

Cabinet - 13th February 2008

Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services

Dudley Borough Strategy for Adults with Physical and Sensory Disabilities (2008-2010)

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval from Cabinet for the draft Strategy for Adults with Physical and Sensory Disabilities (2008-2010) – a full copy of which is available in the Members Room and on the Committee Management Information System on the Council's Website.
2. Following consultation with disabled people this joint strategy has been produced and approved by the Physical and Sensory Disabilities Partnership Board.

Background

3. The Dudley Physical & Sensory Disability Strategy sets out a vision and direction for the development of services over the period 2008 – 2010.
4. The draft strategy has been developed with physically & sensory disabled people, carers and the agencies which are represented on the Physical & Sensory Disability Partnership Board which include voluntary agencies, the PCT, DGH as well as the Local Authority.
5. In July 2007 we held the first Conference for People with a Physical or Sensory Disability. The purpose of the conference was to consult with disabled people and to determine what they liked about local services, what they didn't like and what they wanted to see improved and to develop these ideas into a strategy.
6. In the Green Paper "Independence, Well-being and Choice" the Government identified its vision for the future of social care for adults. This vision was later endorsed in the subsequent White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say".
7. The starting point for this vision is the principle that everyone in society has a positive contribution to make to that society and that they should have a right to control their own lives.
8. The 7 outcomes, which were identified in the White Paper have also helped shape the strategy. They are;-
 - Improved draft health – enjoying good physical and mental health (including protection from abuse and exploitation). Access to appropriate treatment and

support in managing long term conditions independently. Opportunities for physical activity

- Improved quality of life – access to leisure, social activities and life-long learning and to universal, public and commercial services. Security at home, access to transport and confidence in safety outside of the home
- Making a positive contribution– active participation in the community through employment or voluntary activities. Maintaining involvement in local activities and being involved in policy developments and decision making
- Exercise of choice and control– through maximum independence and access to information. Being able to choose and control services. Managing risk in personal life
- Freedom from discrimination or harassment– equality of access to services. Not being subject to abuse
- Economic well being– access to income and resources sufficient for a good diet, accommodation and participation in family and community life. Ability to meet costs arising from specific individual needs
- Personal dignity – keeping clean and comfortable. Enjoying a clean and orderly environment. Availability of appropriate personal care.

10. This strategy will be contributing to the vision of Dudley Community Strategy by:

- Listening to what disabled people say
- Responding to what disabled people tell us
- Being accountable for our performance
- Providing value for money.

11. Five themes were the subject of the consultation at the Conference –

- a. Housing, Advice and Support in the Home
- b. Getting Out and About
- c. Involvement and Influence
- d. Benefits, Employment and Learning
- e. Health and Well Being.

These themes are replicated in the Strategy and cover the main aspects of independence, which people have identified as important to them

12. The strategy sets out services that are currently provided for disabled people and then crucially states what the various partners will be doing to improve those services. The priorities for action identified in the strategy include;-

- The DACHS Housing Occupational Therapist will be involved in Housing's pilot of Choice Based Lettings so that disabled people who wish to move are assisted to find a property that both meets their needs and is available within the housing stock.
- DACHS will set up a new contract for stair-lifts/step-lifts and vertical lifts across public and private housing as a more economical solution for provision and recycling.

- DACHS will reprovide an improved Dudley Assisted Living Centre to open at beginning of 2008 with increased space and equipment
 - DACHS will work with P.C.T. in developing a joint strategy in line with the NSF for Long Term Neurological Conditions
 - The Local Authority will offer Direct Payments for respite care in the majority of instances, reduce use of residential care for disabled people and increase use of supported living.
 - The Local Authority will continue to consult with service users including specific groups (including Dudley Deaf Sports and Social Club) and use this information to inform our plans for the forthcoming year.
 - DACHS will continue to offer and promote “Carers Direct” payments to allow carers to take a break as and when they choose following a Carers assessment.
 - DACHS and the PCT will work together to improve the joint funding of the Community Equipment Service, in order to maintain the current high level of service and maintain improved response times.
 - DACHS will explore new ways of using Telecare to help more people live safer, independent lives, and joint with health consider how we can expand this in the future with the introduction of Telemedicine.
 - Pedestrian stages in traffic signals will have tactile mechanical devices in future (Highways).
 - The Local Authority will help Action for Disabled & Carers (ADC) to work with Dudley Council to improve its website from a disabled persons’ point of view.
 - The Local Authority will continue to work with other service providers to help them understand the needs of Deaf or deafblind service users, and their ethical and legal responsibilities towards the Deaf community in accessing services.
13. Following approval by Cabinet the Strategy will then be subject to a 12 - week consultation period which will enable groups and individual disabled people to comment on the proposals. We will use the existing networks within the voluntary sector for this consultation.
14. The final document will inform Commissioning, Divisional and Team Plans and will be part of an ongoing dialogue with disabled people – through future conferences and updates to the Strategy.

Finance

15. The Councils contribution to the Strategy will be resourced through existing budgets.

Law

16. The Council has powers and duties to support people with a disability through a number of statutes including the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970, the NHS and Community Care Act 1986, Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995, and Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000.

Equality Impact

17. The content of this report is consistent with the Equality and Diversity policy of the Council.

Recommendations

18. Cabinet is asked to approve the draft strategy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'L'.

Linda Sanders
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Contact Officer

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