

Learning Disabilities Strategic Action Plan

Organisation	Hywel Dda University Health Board	Date of Report	15 th April 2024	Report Prepared By	Lisa Bassett-Gravelle, Head of Service for Adult Mental Health Inpatient Wards and Learning Disabilities
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The Welsh Government’s new strategy [Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022 to 2026 | GOV.WALES](#) (the successor to the Improving Lives Programme) outlines the priority areas that will strengthen services and subsequently improve the lives of people with learning disabilities. The delivery of these priority areas involves collaborative working across NHS Wales, Regional Partnership Boards, Public Service Boards, Local Authorities and the third and private sectors. NHS organisations are required to evidence how they are contributing towards the priority areas of the strategy and in particular, the areas and key actions outlined in this reporting template.

Reporting Schedule: Progress is to be reported bi-annually. This form is to be submitted on:

- 16 October 2023 (covering the period 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023)
- 15 April 2024 (covering the period 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024)

Completed form to be returned to: hss.performance@gov.wales

Update on the actions implemented during the current operational year to deliver the Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026 priorities (legacy actions from the Learning Disabilities Improving Lives Programme).

Implementing the recommendations of the comprehensive review of adult in-patient learning disability services.		
Key Actions:		
1. Reducing reliance on medication to manage challenging behaviour.		
2. Improving access to community based early intervention and crisis prevention.		
3. Increasing community based provision enabling individuals to move on from in-patient units as soon as it is safe for them to do so.		
4. Ensure all in-patients are regularly assessed for discharge to “step down” care and discharge plans are actioned within 7 days.		
Achievements	Risk to Delivery	Corrective Actions

<p>The psychiatry team continue to undertake psychotropic medication audits to ensure levels of medication prescribed are monitored. The Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) role supports psychiatry clinics to monitor and review use of psychotropic medication.</p> <p>Work continues to progress the LD Service improvement Programme (LDSIP) which includes the development of a progressive and robust operational, strategic and professional plan for the service as a whole, to enable future growth and development. The service development is being fully coproduced with people with lived experience and carers. Additional support is being provided by local People First organisations, with the strategic alignment being supported by Improvement Cymru colleagues. Two main workstreams have been established as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In patient - a key element of the LDSIP is to review the long-term hospital environments to ensure that patients are moved on to less restrictive settings and this workstream will look at the LD Service Specification and include an inpatient pathway. 	<p>The ANP training programme is 2 years in length which requires consideration when managing service capacity and demand.</p> <p>Recruitment of qualified LD Nurses and Allied Health Professionals continues to be challenging. The service continues to work with workforce colleagues to develop sustainable workforce and recruitment models.</p>	<p>We are continuing to recruit Band 5 Nurses through streamlining, with additional training and support being provided. We continue to support and promote ‘grow your own’ opportunities to encourage support workers to undertake LD Nursing training opportunities.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community – this workstream will oversee the review of the current Community Team Learning Disabilities (CTLD) and develop a new Well-being and Early Intervention Team, including service eligibility criteria, workforce and training. This work will define the new community service model, which will form part of the new LD Service Specification. This will include more robust crisis prevention pathways, including links with adult mental health. 		
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Implementation of the Welsh Governments’ “Reducing Restrictive Practise Framework”.

Key Action:

- Promote the use of evidence based interventions, e.g. Positive Behavioural Support (PBS) in all settings. Ensure restrictive practise used is proportionate, compliant with the framework and is recorded and monitored.

Achievements	Risk to Delivery	Corrective Actions
<p>The Health Board has a Reducing Restrictive Practice (RRP) team who ensure Positive Behavioural Support (PBS) is included in the training package it provides to the LD workforce.</p> <p>Additional RRP training is made available to all teams as and when required and raises</p>		

<p>awareness of restrictive practice and applicable legal frameworks for its use.</p> <p>RRP practice leaders have been identified in all clinical settings where restrictions are most commonly utilised which is helping to shift the cultural change required.</p>		
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Develop integrated housing, health, social care models and guidance, learning from previous examples that provide accessible services for vulnerable people especially those with a learning disability. Utilise the new Regional Integrated Fund.

