

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**15 October 2024**

REPORT TITLE:	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PEER REVIEW FOR LEARNING DISABLED AND AUTISTIC PEOPLE AND CHILDREN
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF ADULTS, HEALTH AND STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING

REPORT SUMMARY

In July 2024, Wirral, Cheshire East and Cheshire West Councils were given the opportunity to engage in a piece of work commissioned by the National Health Service England and supported by the Local Government Association (LGA). The review explored local social care and health provision for autistic people and people with a learning disability. The report summarises the proposed system wide programme of change, and how it will be assessed and evaluated to make sure that investments are going into the things that will have the greatest impact and ensure the voices of the Wirral community are heard.

The report supports the Council Plan: Wirral Working Together 2023-27, specifically the 'promoting independence and healthier lives' theme.

This is a non-key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is recommended to: -

1. Note the outcomes of the review undertaken by the LGA.
2. Note the content of the strategic system wide plan in response to the review and be assured that the voices of the Wirral community will be heard.
3. Agree that a report is brought to a future committee demonstrating the impact the plan has had on the lives of people of all ages with a learning disability and/or are autistic.
4. Note the governance arrangements.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 View the areas to explore as suggested by the LGA as an agent of positive change.
- 1.2 Improve integrated commissioning arrangements between Wirral Council and the Cheshire and Merseyside NHS.
- 1.3 Enhance partnership working with Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester councils.
- 1.4 Commission services that support the aspirations of the All-Age Disability Strategy, and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 1.5 Build on the co-production strategy and ensure people with lived experience, practitioners and providers shape how and what is commissioned
- 1.6 To ensure people in Wirral live “in an ordinary house in an ordinary street” with access their “own front door”, have relationships, work, fun and feel seen, heard, and respected.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This was an opportunity the council chose to engage in and as such there is no alternative option.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The three councils have an NHS provider (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Foundation NHS Trust) in common, and it was considered that an integrated approach would add value to the review outcome (Appendix 1 LGA peer review objectives).
- 3.2 During the review the LGA interviewed a comprehensive cross spectrum of partners. These included practitioners, care market and voluntary sector providers, Council and Cheshire and Mersey NHS commissioners and, people with lived experience. They also visited people who are supported by Wirral Evolutions and people who work in Best Bites.
- 3.3 The LGA highlighted key areas of success within Wirral, including our well engaged and passionate staff, the positive impact of our in-house provider services, our ambitious community voluntary and faith sector and our extra care offer. The LGA suggested some areas for further thought which have been thematically linked and will inform the system wide co-produced plan. These are set out below.

3.4 **Assessing needs – Theme 1**

- Quality assurance and risk management of joint funded support, with processes in place to support decision making to be implemented.
- Ensure “easy read” and other alternative methods of communication are universally adopted across Wirral place.

3.5 **Supporting People to Lead Healthier Lives – Theme 2**

- Discussion and support the community care market in respect of their ability to mobilise a sufficiently flexible service to meet anticipated increase in demand for people accessing Direct Payments
- Consider how we better inform commissioner priorities with local population data/insights

3.6 **Equity in experience and outcomes – Theme 3**

- Ensure support is culturally competent and appropriate for the local population and consider how we utilise Joint Strategic Needs Assessment data and engage with the black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.
- Use the Core 20PLUS5 approach (the most deprived 20% of the population plus the 5 groups at a local level most likely to experience inequalities) consider to better inform commissioner priorities.
- Consider how people with a learning disability and autistic people, including those who draw on services are supported and encouraged to be part of the Adult Social Care workforce and continue to engage with Human Resources, and the Council’s Neuro Diverse Support Group.
- Establish, with an autistic person as chair, a group that will report into the All-Age Disability Board on issues specifically related to neuro diversity.
- Understand what would help autistic or learning-disabled people make complaints or participate in service quality reviews.
- Consider a model of support for autistic people who are not Care Act eligible and investigate best practice.

3.7 **Partnerships and communities – Theme 5**

- Consider how we develop the support offer to homeless autistic people, including those who are dependent on drugs and alcohol
- Consider how we enhance strategic conversations with the CWP, practitioners, providers and people with lived experience to forecast need and support hospital discharge and develop the provider market for autistic and learning-disabled people.
- Ongoing co-production with key stakeholders, to further personalise the specialist housing offer and other services commissioned.
- Ensure providers are aware of access to support – provider forums.
- Ensure partners and providers are fully sighted on our work programmes and commissioned services.

3.8 Safeguarding – Theme 6

- Establish a consistent approach to dynamic support risk registers (across community, the NHS and children’s services).
- Develop models to support staff when managing behaviours that put individuals at risk with a focus on preparing for adulthood and ensuring skills are in place within the market to ensure continuity.
- In partnership with Wirral University Hospital Trust, CWP and autistic and learning-disabled people, review the patient journey.

3.9 Governance

The plan sits within the governance of the Strategy and Transformation Board as a workstream within the All-Age Disability Strategy. Progress will also be reported to the Cheshire and Merseyside Learning Disability and Autism Board.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The purpose of the plan is to optimise core and grant funding already available. A seamless whole life model should reduce the risk of out of area placements.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any proposals must comply with the provisions of the Care Act 2014 and the Children’s Act 1989.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The strong integrated arrangements in place will avoid the need for extra resources or assets.
- 6.2 There are no additional assets required as a result of the LGA review.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The number of people living ordinary lives will not increase.
- 7.2 Insufficiency in the care market could result in a risk that Wirral residents will need to go out of borough to have their assessed needs met.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The programme of change will be co-produced with, council staff, the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, support providers and people with lived experience.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The purpose of the plan is to increase equality and equity of outcomes for this social group and people with protected characteristics.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The purpose of the plan is to increase the number of local people remaining in their hometown. This will reduce transport related emissions which are associated with climate change and air quality impacts.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 It is anticipated that this plan in tandem with the All-Age Disability employment strategy will increase opportunities for this social group and people with protected characteristics.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 LGA peer review objectives

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Easy-read document summarising the review process

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in accordance with Section B of its Terms of Reference - promoting choice and independence in the provision of all adult social care.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	