

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD 23 MAY 2023

WORCESTERSHIRE LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY

Board Sponsor

Mark Fitton, Strategic Director of People

Author

Frances Kelsey, Lead Commissioner (Adult Services) and Co-Chair of Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board

Priorities

This report is relevant to the following Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention & inequalities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homes, Communities & Places |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health & Wellbeing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jobs & Opportunities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy Living at All Ages | |

Safeguarding

This report does not have a direct impact on safeguarding children or adults.

Item for Decision, or Information & Assurance

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information/assurance |
|-----------------------------------|---|

Recommendation

- 1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note and endorse the new Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy 2023-2028 (final draft attached as an appendix) which has been co-produced by the Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board.**

Executive Summary

2. The Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board (“WLDPB”) is pleased to present to Health and Wellbeing Board the new Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy 2023-2028. The strategy has been co-produced by the WLDPB on behalf of people with a Learning Disability and their families.
3. We want Worcestershire to be a great place to live for people with Learning Disabilities. The strategy sets out some of the most important areas where we think actions need to be taken by people and organisations in Worcestershire to improve the lives of people with Learning Disabilities and those who know, love and support them. In the words of Lucy, Co-Chair of the WLDPB: “We want this strategy to make a real difference. By taking action we can make a positive change to the lives of people with learning disabilities in Worcestershire.”

Main content

4. The Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board has a membership of partners from across Worcestershire, including Expert Members by experience (one of whom co-chairs the Board), family carers, providers of services, and professionals from across health and social care.
5. Over the last 12 months, the WLDPB has worked with stakeholders to co-produce the new Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy on behalf of people with a Learning Disability in Worcestershire.
6. To develop the strategy, the WLDPB talked to people with Learning Disabilities and family carers as well as people working in a wide range of support services across our communities. We ran workshops, attended coffee mornings and self-advocacy groups and facilitated many conversations and discussions. We also ran a survey to find out people's views.
7. The co-produced strategy is underpinned by five principles:
 - Working Together
 - Supporting Each Other
 - Including Everyone
 - Treating People Fairly
 - Enabling Good Lives
8. The strategy sets out some of the most important areas where the WLDPB think actions need to be taken by people and organisations in Worcestershire to improve the lives of people with Learning Disabilities and their carers. It is organised across seven themes:
 - Theme 1: A Place to Live – A Home
 - Theme 2: Communities Which Include Everyone
 - Theme 3: Purposeful Days
 - Theme 4: Being Healthy – Body and Mind
 - Theme 5: Life Changes
 - Theme 6: Being Safe
 - Theme 7: The Right Support for Family Carers.
9. For each theme area, we have set out our high level aims for Worcestershire, along with some suggested actions. We would like organisations in Worcestershire to use these aims and actions in their own individual strategies and delivery plans so that together we are helping to make Worcestershire a great place to live for people with Learning Disabilities.
10. The Learning Disability Strategy is across all ages, as reflected in the Life Changes theme which has as its aim: “We want people with Learning Disabilities to have a positive experience of major life changes, including the transitions from childhood to adulthood and into older adulthood.”
11. The strategy is designed to be accessible to all and uses some “Easy Read” Photosymbols, as well as Jargon Busters and Explainers, and photographs of local people. The strategy also includes many local case studies and quotes from

Worcestershire people to show what success will look and feel like. We also intend to produce a summary version to accompany the strategy which will summarise the aims and actions and will be a full Easy Read document.

12. The WLDPB recognises and embraces the fact that the strategy is ambitious and aspirational, and that it will take some time to achieve all of our aims and ambitions. Working with all our partners, we have therefore identified some specific actions which we want to focus on for the first year of our strategy. These are summarised in the “Year 1 Action Plan” section at the end of the document. The WLDPB will review the strategy every year and measure our progress in Worcestershire, looking at these actions, as well as the bigger aims and actions in each of the strategy themes. Our first annual review will take place in May 2024.

Impact on health disparities

13. Health disparities nationally for people with Learning Disabilities compared with the general population are significant. On average, people with a learning disability die 22 years younger than people from the general population, and 6 out of 10 people with a learning disability die before age 65, compared with 1 out of 10 for the general population. The Learning from Lives and Deaths (LeDeR) Annual Report 2021 concluded that half of all deaths of people with a learning disability could have been avoided, compared to less than a quarter of people from the general population.

14. The WLDPB includes health partners from across the system. While all the strategy themes will impact positively on health disparities in some way, Theme 4 “Being Healthy - Body and Mind” specifically focusses on health-related aims and actions and has been developed in conjunction with existing priority action plans for the Integrated Care System. In particular, the strategy references the H&W ICS Learning Disability and Autism Three Year Plan and the Learning from Lives and Deaths (LeDeR) Herefordshire and Worcestershire Strategy 2022-2025.

15. The overarching aim for Theme 4 – Being Healthy, Body and Mind is: “By working together, we aim to reduce health inequalities and start to close the gap in life expectancy between people with Learning Disabilities and the general population. People with Learning Disabilities should be able to access the physical and mental health services and support they need, to be able to live healthy lives.”

16. This aim is underpinned by five specific areas for action as follows:

1. We need to make sure that everyone with a Learning Disability (from aged 14) has a good quality and meaningful Annual Health Check and a Health Action Plan in place.
2. All partners must work together to implement the actions identified through the LeDeR (Learning from Lives and Deaths) programme.
3. People with Learning Disabilities should be able to access and use good quality Mental Health services, and support networks should be in place to support the mental health and wellbeing of people with Learning Disabilities.
4. We want to reduce the number of people with complex needs who are in hospitals and make sure there are high quality services in the community for

people with complex health needs, including community mental health services and supported living homes, care, and support.

5. All people with Learning Disabilities should have their voice heard in healthcare settings, such as hospitals, GPs and dentists; health and social care professionals should receive appropriate training to be able to recognise and meet the needs of people with Learning Disabilities.

17. The “Being Healthy – Body and Mind” section of the strategy also includes focus pages on SpeakEasy N.O.W People’s Parliament’s “No Health Without Mental Health” report and good practice case studies on music therapy, breast screening, bowel health, vaccinations and annual health checks, among other areas.

18. In relation to wider health inequalities and addressing health disparities for people with Learning Disabilities, all the strategy themes are intended to have a positive impact on health. For example, the Communities Which Include Everyone and the Purposeful Days themes aim to reduce social isolation and increase the opportunities for people with Learning Disabilities to play a full and active role in their communities. Similarly, the Life Changes theme aims to ensure appropriate support and opportunities throughout people’s lives, whether a young person is entering adulthood or an adult with a Learning Disability is becoming an older adult.

Legal, financial and HR implications

19. Not applicable for this report.

Contact point and partnership working

20. Specific contact for this report: Frances Kelsey contactable via:
ldstrategy@worcestershire.gov.uk

21. Consultees include all partners on the Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board, as noted on page 6 of the draft strategy.

Background Papers

22. In the opinion of the proper officer Mark Fitton, Strategic Director of People, Worcestershire County Council, the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Appendix 1 - Draft Worcestershire Learning Disability 2023-2028