Key Action:

1. As a member of the Regional Partnership Board drive integrated services across health, housing, social services and the third sector. People with a learning disability are one of the key priority groups for funding under the Regional Integrated Fund.

Achievements	Risk to Delivery	Corrective Actions
<p>We continue to work collaboratively with the West Wales Care Partnership (WWCP) to ensure priority for the development supported housing options for vulnerable people including those for learning disabilities and more complex health needs. A regional Capital Working Group (multi-agency) for Accommodation has been established as part of this work.</p> <p>Regional Improvement Fund (RIF) monies has been awarded for a number of LD specific projects such as the progression</p>	<p>Appropriate local housing stock continues to be challenging due to increased costs, environmental limitations and length of time to purchase/build, which can impact on capacity.</p> <p>RIF grant funding is not sustainable, the current financial climate is making it increasingly difficult to secure sustainable core funding to offset the reducing grant, which makes exit planning from specific projects difficult to maintain.</p>	<p>The Health Board will continue to work collaboratively with the RPB to progress RIF projects and achieve sustainability.</p>

<p>project which is a regional collaboration between the 3 LA's and the Health Board to provide co-ordinated progression reviews of individuals with Learning Disabilities placed in residential or institutional inpatient care. The main focus is on out of area placements with a view to repatriate to local accommodation based options. The project also helps to inform the development of capital projects by identifying potential placement and accommodation needs.</p>		
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Primary Health Care: Improve the take up and quality of annual health checks to identify and address health needs (target: 75% of all individuals registered with their GP practise who have a diagnosed learning disability are to have an annual health check).

Key Actions:

1. Strengthen the role of community learning disability teams to support delivery of the annual health checks (primary care cluster level).
2. Establish a community learning disability link nurse for every primary care cluster.

Achievements	Risk to Delivery	Corrective Actions
LD Community Services are being strengthened through the LD SIP with additional nurses and support workers dedicated to supporting GPs in meeting their annual health check targets in each GP cluster area.	LD Community Services do not currently have adequate budgets and workforce to meet the demand for a community learning disability link nurse for every primary care cluster.	Improvement Cymru colleagues are supporting the Health Board in transforming our community services through the development of the Learning Disability Service Improvement Programme. In line with this, we are reconfiguring services to increase

<p>The enhanced payment for GPs to undertake Health Checks continues to impact positively on the numbers undertaken.</p> <p>Between 1st April to 31st December 2023 (Q1 – Q3) a total of 528 Annual Health Checks have been undertaken across Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. This is a significant increase from 2021/22 Annual Health Check returns of 180.</p> <p>We are currently working with GP colleagues across all three Local Authority areas to identify areas with low uptake in Annual Health Checks to undertake targeted interventions/engagement, with the expectation of undertaking an additional 120 Health Checks in quarter 4 (January – March 2024).</p>		<p>Community Nurse capacity to ensure direct links with GP Clusters and work to maintain the increased Annual Health Check uptake. In the interim our Community Team Managers attend all GP Cluster link meetings to ensure Health Check discussions/issues are raised and actioned across the Health Board footprint.</p>
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To ensure reasonable adjustments are made for people with a learning disability accessing mainstream NHS services.

Key Actions:

1. Establish sustainable models of learning disability champions and learning disability liaison nurses.
2. Ensure system flagging to identify patients with a learning disability and increase the use of the health passports.
3. All staff in a public facing role to undertake the mandatory Paul Ridd Foundation Level Training.

Achievements	Risk to Delivery	Corrective Actions
<p>A MH&LD Liaison Service is operational across the 4 District General Hospital sites. The service has developed a comprehensive training package and provides training through the Health Board Skills 2 Care training. The service is working to develop LD champions across the health board to ensure that will be a LD champion in all wards and departments.</p> <p>In line with the LD SIP transformation programme the MH&LD Liaison Service is being reviewed to ensure alignment with the LD Strategic Action Plan.</p> <p>Liaison nurses ensure Health Profiles are in place for people admitted to our hospitals, with a flagging system integrated into WPAS.</p>		

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Achievements	Risk to Delivery	Corrective Actions
Paul Ridd training is mandatory training for all MH&LD staff and is monitored via ESR.		