent data available suggests that the proportion of adults of working age with a learning disability that are not in paid employment is higher than the national average.

A further pressure is with the informal caring arrangements. As people with learning disabilities are living longer, their carers’ are struggling to sustain the caring role and will require some form of support for their own needs, and the people cared for will increasingly rely on funded care.

Limited access for people with Learning Disabilities is currently evident in relation to the Lincolnshire Wellbeing Network which provides time limited support to people with moderate to low needs.
People with a Learning Disability and Challenging Behaviour can sometimes experience difficulties in accessing crisis support. This is partly because of capacity of existing services but also because current eligibility to some crisis support services requires an acknowledged mental health problem.

What are we doing about it & what can be done differently?
We plan to work with people with Learning Disability and or Autism including those with behaviour that challenges in order to transform the existing system of support to reduce the dependency on institutional care but also to further improve quality of life.

We are developing a local offer for Personal Health Budgets which will include people with Learning Disabilities and we will promote an increased uptake of personal health budgets, Integrated Personal Budgets and direct payments to enhance personalisation of care and support and to increase choice and control to individuals.

We will seek to reduce dependency on secure and inpatient beds and increase the number of community based placements. We will look to invest the funding released into community based support including increased crisis support capacity. We will also ask for a review of the eligibility criteria for crisis services to ensure those people with challenging behaviour have better access to support when it is most needed.

We will review the transitions protocols between children's and adult services to with an increased focus on Preparing for Adulthood.

We will work with partners including GP Practices to increase the uptake of annual health checks and personal health plans. This will help to ensure people can access early help to health services where they are needed.

Future services will be organised around intended outcomes rather than on services themselves and the programme for designing and implementing them will be informed by "Building the right support." and the Lincolnshire Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy will define outcomes based on evidence of need and local priorities. Partner organisations and services users will collaborate in the design and production of provision.

The Step Forward project, launched in January 2016 will provide pre-employment support for adults with learning disabilities, autism and mental health problems. The plan is to identify further funding that can be used to support people sustain employment.

How do we compare?

- 4% of adults with a learning disability are in paid employment, compared with 6% nationally.
- 71% of adults with a learning disability live in their own home or with their family, compared with 73% nationally.

Source: Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework 2014/15

http://www.pansi.org.uk/ Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information provides data for all regions in England for adults aged 18-64.

http://www.poppi.org.uk/ Projecting Older People Population Information provides data for all regions in England for adults aged 65 and over.