

Meeting of the Cabinet – 18th March, 2009

Report of The Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

A Strategy For Learning Disability Services In Dudley

Purpose of Report

- 1 To seek approval from Cabinet for the draft Strategy for Learning Disability Services in Dudley.
- 2 Following a period of consultation, the Strategy has been approved by the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The Strategy will also be presented for approval to the Board of the Primary Care Trust.

Background

- 3 The Dudley Learning Disability Strategy sets out a vision and direction for the development of Learning Disability Services over the period 2009 – 2012.
- 4 The Strategy has been developed in consultation with users, carers and the agencies which are represented on the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The Strategy will be produced in an accessible format.
- 5 The Strategy has been driven by the publication by the Department of Health in January 2009 of new guidance - 'Valuing People Now' which identifies six key priorities for the coming year:
 - to raise awareness of *Valuing People Now* across national and local government, private and voluntary sectors, and within wider society
 - to have an effective Learning Disability Partnership Board operating in every Local Authority area
 - to secure access to, and improvements in, healthcare, with Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) responsible for, and leading, this work
 - to increase the range of housing options for people with learning disabilities and their families

- to ensure that the Personalisation agenda is embedded within all local authority services and developments for people with learning disabilities and their family carers, and is underpinned by person-centred planning
 - to increase employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities
- 6 Dudley has made considerable progress with the implementation of the 2005 Strategy for Learning Disability Services in Dudley. It is now time for a new strategy, which reflects the priorities in Valuing People Now. The new strategy will include a small number of tasks from the 2005 strategy which are still in progress.
- 7 The Strategy includes the draft commissioning strategy published in October 2008 and the action plan which was agreed following the Joint Review of Learning Disability Services, which was reported to Cabinet in February 2009. The Strategy has been discussed with stakeholders at a seminar on Valuing People Now at the end of February 2009.
- 8 The main priorities in the Strategy are as follows:
- More people with learning disability have a personal budget or a direct payment.
 - More people with learning disability live in supported housing in the community.
 - More people with learning disability are in paid employment in line with the Local Area Agreement target.
 - People with learning disabilities are cared for well when they have to go into hospital.
 - Health Action Plans are regularly reviewed and kept up-to-date.
 - The three residents at Mere Road (a NHS facility in Stourbridge) are able to move to their new homes by March 2010.
 - More people with complex needs go to activities in the community and facilities are improved for those who use a day centre.
 - People with a learning disability know how to keep safe and how to report abuse and hate crime and how to make a complaint about services.
 - People with a learning disability are more involved in planning and checking on services.

- 9 The Strategy will be implemented through the work of the sub-groups of the Learning Disability Partnership Boards, with robust performance management against each of the key areas

Finance

- 10 The Strategy will be resourced through existing and planned investments in the Council's budget for Adult Social Care and the PCT's Local Delivery Plan

Law

- 11 The Council have powers and duties to support persons with learning disabilities under its welfare function contained in a number of statutes including the National Assistance Act 1948, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and the Mental Health Acts and may do anything incidental to conducive to or which facilitates the discharge of its functions under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Equality Impact

- 12 The content of this report is consistent with the Council's Policy on Equality and Diversity.

Recommendations

- 13 Cabinet is asked to approve the draft Strategy and action plan which may be viewed in the Members' Room and on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS).



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