

REPORT TITLE	All Age Disability Strategy
REPORT OF	Lead Commissioner All Age Disability
PLEDGE LEAD	Graham Hodgkinson, Director for Care and Health

REPORT SUMMARY

The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision sets out a shared partnership vision to improve outcomes for Wirral residents. Delivery of the priorities and outcomes described in the Plan are underpinned through a set of key strategies and a delivery plan.

The All Age Disability strategy is a 5-year, partnership strategy document, published in March 2016 which articulates the ambition of the Wirral Plan for people with disabilities to live independently.

The ambition of the plan is:

For people with any form of disability their families and carers to be able to sustain their own health build on their strengths and have their needs met in the best way, within local communities where possible. The focus is on breaking down barriers for people and between agencies and services and on making sure people's happiness, aspirations and achievements are never limited due to disability.

Since it was published, partners have worked together in new and innovative ways across Wirral to deliver the strategy.

This report provides an update to the Committee on the progress of the strategy to date.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Committee is requested to note the report and provide feedback.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The All Age Disability strategy has been developed to deliver the Wirral Plan pledges.

Feedback is requested to ensure that Member's views are taken into account throughout the life of the strategy and how feedback from surgeries and work in the Wards can feed back into the strategy.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This section provides a summary of key updates and achievements against each of the priority areas outlined below. A more detailed report against each action within the strategy is available in the quarterly Wirral Plan Performance Reports published on the performance page of the Council's website.

3.1 Development of All Age Disability Strategy

3.1.1 Priority 1: All people with disabilities are well and live healthy lives.

The measure chosen for this priority was the proportion of people with long term conditions who feel supported to manage their condition has risen from 66.7% at the launch of the strategy to 68% now. There has been a small but significant increase in this proportion. The paragraphs below provide examples of what was achieved in the course of the year.

A bid for £2.66 million funding for 86 Extra Care units has been secured through the Homes and Communities Agency. Work is continuing with a private developer to deliver 45 units across 2 schemes. There are currently properties being built in Heswall (19 flats) and Birkenhead (15 flats) for people with learning disabilities.

One of the key actions from the original strategy was to look at the feasibility of appointing a single lead commissioner. Simon Garner has been appointed to the role of Lead Commissioner, All Age Independence and is now the lead for the All Age Disability Strategy.

The residential service at Girtrell Court has now transferred to Sanctuary, as of 6th February 2017. Other service provisions are being utilised by people; these include other residential establishments, specialist autism placements, services for older people, and homes local to where people live. People are also opting to take up activity style breaks,

like the ones provided at Barnstondale, and also taking direct payments to book supported or accompanied holidays.

3.1.2 Priority 02: Young People and Adults with disabilities have access to employment and are financially resilient

The measure chosen for this priority was the Employment rate aged 16-64 for people across Wirral with a disability has risen from 37.5% at the launch of the strategy to 45.4% in 2017. The paragraphs below provide examples of what was achieved in the course of the year.

A 'Pathways to Employment' and 'Disability Confident' events were successfully delivered towards the back end of last year. There are now 30 local employers signed up as 'Disability Confident'. By building a reputation as a Disability Confident employer that actively seeks out and hires skilled disabled people, employers will be helping to positively change attitudes, behaviours and cultures, not just in their immediate business but in their networks, supply chains, and their communities.

Wirral Metropolitan College's Supported Internship Programme has now successfully supported 25 people with a Learning Disability into work.

The 'Live Well Wirral' website provides a single point of information for people with disabilities on the range of services available to them. The site complements the Local Offer website which targets young people with disabilities and their carers. Together, these platforms ensure that all commissioned and non-commissioned services are promoted to users and that people requiring different services can review the options available to them to ensure they get the best outcomes.

3.1.3 Priority 03: All people with disabilities have choice and control over their lives

The measure chosen for this priority has been the take up of personalised budgets, (including Direct Payments and Personal Health Budgets). This has increased since the launch of the strategy. 671 people are now on direct payments and take up is being tracked for the first time this year. The paragraphs below provide further examples of what was achieved in the course of the year.

The new Wirral Advocacy Hub was launched in February 2017. This will empower people with disabilities through the provision of self-advocacy and peer advocacy support

Disabled Go have undertaken audits of various venues in Wirral including Council buildings, Leisure Centres, the Chamber of Commerce and key Transport facilities. 150 Detailed Access Guides and 550 Key Access Reviews have been undertaken and were launched through the Disabled Go website on 17th May. These guides and reviews will be available to people living and visiting Wirral. Details of how to access the website are provide under the reference section of this report.

Looking to the Future

The priorities for the coming year build on the initial success of the All Age Disability Strategy.

More developers will be identified to work with us to look at providing more high quality extra care housing.

Work continues to progress with the design of the new All Age Disability Service. The new service will improve the customer experience for service users with a single point of access and assessment to effectively meet needs. We will continue to produce the Independence Bulletin which provides updates on new policy, research and innovative projects for people with disabilities.

We will promote the take up of Disability Confident Accreditation with all partner organisations and encourage suppliers to adopt the standard.

The Annual review for young people with disabilities, from year 9 onwards will contain an increased emphasis on encouraging volunteering or employment opportunities. We will increase the opportunities for disabled people to have their voices heard when developing or making changes to services.

We will develop more efficient ways to establish insight and data on the prevalence and types of disability across Wirral.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The All Age Disability Strategy is coordinated through existing staffing and partnership resources. Any additional requirements will be identified as they arise.

6 RELEVANT RISKS

A risk assessment has been completed, and further work will be undertaken following a refresh of the action plan.

7 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The all Age Disability Strategy has been developed through a partnership Board and has been subject to wider consultation with residents, partners and other stakeholders through the development of the strategy.

In 2015, a range of events with different groups of people took place and their views were recorded and shared. This ensured the voice of disabled people, their families and carers drove the priorities within this strategy.

8 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

An Equality Impact Assessment was prepared and published in December 2015.

The document can be found via the link below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/communities%20and%20neighbourhoods/Equality%20Impact%20Assessments/EIA%20since%202014/Families%20and%20wellbeing/EIA%20All%20Age%20Disability%20Strategy.pdf>

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Link to the Wirral Section of the Disabled Go website:

<http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/wirral-metropolitan-borough-council/main>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
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